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# **National Strategy Plan/ Roadmap for a Plastic Pollution-Free Mauritius**

**FINAL REPORT**

**Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change**



**IslandPlas**



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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement .....	2
List of Figures .....	5
List of Tables .....	5
List of Abbreviations .....	6
Executive Summary .....	8
Introduction.....	14
1.1 International Context .....	15
1.2 National Context .....	19
1.3 Rationale .....	20
1.4 Objectives .....	21
1.5 National Strategy Plan (NSP)/Roadmap and its validation.....	23
1.6 Definitions and Terminology .....	29
2 Key Findings from National Source Inventory.....	31
2.1 Overview.....	31
2.2 Plastic Material Flow and Data Gaps.....	32
Plastic material flow .....	32
3 Targets and cross-cutting Actions.....	37
3.1 Targets and Key Activities.....	40
3.2 Cross-Cutting Actions (CCAs) .....	96
3.3 Timeframe.....	115
4 Policies, Frameworks and Instruments .....	124
4.1 Introduction.....	124
4.2 Overview of International Plastic Legal Frameworks .....	127
4.2.1 The Global Plastic Treaty .....	127
4.2.2 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Convention 1973.....	128
4.2.3 Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention) 1992.....	129
4.2.4 Paris Agreement 2015.....	129
4.2.5 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants 2001 .....	130
4.3 National Regulations.....	131
4.3.1 National Regulations.....	131
4.4 Governance Framework.....	133
4.5 Institutional Framework.....	136

4.6	Enabling Policies .....	143
5	Resource mobilization Plan .....	162
6	Conclusions.....	166
6.1	National Strategic Plan for a Plastic Pollution-Free Mauritius (2026–2035) .....	166
6.2	Knowledge as a cornerstone for action .....	166
6.3	Refuse: The first line of defence against plastic pollution .....	167
6.4	Reduce: Cutting the flow at the source and ensuring full accountability.....	167
6.5	Reuse: Building on existing strengths to scale up.....	168
6.6	Recycle: Unlocking value through clean and traceable flows .....	168
6.7	End-of-life Plastics: Managing what cannot be recycled.....	169
6.8	Cross-Cutting Actions: Enablers of systemic change .....	169
	References.....	171
7	Appendix.....	175
7.1	Proposed Alternatives to single-use plastics .....	175
7.2	Chemicals of Concern.....	177
7.3	Recycling Plastic-Coated Paper: Challenges and Policy Opportunities .....	181
7.4	List of Stakeholders .....	183

## LIST OF FIGURES

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Figure 2.1. Plastic import data	34
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## LIST OF TABLES

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Table 3.1. Key Activities for Target 1	44
Table 3.2. Key Activities for Target 2	51
Table 3.3. Key Activities for Target 3	55
Table 3.4. Key Activities for Target 4	59
Table 3.5. Key Activities for Target 5	64
Table 3.6. Key Activities for Target 6	68
Table 3.7. Key Activities for Target 7	72
Table 3.8. Key Activities for Target 8	79
Table 3.9. Key Activities for Target 9	83
Table 3.10. Key Activities for Target 10	88
Table 3.11. Key Activities for Target 11	93
Table 3.12. CCA1- Education, Awareness and Behavioural Change	98
Table 3.13. CCA 2 – Research, Innovation & Data	104
Table 3.14. CCA 3 – Financing Mechanisms & Economic Instruments	108
Table 3.15. CCA 4 – Governance, Coordination & Legal Framework	112
Table 4.1. Indicative Interplay between divisional structure, targets, activities and thematic areas	141
Table 7.1. Alternatives to plastics based on UNEP Life Cycle Assessment recommendations	175
Table 7.2. Chemicals of concern	177

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

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- AMM: Association of Mauritian Manufacturers
- CAC: Civic Amenities Centre
- CDW: Construction and Demolition Waste
- EPR: Extended Producer Responsibility
- EU-PPCR: European Union- Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation
- GTPI: Global Tourism Plastics Initiative
- HDPE: High-Density Polyethylene
- ICT: Information and Communication Technology
- LDPE: Low-Density Polyethylene
- MCCI: Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- MFA: Material Flow Analysis
- MITCI: Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation
- MOESWMCC: Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
- MRA: Mauritius Revenue Authority
- MSW: Municipal Solid Waste
- NAEP: National Awareness and Education Programme
- NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation
- NSI: National Source Inventory
- PCB: Printed circuit boards
- PET: Polyethylene terephthalate
- PHA: Polyhydroxyalkanoates
- PLA: Polylactic Acid
- PP: Polypropylene PS: Polystyrene
- PPL: Paper-Plastic Laminate
- PVC: Polyvinyl chloride
- PWM: Plastic Waste Management
- RIC: Resin Identification Code
- SIDS: Small Island Developing States
- SUBP: Single-use biodegradable products
- SWM: Solid Waste Management
- SUP: Single Use Plastics
- SUPP: Single Use Plastic Products

- SWMD: Solid Waste Management Division
- UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme
- WFD: Waste Flow Diagrams
- WMRRA: Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act
- WTE: Waste-to-Energy

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Worldwide, plastic production now exceeds 460 million tonnes annually (with nearly half of them intended for single-use purposes, while an estimated 11 million tonnes of plastic waste enter the environment each year (UNEP 2020). If current trends continue under a business-as-usual scenario, plastic pollution will intensify environmental degradation, increase greenhouse gas emissions, threaten biodiversity and ecosystems, and pose growing risks to human health and economic resilience. As a result of its scale, persistence and cross-border impacts, plastic pollution is now recognised as the second most critical international environmental issue of concern after climate change.

Addressing the problem requires a full life-cycle approach to plastics, including production, consumption, chemicals of concern and waste management. Consequently, in 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted a resolution to develop a legally binding global treaty to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment by December 2024. However, the treaty could not be concluded by August 2025 in the INC 5.2 in Geneva due to diverging views of Parties and the complexity of addressing this global issue.

Mauritius, as a Small Island Developing State, faces heightened vulnerability due to its dependence on imported plastic-packaged goods and its exposure to transboundary marine plastic flows. Plastic pollution is increasingly evident in coastal and marine ecosystems, public spaces and landfill sites, with associated impacts on biodiversity, fisheries, tourism, public health and climate mitigation efforts. Over the past years, Mauritius has taken important measures to address plastic pollution. These include: the establishment of the Plastic Management Division and the Plastic Management Committee, the introduction of regulations on plastic bags, selected single-use plastic products and PET bottles. These measures are to some extent contributing to the reduction of plastic waste and to mitigating associated risks to human health and the environment in the island. Nonetheless, given the multifaceted and cross-sectoral nature of plastic pollution, further strengthening is imperative to enhance the overall effectiveness and long-term sustainability of these efforts through a more integrated, holistic and strategic approach.

While these initiatives demonstrate strong national commitment, their implementation across multiple institutions and policy areas underscores the need for a comprehensive national framework capable of creating synergies, improving coordination and optimising investments to maximise environmental, social and economic benefits. In this respect, the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, with the support of UNEP, initiated in September 2024 the process that led to the development of a 10-year National Strategy Plan/Roadmap (**also referred to as the NSP**) for a Plastic Pollution-Free Mauritius. In line with the Terms of Reference, the NSP is grounded in three foundational reports - the Stakeholder Consultation Report, the State of Knowledge Report (SoK), and the National Source Inventory (NSI), and is guided by three principles:

1. Contextualisation: ensuring solutions are tailored to national conditions and local realities.
2. Proportionality: balancing environmental, economic, social, and technological considerations.

3. Benchmarking: drawing on international best practices and adapting proven interventions for the Mauritian context.

The NSP provides a unifying vision and synergies to guide the country's transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy, where plastics are responsibly managed throughout their life cycle, leakage into the environment is minimised, and sustainable development is progressively decoupled from plastic waste generation.

This vision is underpinned by the 4R's, that is Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, which guide the strategic orientation of the roadmap and support the transition from a linear to a circular plastic economy, therefore reinforcing the application of the broader 9R's principle (Refuse, Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle/Recover). The NSP sets out six strategic directions as follows:

- Strengthening institutional coherence and legal enforcement;
- Scaling up innovation, research and sustainable product alternatives;
- Improving national collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure;
- Promoting education, awareness and behavioural change;
- Securing long-term financing, incentives and monitoring systems; and
- Developing an integrated national data and reporting system.

The designing of the NSP involved a participatory approach with broad stakeholder's consultations with civil society, recyclers, informal collectors, private and public sectors, NGOs, academia. This included 27 stakeholders' consultations, 7 meetings of the Technical Committee, 4 meetings of the Project Steering Committee and a Validation Workshop (involving 110 participants). This ensured technical robustness, feasibility and national ownership of the proposed actions.

Findings from the National Source Inventory, the State of Knowledge assessment and stakeholder consultations confirmed the scale and complexity of plastic pollution in Mauritius. Consultations further underscored: absence of data, limited infrastructure, weak incentives for reduction and recycling, insufficient knowledge on marine plastic pollution and inadequate coordination among stakeholders.

The inventory also revealed that plastic imports have increased steadily from 53,829 tonnes in 2022 reaching approximately 65,622 tonnes in 2024. A Material Flow Analysis (MFA) conducted within the framework of the National Source Inventory (NSI) using 2022 data estimated total waste generation in Mauritius at 518,325 tonnes, of which approximately 14% (72,566 tonnes) was plastic (MoE 2022). Out of the 72,566 tonnes, 2,903 tonnes of plastic wastes were collected by registered recyclers and exporters, while the remaining 69,663 tonnes were landfilled. These figures highlight the limited recycling capacity relative to the volume of plastic waste generated.

These findings point to several critical gaps and needs, including the absence of a comprehensive baseline for plastic flows and leakage, limited availability of harmonised data, and fragmented legislation addressing waste management, environmental protection and circularity. Existing legal provisions are scattered across different laws and regulations,

constraining effective implementation and enforcement. There is therefore a clear need for a dedicated and coherent legal framework as well as a robust sensitization programme to address plastic pollution holistically and support the achievement of national targets.

In response, the NSP proposes 11 targets across six thematic areas (Knowledge, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse/Repurpose, Recycle and End-of-Life), namely:

- **Target 1:** Creation of inventory database of plastics and plastic wastes (Thematic Area: Knowledge).
- **Target 2:** Set phase wise reduction of non-essential and problematic Single-Use Plastics (SUP) in line with availability of sustainable alternatives based on technical, financial and social viability (Thematic Area: Refuse).
- **Target 3:** Achieve at least 80% phase wise collection of plastic wastes by 2035 (Thematic Area: End-of-Life).
- **Target 4:** Set phase wise reduction of plastic packaging consumption by 2035 (Thematic Area: Reduce).
- **Target 5:** Development of a voluntary sector-specific Plastic Reduction Pledge (PRP) for those sectors identified in the Roadmap and Action Plan for a Circular Economy in the Republic of Mauritius (2023) (Thematic Area: Reduce).
- **Target 6:** Reducing, where possible, the imports of virgin plastic pellets (Thematic Area: Reduce).
- **Target 7:** Formalise producer accountability through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes by 2035 (Thematic Area: Reduce).
- **Target 8:** Baseline studies in the marine environment and coastal ecosystem on macro, meso and micro plastics (Thematic Area: Knowledge).
- **Target 9:** Reuse and repurpose durable plastic products (Thematic Area: Reuse/Repurpose).
- **Target 10:** Adopt a phased approach towards building plastic waste recycling capacity (Thematic Area: Recycle).
- **Target 11:** Environmentally sound end-of-life management for non-recyclable and contaminated plastic wastes (Thematic Area: End-of-Life).

These targets are supported by four Cross-Cutting Actions (CCAs):

- CCA 1 – Education, Awareness & Behavioural Change
- CCA 2 – Research, Innovation & Data
- CCA 3 – Financing Mechanisms & Economic Instruments
- CCA 4 – Governance, Coordination & Legal Framework

The activities under the targets are proposed to be implemented in a phased approach, allowing for progressive scaling of interventions in line with national capacity and resource availability. Central to this approach is the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework, including the enactment of a Plastic Governance and Control Act. The proposed Act would establish a long-term, overarching legislative and institutional framework to provide a clear mandate to strengthen accountability and enhance enforcement. It will also ensure strategic guidance, effective coordination among stakeholders, and high-level political support. This framework is essential to mainstream plastic management across sectors and to ensure the successful implementation of measures to combat plastic pollution.

The Act would, amongst others:

- 1) **Demonstrate Government Commitment:** to address its vulnerability to the harmful effects of plastic pollution, which poses significant risks to several key economic sectors;
- 2) **Enhance International Credibility and Funding Opportunities:** to send a strong signal to the international community regarding Mauritius's proactive stance, thereby enhancing credibility and increasing the country's eligibility for funding from institutions such as IUCN, IOC, EU, UNDP-GEF SGP, AFD, bilateral donors and future funding mechanisms under the proposed Global Plastic Treaty; and
- 3) **Strengthen National Plastic Governance:** Provide a robust legal and policy tool to guide national efforts on plastic pollution. Moreover, it will support Mauritius in aligning with, and fulfilling, the expected requirements of the forthcoming Global Plastics Treaty.

The institutional framework proposed includes the establishment of a dedicated Department of Plastic Management (DPM) in the long run. The Department will consist of six divisions, namely: **Division 1** - Data & Statistics, **Division 2** - Research & Development, **Division 3** - Recycling & Circular Economy, **Division 4** - Education, Awareness & Behavioural Change, **Division 5** - Policy Development, and **Division 6** - Monitoring & Enforcement. However, in the short term, focus would be to reinforce the existing Plastic Management Division, with creation of two to three divisions in the medium term and expanding into the full-fledged governance structure in the long term.

Sensitisation is a crucial component to create not only awareness on the multifaceted nature of plastic pollution but more importantly in bringing about meaningful behavioural change across all sectors of the society. In this respect, the roadmap emphasises the need for a coherent, long-term framework to transform knowledge, attitudes, social norms, and daily practices related to plastic use and disposal. As such, the NSP is complemented by a National Awareness and Education Programme (NAEP), which is designed as a cornerstone intervention under Cross-Cutting Action 1 (Education, Awareness and Behavioural Change) for a Plastic Pollution-Free Mauritius. Rather than a one-off communication campaign, the NAEP is conceived as a ten-year, system-level programme aimed at embedding sustainability into institutions, communities, and cultural practices.

The NSP is fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and contributes to the achievement of multiple Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to health, water, sustainable cities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, marine and terrestrial ecosystems and partnerships. It is also consistent with key international and regional conventions, including the Basel and Stockholm Conventions, Paris Agreement, MARPOL Annex V and relevant regional marine protection frameworks.

The total estimated cost of implementing the 10-year NSP is approximately MUR 626.4 million, covering detailed activities. Investments focus on governance and institutional development, infrastructure, data and monitoring systems, education and awareness, innovation and financing mechanisms. For the first 5 years, the budget estimate is MUR 411.48M, detailed as follows:

<b>Budget for the first 5 years of the NSP/Roadmap</b>		
<b>Targets</b>	<b>Total (MUR)</b>	<b>Potential sources of funding</b>
Target 1: Creation of an inventory database and monitoring mechanism for all entries	13.6M	IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), National Budget for 2026-2027, IOC, MRIC
Target 2: Phase out all non-essential and problematic Single-Use Plastics (SUSUP)	11.2M	National Budget 2026-2027, MRIC, HEC, IOC, UNDP, EU-Climate Fund
Target 3: Achieve at least 80% effective collection of plastic wastes by 2030	161.6M	National Budget 2026-2027, CSR funds
Target 4: Reduce plastic packaging consumption by 50% by 2030 (25% by 2027).	2.1M	National Budget 2026-2027, MRIC, HEC, IOC, UNDP, EU, Plastic Transition Fund
Target 5: Reduce Plastic Use and Waste in Manufacturing, Industrial and Service Sectors by 30% by 2035	30M	National Budget 2026-2027, IOC, Plastic Transition Fund, green loans, CSR funds
Target 6: Reducing, where possible, the imports of virgin plastic pellets	0.00	
Target 7: Formalise producer accountability through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes by 2035.	0.6M	National Budget 2026-2027, private sector, IOC, HRDC
Target 8: Baseline studies in the marine environment and coastal ecosystem on macro, meso and micro plastics	2M	National Budget 2026-2027, IOC, MRIC, HEC, UNDP, GEF SGP UNDP, AFD
Target 9: Reuse and repurpose durable plastic products	0.6M	National Budget 2026-2027, private sector
Target 10: Adopt a phased approach towards building plastic waste recycling capacity	11.2M	National Budget 2026-2027, IOC, MRIC, HEC, UNDP, GEF SGP UNDP, AFD, ISLANDPlas, private sector, HRDC, green loans, CSR funds
Target 11: Environmentally sound end-of-life management for non-recyclable and contaminated plastic wastes	1.8M	National Budget 2026-2027, IOC, MRIC, HEC, UNDP, GEF SGP UNDP, AFD, ISLANDPlas, private sector, green loans
CCA 1 – Education, Awareness & Behavioural Change	8.2M	National Budget 2026-2027, IOC, MRIC, HEC, UNDP, GEF SGP UNDP, AFD, ISLANDPlas, private sector, HRDC, NGOs, CSR funds
CCA 2 – Research, Innovation & Data	10M	National Budget 2026-2027, IOC, MRIC, HEC, UNDP, GEF SGP UNDP, AFD, ISLANDPlas
CCA 3 – Financing Mechanisms & Economic Instruments	0.00	All of the above
CCA 4 – Governance, Coordination & Legal Framework	0.00	
<b>Sub-Total budget for Targets and CCAs</b>		<b>252.9M</b>
<b>Funds required for creating the Department of Plastic Management – DPM (3 divisions out of the 6 divisions)</b>		<b>90M</b>
<b>Sub-Total budget including creation of DPM</b>		<b>342.9M</b>
<b>Plastic Transition Fund (20% of MUR 342.9M)</b>		<b>68.58M</b>
<b>Total Funding for implementation of the roadmap</b>		<b>411.48M</b>

The consultants have also recommended periodic reviews of the NSP/Roadmap, with an initial review after two years followed by comprehensive reviews every three years to ensure adaptability and continuous improvement.

In conclusion, the National Strategy Plan/Roadmap for a Plastic Pollution-Free Mauritius is a necessity rather than an option for Mauritius. It is the result of a participatory process involving public authorities, private sector stakeholders, academia, civil society, and international institutions. This collective effort lays the foundation for a transition toward a more circular, resource-efficient, and resilient society in the face of environmental challenges. It recognises the urgent need to rethink how we produce, consume, and manage plastics in order to protect ecosystems, improve quality of life, and strengthen the country's strategic autonomy.

## INTRODUCTION

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The global spread of plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing and complex environmental challenges of our time. Plastics are omnipresent due to their low cost, durability, and versatility; yet these same features contribute to their long-term persistence in terrestrial and marine ecosystems. In 2020, an estimated 460 million tonnes of plastic were produced globally, with nearly half destined for single-use applications (UNEP, 2020). Existing models of production, consumption, and waste management have failed to cope with this scale, resulting in vast quantities of mismanaged plastic entering the environment, particularly in countries with limited end-of-life treatment systems.

Plastic pollution transcends national boundaries. Microplastics and macroplastics travel across oceans, infiltrate food chains, and have now been detected in human blood, lungs, and placental tissues (The Lancet, 2023). These impacts highlight the urgent need for coordinated global governance that addresses plastic pollution as a systemic threat—one that affects public health, biodiversity, climate stability, and environmental equity.

For small island developing states (SIDS) like Mauritius, the consequences are especially acute. As an island nation reliant on tourism, fisheries, and import-driven consumption, Mauritius is vulnerable to both land-based and marine plastic leakage. Recognising this challenge, the Government of Mauritius—through the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change—is committed to accelerating a transition towards circular plastic systems.

This National Strategy Plan/Roadmap (**also referred to as the NSP**) defines a 10-year roadmap to make Mauritius plastic move towards a plastic pollution-free country. It outlines national priorities, measurable targets, and concrete actions rooted in international best practices and adapted to the country's socio-economic realities.

## 1.1 INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

The global community increasingly recognises plastic pollution as a critical environmental crisis that demands immediate, collaborative, and systematic action. Approximately 11 million tonnes of plastic waste leak into the environment yearly, rendering plastics a significant transboundary pollutant (UNEP, 2020).

The treaty commonly referred to as the Global Plastic Treaty, may complement and enhance existing multilateral environmental agreements, including those currently under negotiation:

- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (1989), which was amended in 2019 to include plastic waste;
- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001), which addresses chemical additives and by-products in plastic production;
- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982), along with the London Protocol (1996), which regulate marine dumping and ship-based waste;
- The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), providing a platform for effective chemicals management;
- Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 14 (Life Below Water).
- The European Union's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), adopted under Regulation (EU) 2025/40, mandates that all packaging must be recyclable by 2030 and limits the presence of hazardous substances in food-contact materials.
- The Nairobi Convention is a major regional legal framework dedicated to the protection and sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region. The Convention is highly active in addressing the critical issue of plastic pollution and marine litter in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region. Its primary mechanism for tackling this problem is through its legal and programmatic frameworks, which focus on controlling pollution from land, the main source of marine plastic.

Unlike previous frameworks, the Global Plastic Treaty intends to comprehensively address the plastic economy's upstream, midstream, and downstream activities. The key provisions currently under negotiation include:

- Establishing global targets for the reduction of virgin plastic production, particularly unnecessary single-use plastics;
- Implementing design standards that promote reusability, recyclability, and non-toxicity of plastic products and packaging;
- Regulating plastic-associated chemicals, including endocrine disruptors, polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and bisphenol A (BPA) (European Parliament, 2025);
- Developing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) frameworks and product stewardship schemes;
- Instituting global monitoring and reporting obligations supported by scientific and technical bodies;
- Creating financial and technical assistance mechanisms for low and middle-income countries.

A key issue in the treaty negotiations is finding the right balance between global consistency and national autonomy. Countries with greater ambitions support legally binding global reduction targets and phase-out strategies, while others favour more flexible national action plans. At the heart of these conversations is the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), which continues to serve as a crucial standard for equity and fairness in international environmental agreements (Zhou and Xu, 2025). However, the treaty could not be concluded by August 2025 in the INC 5.2 in Geneva due to diverging views of Parties and the complexity of addressing this global issue.

The negotiations are further influenced by an emerging scientific consensus that plastic pollution's systemic and irreversible risks are significant. Over 16,000 chemicals linked to plastic have been identified worldwide, with over 4,200 recognised as hazardous (Brander et al., 2024). Microplastics have been found in human blood, breast milk, and remote ecosystems, leading to concerns about endocrine disruption, carcinogenic effects, and potential intergenerational exposure (The Lancet, 2023). These disturbing discoveries have intensified the demand for applying the precautionary principle and creating a science-policy interface to

inform the implementation of treaties, similar to how the IPCC operates in climate change issues.

Moreover, civil society organisations, scientific coalitions, and environmental justice networks have implored negotiators to ensure the treaty embodies transparency, inclusivity, and accountability principles. Concerns regarding informal waste workers, Indigenous participation, and protection against corporate influence, especially from the petrochemical and plastic manufacturing sectors, have emerged as critical issues in legitimacy debates (Dauvergne, 2023; Oturai et al., 2023). Influential regional blocs and multilateral coalitions play a pivotal role in shaping the Global Plastics Treaty. The High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution—comprising over 60 countries—advocates for legally binding global rules on product design, waste minimisation, and full transparency regarding chemical additives. In parallel, the European Union has reinforced its regulatory framework through the adoption of the new Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) under Regulation (EU) 2025/40. This legislation mandates that all packaging placed on the EU market must be recyclable by 2030, introduces minimum thresholds for recycled content, and imposes restrictions on hazardous substances, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), in food-contact materials. Collectively, these initiatives reflect a broader transition towards a circular plastics economy grounded in product responsibility, chemical safety, and lifecycle transparency (European Commission, 2024).

As negotiations progress through successive INC sessions, the treaty is anticipated to incorporate differentiated timelines and implementation mechanisms tailored to national capacities and development priorities. Furthermore, it is likely to be accompanied by a global financial mechanism to facilitate capacity-building, technology transfer, and infrastructure development in nations disproportionately affected by plastic pollution. The Global Plastic Treaty represents a crucial opportunity to integrate circular economy principles, pollution prevention strategies, and sustainable design into the governance framework surrounding plastics. Its success will depend significantly on incorporating scientific insights, equitable considerations, and enforceability within a robust, coherent, transparent global agreement.

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) Regional Circular Economy Roadmap aims to transition the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) island economies (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, etc.) from a linear "take-make-dispose" model to a resilient, circular one. The roadmap proposes actions to:

- **Strengthen Governance:** Establish harmonized regional regulations and implement policies like Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
- **Improve Waste Management:** Optimize waste collection, sorting, and recycling infrastructure across the region.
- **Enhance Literacy:** Boost circular economy awareness and education campaigns at all levels.
- **Support Businesses:** Provide structural and financial assistance for businesses in tourism, fisheries, agriculture, and construction to adopt circular models.

### **Mauritius and the global shift**

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Mauritius is particularly exposed to the adverse effects of plastic pollution—both from its own land-based activities and from transboundary marine plastic flows. The country is also highly dependent on imports of plastic-packaged goods and raw materials, which makes it vulnerable to shifts in international regulation and trade standards.

The adoption of the Global Plastic Treaty and the tightening of regional regulations like the EU PPWR (Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation) present both challenges and opportunities for Mauritius:

- The need to align national standards and product design rules with international norms;
- The opportunity to access global financing and technical assistance for infrastructure, innovation, and institutional capacity;
- A chance to lead among SIDS in building a circular plastic economy rooted in equity, resilience, and scientific evidence.

Mauritius' National Strategy Plan is therefore conceived in full alignment with this evolving international framework, ensuring that national actions reinforce global ambition—and vice versa.

## 1.2 NATIONAL CONTEXT

Mauritius has introduced several regulations to reduce plastic pollution in response to these challenges. The Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2015 was revoked and replaced by the Environment (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020 to prohibit the manufacture, importation, sale, and distribution of non-biodegradable plastic bags. Furthermore, the Environment (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020 ban single-use plastic items, including plastic cutlery, plates, stirrers, straws, and plastic food containers, to curb widespread disposable plastic consumption. In addition, the PET Bottle Regulation 2001 regulates the local bottling of a beverage in a PET bottle through a permit system.

The country has developed the beginnings of a sector thanks to a waste-to-value system. However, this system has not been able to evolve and adapt to capture more resources. Only post-consumer PET bottles are presently collected for recycling and the rate is around 35 to 40% and a large volume of these bottles ends up in the waste stream. Enforcement of these regulations is inadequate, and public compliance remains variable, limiting the overall effectiveness of these legislative measures (Foolmaun et al., 2011).

Another major constraint lies in the fragmentation of institutional responsibilities and the absence of integrated data systems. While the Ministry of Environment, through the Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD), remains the lead authority for national waste management, operational responsibilities are distributed among various ministries and local authorities. These local bodies, however, lack the human, financial, and technical resources necessary to implement regulations effectively on the ground. Compounding these issues is the absence of mandatory source separation, which results in highly diffuse and contaminated waste streams. This significantly impedes the ability of recyclers to operate efficiently and to secure consistent volumes of recoverable materials.

Recycling rates in Mauritius remain critically low, estimated at around 5% due to limited domestic reprocessing capacity, the informal and fragmented nature of the recycling sector, and a lack of economic incentives (Jeetah et al., 2024). Furthermore, most collected recyclable materials are exported, reducing the availability of local feedstock and discouraging investment in the national recycling value chain. The lack of a comprehensive national source inventory for plastics further hinders evidence-based policymaking and the identification of targeted

interventions. While Mauritius has made progress in developing regulatory frameworks to tackle plastic waste, these efforts are undermined by institutional coordination gaps, inadequate infrastructure, and limited public participation in sustainable waste practices.

Despite these structural and regulatory challenges, Mauritius progressively uses more sustainable waste management practices. Emerging initiatives include the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes on a voluntary basis and establishing domestic recycling outlets, which are becoming economically viable. Locally recycled plastic has the potential to create new market incentives for investment in the recycling sector. Voluntary drop-off points for household waste have been introduced to enhance material capture at source, while efforts are underway to develop avoidance strategies and promote alternative materials. These developments signal a gradual, uneven shift toward a more circular and resilient waste management ecosystem.

### **1.3 RATIONALE**

Mauritius stands at a pivotal moment in its transition towards sustainable plastic waste management. While regulatory milestones—such as the Environment (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020—have laid important groundwork, their fragmented implementation and limited scalability reveal the pressing need for a cohesive and coordinated national strategy.

A National Strategy Plan/Roadmap (**also referred to as the NSP**) would provide a unified framework to align regulations, operational processes, economic instruments, and institutional mandates under a shared long-term vision. This would not only enhance inter-agency coordination and accountability, but also serve as a guiding tool to implement the recently enacted Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act (2023) and the Environment Act (2024), including the operationalisation of the Plastic Management Committee.

One of the most persistent barriers to policy effectiveness remains institutional fragmentation. As highlighted by the Roland Berger white paper for the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (2022), SIDS such as Mauritius often face overlapping mandates and unclear leadership, undermining timely policy execution. The NSP would clarify institutional responsibilities and introduce monitoring, evaluation, and feedback loops to ensure adaptive implementation.

Moreover, the lack of integrated plastic data systems—such as a national inventory disaggregated by polymer, application, and geography—hinders the ability to conduct precise flow assessments or identify priority leakage points. Indonesia’s National Plastic Action Plan, which includes a baseline inventory and a hotspot leakage map, provides a strong precedent for data-driven governance. Mauritius could adopt a similar approach, with its Environmental Observatory playing a key role in knowledge sharing.

The NSP would also provide a policy foundation for scaling market-based solutions, such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), deposit-refund systems, and green fiscal incentives. While Mauritius has a PET bottle regulation in place, the absence of an operational deposit system contributes to low recovery rates and an underdeveloped recycling value chain. Countries such as South Korea and France have successfully used strategic planning to create regulatory stability and attract private sector investment. Mauritius must now do the same to become a regional leader in plastic circularity.

Finally, a comprehensive NSP would also enhance Mauritius' ability to access international technical and financial support, particularly in the context of the Global Plastic Treaty under negotiation. By demonstrating national alignment with global goals and readiness to implement lifecycle-based interventions, Mauritius strengthens its case for capacity-building, innovation partnerships, and donor-backed infrastructure financing.

## **1.4 OBJECTIVES**

The National Strategy Plan for Plastic Waste Management in Mauritius aims to address these urgent challenges through the following objectives:

### **1. Governance & Policy Coherence**

Strengthen legal and policy frameworks for plastic production, importation, consumption, and end-of-life management, ensuring harmonised and enforceable mandates across ministries, agencies, and local authorities.

### **2. Upstream Reduction**

Minimise plastic waste generation and leakage into the environment by:

- Reducing problematic and unnecessary plastics in a phase wise approach,

- Promoting sustainable and non-toxic material alternatives,
- Reducing the import virgin plastics, where possible.

### **3. Collection, Sorting & Recycling**

Improve collection and sorting systems by:

- Implementing source separation,
- Scaling up infrastructure (e.g., MRFs, recycling hubs),
- Operationalising EPR schemes and a national Deposit Refund System (DRS) .

### **4. Data & Traceability**

Establish an inventory database to track plastic flows and inform policy decision

### **5. Inclusive Circular Economy**

Empower recyclers, local enterprises, and informal waste collectors by facilitating access to training, finance, and integration into formal value chains. Promote reuse-based business models, green innovation and the use of sustainable alternatives.

### **6. Capacity Building**

Train public officers, waste operators, municipalities, and community leaders on sustainable plastic management and plastic regulations.

### **7. Behavioural Change & Public Engagement**

Raise awareness and foster behavioural change through targeted campaigns on responsible consumption, reduction at source, and participation in collection systems.

### **8. Monitoring & Strategic Oversight**

Institutionalise a transparent monitoring and evaluation system led by Division 1- Data & Statistics of the newly created Department of Plastic Management<sup>1</sup>, with annual public reporting on roadmap progress.

This strategy will serve as the foundational framework for Mauritius's operationalisation of plastic waste reduction goals, upgrading existing waste infrastructure, and safeguarding terrestrial and marine environments from escalating plastic pollution.

## **1.5 NATIONAL STRATEGY PLAN (NSP)/ROADMAP AND ITS VALIDATION**

Mauritius has made notable progress in establishing regularised plastic waste collection in urban and peri-urban areas through municipal and private partnerships. However, the current waste system remains predominantly linear, with the majority of plastic waste—collected without prior sorting—disposed of at the Mare Chicose landfill. This not only accelerates landfill saturation but also results in the irreversible loss of recoverable materials that could feed into a domestic circular economy.

Several systemic limitations hinder the transition to value recovery: the lack of mandatory source separation, the insufficient number of Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs), the absence of industrial-scale washing and decontamination technologies, and high dependency on export markets for recyclable fractions. These constraints underscore the urgent need for a coherent national strategy to operationalise end-of-life plastic solutions.

To develop this NSP/Roadmap, evidence from multiple data streams, including national waste flow records, customs import data, technical studies, academic research on marine plastic pollution, and waste characterisation audits have been consolidated. This approach provided a granular and holistic understanding of current inefficiencies.

The NSP/roadmap is an ambitious but comprehensive national plan to reduce plastic pollution in Mauritius by 2035. This report has been developed by the University of Mauritius under the coordination and support of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (MESWMCC). This document has strived to incorporate and reflect as far as possible the global pathway towards the adoption of policies, strategies and action plans to make Mauritius a Plastic Pollution-Free country. Rooted in the 4Rs—Refuse, Reduce, Reuse,

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<sup>1</sup> Further details about the Department of Plastic Management are provided at Section 4.5.

and Recycle principles, this NSP shifts Mauritius from a linear economy model to a circular plastic economy model, which therefore reinforces the application of the broader 9Rs principle (Refuse, Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle/Recover) underlying the Roadmap and Action Plan for a Circular Economy in the Republic of Mauritius (2023)—whilst also ensuring inclusive participation of producers, importers, recyclers, local authorities, and citizens.

The NSP is built on the findings of three foundational documents: the Stakeholder Consultation Report, the State of Knowledge (SoK) Report and the National Source Inventory (NSI) Report. In line with the Terms of Reference, the NSP is grounded in three foundational reports - the Stakeholder Consultation Report, the State of Knowledge Report (SoK), and the National Source Inventory (NSI), and is guided by three principles:

1. Contextualisation: ensuring solutions are tailored to national conditions and local realities.
2. Proportionality: balancing environmental, economic, social, and technological considerations.
3. Benchmarking: drawing on international best practices and adapting proven interventions for the Mauritian context.

These reports identify systemic barriers including institutional fragmentation, limited enforcement, poor data traceability, insufficient collection infrastructure and lack of investment in local recycling capacity. In response, the NSP proposes a comprehensive framework structured around six strategic directions. These include:

- Strengthening institutional coherence and legal enforcement;
- Scaling up innovation, research and sustainable product alternatives;
- Improving national collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure;
- Promoting education, awareness and behavioural change;
- Securing long-term financing, incentives and monitoring systems; and
- Developing an integrated national data and reporting system.

From inception to completion, the NSP/Roadmap was built through an inclusive and iterative process involving multi-stakeholder working groups, which were coordinated by the Ministry. The designing of the NSP involved a participatory approach with broad stakeholder's consultations with civil society, recyclers, informal collectors, private and public sectors, NGOs, academia. This included 27 stakeholders' consultations, 7 meetings of the Technical

Committee, 4 meetings of the Project Steering Committee and a Validation Workshop (involving 110 participants). This ensured technical robustness, feasibility and national ownership of the proposed actions.

The NSP/Roadmap is anchored in the legal frameworks of the **Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act 2023** and the **Environment Act 2024**, with monitoring to be led by the **Department of Plastic Management**<sup>2</sup>. It aligns with Mauritius' commitment to the **Global Plastic Treaty**, the **UN SDGs**, and its **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, the Roadmap and Action Plan for a Circular Economy in the Republic of Mauritius (2023) and the IOC Regional Circular Economy Roadmap

By linking efficient collection systems with scalable, diversified recovery solutions, this NSP/Roadmap paves the way for a functional, inclusive, and resilient circular plastic economy that reflects Mauritius's ambition to lead among SIDS.

The 11 targets and 4 Cross-Cutting Actions (CCAs), each having a set of associated activities were validated during a Validation Workshop organised on 12 November 2025 at Maritime Resort & Spa Hotel Balaclava. This workshop was attended by 110 stakeholders. The targets and CCAs spanned 6 key thematic areas pertinent to the plastic pollution-free roadmap: namely: (i) Knowledge, (ii) Refuse, (iii) Reduce, (iv) Reuse/Repurpose, (v) Recycle and (vi) End-of-Life, as described below.

### **Knowledge**

#### **Target 1: Creation of inventory database of plastics and plastic wastes.**

**Objective:** The setting up of a tracking system for the creation of this inventory database, which will help to support decision-making, reporting obligations, EPR implementation, and plastic-related fiscal policies.

### **Refuse**

**Target 2: Set phase wise reduction of non-essential and problematic Single-Use Plastics (SUP) in line with availability of sustainable alternatives based on technical, financial and social viability.**

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<sup>2</sup> Further details about the Department of Plastic Management are provided at Section 4.5.

**Objective:** This target aims at progressively eliminating non-essential and problematic Single-Use Plastics.

### **End-of-Life**

**Target 3: Achieve at least 80% phase wise collection of plastic wastes by 2035.**

**Objective:** This target will assist in progressively increasing the collection of households, commercial and industrial plastic wastes.

### **Reduce**

**Target 4: Set phase wise reduction of plastic packaging consumption by 2035.**

**Objective:** This target aims at reducing plastic packaging consumption through a three-phased process, namely: Phase 1- conducting an inventory of plastic packaging as underlined in Target 1; Phase 2- identifying non-essential and problematic SUP, as underlined in Target 2, with the objective of implementing a ‘first-layer’ reduction of plastic packaging whilst considering availability of existing sustainable alternatives and Phase 3- quantify residual plastic packaging after this ‘first-layer’ reduction and explore avenues for further reduction in plastic packaging using circular packaging solutions through collaborations amongst various actors in the value chain.

**Target 5: Development of a voluntary sector-specific Plastic Reduction Pledge (PRP) for those sectors identified in the Roadmap and Action Plan for a Circular Economy in the Republic of Mauritius (2023).**

**Objective:** This target will through the Plastic Reduction Pledge mechanism complement any mandatory regulation and collectively provide a dynamic framework that would take into consideration the diverse challenges of different industries thereby, making way for tailored rather than one-size-fits-all solutions, which will be more acceptable to the stakeholders’ community.

**Target 6: Reducing, where possible, the imports of virgin plastic pellets.**

**Objective:** Promote a shift away from virgin plastics by introducing recycled plastic pellets so as to mitigate the amount of plastic wastes being generated. However, this shift to recycled plastic pellets might be an option for certain types of applications in some sectors but not for others.

**Target 7: Formalise producer accountability through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes by 2035.**

**Objective:** This target aims to formalise producer accountability through EPR so as to ensure that producers bear responsibility for plastic waste, driving eco-design, recycling, and reduced pollution.

**Knowledge**

**Target 8: Baseline studies in the marine environment and coastal ecosystem on macro, meso and micro plastics.**

**Objective:** This target aims at collecting baseline data on macro, meso and micro plastics by assessing the macro and micro plastics profiles in the marine environment and coastal ecosystem.

**Reuse & Re-purpose**

**Target 9: Reuse and repurpose durable plastic products.**

**Objective:** This target will promote upstream circular economy solutions, reduces plastic leakage, and boosts local economic opportunities, thereby aligning with global circular economy practices.

**Recycling**

**Target 10: Adopt a phased approach towards building plastic waste recycling capacity**

**Objective:** This target aims at building plastic recycling capacity in a phase-wise approach, given the inherent challenges that exist, namely: limited market for recycled products, land constraints and high investment costs in recycling technologies.

**End of Life**

**Target 11 Environmentally sound end-of-life management for non-recyclable and contaminated plastic wastes.**

**Objective:** This target proposes a list of measures and actions for the proper management of non-recyclable and contaminated plastic wastes to prevent their leakages into the environment and for the preservation of human, animal and plant life and health (as per the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of World Trade Organisation (WTO)).

### **Cross-Cutting Actions (CCAs)**

The significance and pervasiveness of the 11 targets are such that they require 4 Cross-Cutting Actions which act as necessary pillars to sustain the implementation of the roadmap over the next 10 years.

#### **CCA 1 – Education, Awareness & Behavioural Change**

**Objective:** Strengthen national understanding of plastic pollution and promote behavioural change across all segments of society.

Note: A separate report on National Awareness and Education Programme (NAEP) further elaborates on the operationalisation of CCA 1.

#### **CCA 2 – Research, Innovation & Data**

**Objective:** Support evidence-based policymaking and local innovation for circular plastic solutions.

#### **CCA 3 – Financing Mechanisms & Economic Instruments**

**Objective:** Mobilise sustainable financing and ensure economic viability to support the concrete and effective implementation of the roadmap.

#### **CCA 4 – Governance, Coordination & Legal Framework**

**Objective:** Ensure institutional coherence, enforceability, and multi-stakeholder alignment.

Given the significance of the roadmap in terms of human, capital and technical resources and also the 10-year duration for its implementation, it is proposed that the Plastic Management Division (PMD) be upgraded to a full-fledged department, entitled ‘Department of Plastic Management (DPM)’, consisting of six (6) divisions:

- Division 1: Data & Statistics
- Division 2: Research & Development
- Division 3: Recycling & Circular Economy
- Division 4: Education, Awareness & Behavioural Change
- Division 5: Policy Development
- Division 6: Monitoring & Enforcement

The above-mentioned targets and cross-cutting actions are conducive towards promoting the following SDGs goals: Good health and well-being (SDG 3), Quality education (SDG 4), Clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), Affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), Industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9), Sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), Responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), Climate action (SDG 13), Life below water (SDG 14), Life on land (SDG 15), Peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16), and Partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

## 1.6 DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

- **Additives:** Substances incorporated into plastic polymers to modify or enhance specific properties such as flexibility, durability, colour, or resistance to degradation. Examples include flame retardants, plasticisers, pigments, stabilisers, and UV filters. (*Source: UNEP, 2023*)
- **Bio-based plastic:** Plastic materials that are fully or partially derived from renewable biological sources such as corn, sugarcane, or cellulose. They may have similar environmental persistence to conventional plastics and are not necessarily biodegradable. (*Source: UNEP, 2023*)
- **Biodegradable materials:** Materials that can be broken down by naturally occurring microorganisms into water, carbon dioxide (or methane under anaerobic conditions), and biomass within a defined period and under specific environmental conditions (e.g. temperature, humidity). Biodegradability depends on both material composition and the disposal environment. (*Source: UNEP, 2023; ISO 14855*)
- **Compostable materials:** Materials that biodegrade under controlled composting conditions, typically at industrial-scale facilities, without leaving toxic residues. Certified compostables comply with standards such as **EN 13432** (EU), **ASTM D6400** (US), or **ISO 17088**. Home composting is not always feasible. (*Source: The Pew Charitable Trusts & Systemiq, 2020*)
- **Circular economy:** An economic model that seeks to eliminate waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use, and regenerate natural systems. It emphasises product design for longevity, reuse, repair, and recycling. (*Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation, UNEP, 2023*)
- **Design for recycling:** The process of intentionally designing plastic products and packaging so they can be efficiently and effectively recycled within existing waste

management systems. This includes limiting multi-material layers and using compatible polymers. (Source: UNEP, 2023; PPWR 2025/40)

- **Downcycling:** A form of recycling in which plastic materials are transformed into new products of lower quality, performance, or value compared to the original application. (Source: UNEP, 2023)
- **Downstream activities:** End-of-life processes related to plastic waste management, including collection, sorting, recycling, energy recovery, and final disposal. These actions aim to maximise material recovery and prevent environmental leakage. (Source: UNEP, 2023)
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** A policy approach in which producers are given financial and/or operational responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products. EPR schemes may be individual or collective, mandatory or voluntary, and cover take-back, sorting, recycling, or disposal. (Source: UNEP, 2023)
- **Leakage:** The escape of plastic materials from intended waste management systems into the environment, including uncontrolled disposal or wind/water-driven littering into rivers, coastal zones, and oceans. (Source: The Pew Charitable Trusts & Systemiq, 2020)
- **Managed landfill:** A landfill site that is engineered to contain waste securely, with daily covering, leachate and gas collection systems, and long-term environmental controls to prevent pollution. (Source: ISO 14001; The Pew, 2020)
- **Mismanaged waste:** Waste that is improperly handled, either due to lack of collection or inadequate disposal practices such as open dumping or non-sanitary landfilling, leading to high risk of environmental contamination. (Source: The Pew, 2020).

## 2 KEY FINDINGS FROM NATIONAL SOURCE INVENTORY

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### 2.1 OVERVIEW

The National Source Inventory (NSI) for a plastic-pollution-free Mauritius provides a comprehensive assessment that identifies the stages in the life cycle of plastic flows through the Mauritian economy, from plastic imports to plastic production/manufacture, followed by use and consumption and ending with plastic waste management, including the adoption of plastic alternatives. The development of the NSI was conducted through: (1) a series of consultations with various stakeholders; (2) an analysis of the information gathered in the State of Knowledge (SoK) Report in relation to plastic imports, plastic and plastic waste flows, plastic initiatives and alternatives, plastic waste management and recycling as well as chemicals of concern. The NSI thus provides a baseline for continually measuring progress and fosters collaboration among stakeholders, enabling targeted interventions to reduce plastic pollution and transit towards a circular economy. The NSI should be viewed as a dynamic document that needs to be updated to reflect changes in the national source inventory, and aims to synthesise and disseminate knowledge, providing potential elements for consideration in the development of the NSP. Therefore, the overarching goal is to obtain a comprehensive understanding of plastic flows throughout their life cycle; more specifically, the following objectives underline the NSI:

- Track and quantify the movement of plastic materials and products through the different stages, country-wise – import, production and manufacturing, export, disposal and recycling.
- Based on the availability of data, a set of performance indicators was estimated to track waste generation (plastic generated from MSW), waste collection (plastic from MSW formally collected for recycling) and waste recovery and disposal.
- Identify and evaluate plastic alternatives and initiatives on the local and international front.
- Analyse current and potential waste management strategies based on the 4Rs (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle principles).

The key findings of the NSI are as follows:

- There is no proper data management system for the continuous recording and monitoring of plastic imports/utilisation in different sectors of the economy.

- There are no current formal and evidence-based strategies for evaluating and adopting plastic alternative and plastic recyclability, in terms of socio-economic and environmental assessment, as a means for decreasing plastic.
- Notwithstanding the current financial support provided by the government, some recyclers still require technical and additional financial support.

This NSP has thus been developed based on the key findings of the NSI. However, it should be noted that certain elements of the first draft of the NSP were revised following various technical committees and stakeholders' consultations.

## **2.2 PLASTIC MATERIAL FLOW AND DATA GAPS**

Objective: To analyse the lifecycle of plastics within the national context and identify gaps in understanding or monitoring plastic flows.

### **Plastic material flow**

Mauritius has been importing amounts of plastic materials over the years. In 2022, Mauritius imported 53,829 tonnes of plastic, which increased to 57,878 tonnes in 2023 and reached 65,622 tonnes in 2024. This upward trend highlights the growing demand for plastic inputs, which are locally processed into consumer products serving key sectors such as packaging, manufacturing, construction, tourism, agriculture, ICT, and healthcare. Several local actors are also engaged in processing plastic waste into intermediate or end-use products. Recyclers such as EN Recyclers, Surfriider, and Precious Plastic transform plastic waste into boards and other forms that are further used to manufacture furniture and artisanal goods. DKD also reprocesses soft plastics into pellets (PIM into flakes), which can serve as secondary raw materials, although the operation faces challenges related to feedstock quality and processing costs.

A Material Flow Analysis (MFA) conducted within the framework of the National Source Inventory (NSI) using 2022 data estimated total waste generation in Mauritius at 518,325 tonnes, of which approximately 14% (72,566 tonnes) was plastic (MoE 2022). Among this, 2,903 tonnes of plastic wastes were collected by registered recyclers and exporters, while the remaining 69,663 tonnes were landfilled. These estimations were determined with the support of the Solid Waste Management Division.

There is no plastic production in primary forms (i.e., plastic pellets) in Mauritius. However, imported plastics in primary forms are transformed into other plastic products, which are also

exported. The MRA Customs provides raw trade data to Statistics Mauritius, including plastic data that is not necessarily destined for local consumption. Given that the underlying objective of this project is to capture and measure plastic consumption and pollution in Mauritius, MRA Customs has adjusted the import data to reflect and capture only local plastic consumption. Therefore, the MRA Customs data provided for this project appears to be more fit for purpose. Although Chapter 39 entitled Plastics and Articles of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) thereof classify plastics into two generic categories, namely, “Primary Forms” on the one hand and “Waste, Parings and Scrap; Semi-Manufactures; Articles” on the other, a more detailed categorisation was required for more meaningful analysis. And this is why plastics and articles thereof were classified into the following five plastic categories as per the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) classification for plastics across five stages of the life cycle.: (1) Plastics in Primary Forms, (2) Intermediate Forms of Plastic, (3) Intermediate Manufactured Plastic Goods, (4) Final Manufactured Plastic Goods, and (5) Plastic Waste.

The analysis also revealed that Mauritius imported 53,829 tonnes of plastics and exported 20,570 tonnes in 2022, including plastic waste. Imports included primary forms (25,696 tonnes), intermediate goods, and final manufactured plastic products. In 2023, the total volume of plastic imports rose to 57,878 tonnes, and further increased to 65,622 tonnes in 2024 (Figure 2.1). However, due to limitations in trade classification systems, the actual volume of plastic imported may be significantly higher, as plastics embedded in products such as shampoo bottles or yogurt containers are excluded from Chapter 39 under the Harmonised System coding.

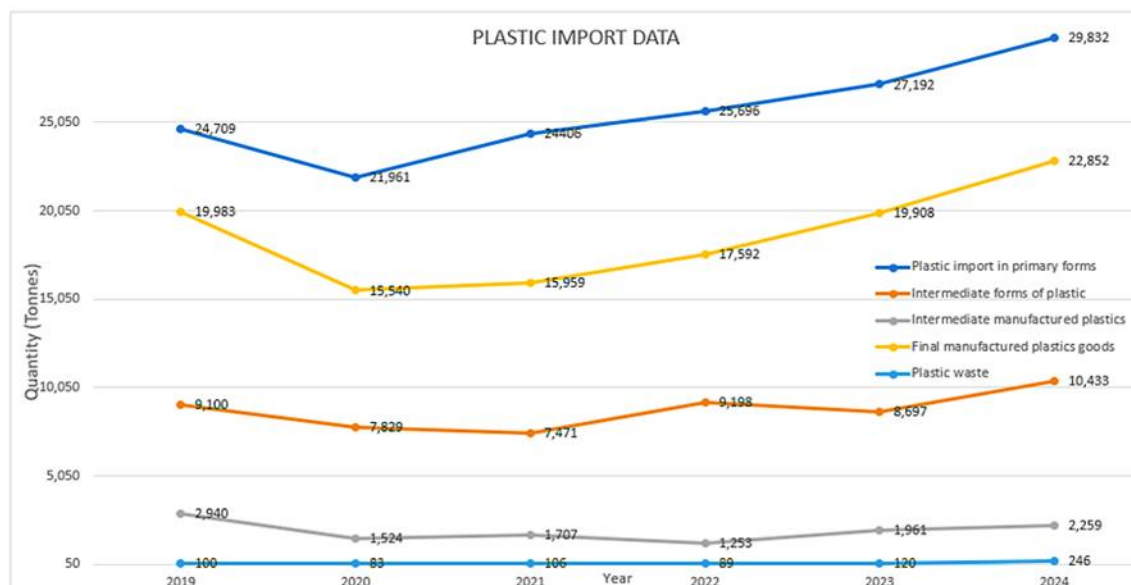


Figure 2.1. Plastic import data

The packaging sector remains one of the largest consumers of plastic. While this contributes significantly to plastic waste generation, PET also represents the most actively collected and recycled plastic material in Mauritius. The PET bottling companies (mainly Phoenix Beverages Ltd [PBL] and Quality Beverages Ltd [QBL] through the Bottler’s Association and programs) are compelled to collect the PET bottles that are put onto the market for eventual recycling as part of the mechanism similar to Extended Producer Responsibility following the regulations of PET bottles in 2001.

Informal actors play an important role in the collection of PET bottles, which retain sufficient market value to be purchased by companies such as Polypet and Reso Up. These companies possess detailed records on quantities collected and collector identities, suggesting that informal contributions could be documented if systematically integrated. In contrast, HDPE currently lacks formal market value, and as a result, small-scale informal collection for this material remains limited. Despite this, the contribution of informal actors is not formally reflected in existing data systems, making it difficult to assess their role within the broader waste management framework. This lack of visibility, combined with the absence of standardised tracking systems, makes it difficult to assess the effectiveness of the current waste management framework or measure real recycling and recovery outcomes.

Discussions from various stakeholders reveal that although there are a number of initiatives ranging from collection to recycling, challenges also exist in furthering these initiatives. The challenges can be grouped into two broad categories:

- Collection
  - existing collection system has limited capacity
  - transport costs in collecting plastic wastes
  - expansion of PET collection
- Recycling
  - costly and burdensome decontamination process
  - lack of appropriate infrastructure for economies of scale (lack of critical mass of storage facilities prior to exportation)
  - high cost of recycling technologies - require high investment cost
  - market challenge due to lack of consumer awareness and interest in recycled products
  - original/virgin materials (imported) often cheaper than locally recycled products/materials

From a study carried out by Gamma Materials in collaboration with the University of Mauritius in 2021, it was found that the construction and demolition (C&D) sector generated around 70,000 tonnes of C&D waste annually, with plastics wastes representing about 2.4%. Most of this waste is either stockpiled, dumped illegally, or landfilled without separation. In healthcare, approximately 20 tonnes of medical waste are generated weekly, but only 120 kg undergo high-temperature treatment; the rest is sent to landfill, including single-use plastic materials. No quantifiable data currently exists for plastic usage in the agricultural or ICT sectors, although e-waste and polymer-based packaging are known to be prevalent.

Plastic leakage into the environment occurs due to poor collection infrastructure and the frequent discarding of materials that have little or no market value. Microplastic pollution has been documented in both terrestrial and marine environments, including wastewater, agricultural soils, and beaches. The Mauritius Oceanography Institute reported microplastic concentrations ten times higher in offshore waters than in the lagoon. Another study found over 230 microplastics per kilogram in soil near landfill areas, with polypropylene being the dominant polymer.

These findings point to several critical gaps and needs, including the absence of a comprehensive baseline for plastic flows and leakage, limited availability of harmonised data, and fragmented legislation addressing waste management, environmental protection and circularity. Existing legal provisions are scattered across different laws and regulations, constraining effective implementation and enforcement. There is therefore a clear need for a dedicated and coherent legal framework as well as a robust sensitization programme to address plastic pollution holistically and support the achievement of national targets.

### **3 TARGETS AND CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS**

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According to the OECD Global Plastics Outlook published in 2022, plastic packaging accounts for approximately 50% of the total plastic waste generated globally. The European Commission's (Eurostat's) packaging waste statistics for the period 2010-2021 indicate that 40 % of plastics and 50 % of paper used in the Union is used for packaging, and packaging represents 36 % of municipal solid waste (Regulation (EU) 2025/40 of the European parliament and of the Council). High and constantly increasing quantities of packaging generated, as well as low levels of re-use and collection and poor recycling, present significant barriers to achieving a low-carbon circular economy. This highlights the significant role that packaging plays in the overall plastic waste problem, emphasizing the importance of improving reuse, recycling, and sustainable packaging solutions. The overarching goal is to adapt these principles within the Mauritian context to achieve a significant reduction in plastic packaging by 2030.

The results obtained from meta-studies as reported by UNEP (2021) concluded that reusable products have lower environmental impacts than single-use products and that reusable products and reuse should be incentivized in policy interventions. The production of single-use plastic products is a significant contributor to environmental footprint. Therefore, other opportunities have to be considered to avoid or reduce negative environmental impacts within production and save impacts from production by reducing consumption of such products, or by keeping the products in the economy for longer. This can be achieved by promoting product design for circularity, including reuse. Therefore, reusable or returnable products appear to be the better option from an environmental perspective, when reused multiple times. To this end, the first priority would be to shift to reusable alternatives (which should also be recycled or composted at the end of their useful lives).

In addition, Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) will help policymakers to decide how to best prioritize impacts according to their context but these need to be supplemented with a range of additional studies and knowledge. It should be noted that impact assessment of litter and health impacts are not yet well accounted for in LCA studies. There are also information gaps relating to long-term impacts on ecosystems and health e.g. microplastics. Social aspects as well as gender analysis also need careful consideration.

Moreover, LCA studies can help make trade-offs transparent and this will eventually help policymakers. However, it should be noted that the environmental footprints of Single Use

Plastic Product (SUPP) alternatives will depend on a range of factors which need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. For instance, a good understanding of how to encourage reuse of products multiple times is required, whilst including a gender analysis as women are key stakeholders in purchasing and waste management practices at the household and community levels. The above-mentioned studies and reported analysis points to the fact that the real problem is not about plastic *per say* but more about how plastic is used and disposed of.

Consideration of a well-designed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme must be a key strategy to be integrated in the NSP. The operation of EPR schemes must however remain independent from the Ministry of Environment, and be collectively governed by market actors (importers and producers). Needless to say, government is the overarching entity that will set national targets, accredit EPR operators, and ensure regular monitoring and enforcement. Concurrently, the country needs to devote sufficient resources towards developing novel production technologies.

Mauritius should progressively align its EPR policies and standards with:

- EU Directive 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment;
- EU Regulation 2025/40 on packaging and packaging waste, which will:
  - enable preparedness regarding any forthcoming restrictions on non-recyclable plastic formats,
  - facilitate access to markets for Mauritian products by harmonizing labelling and product information
  - encourage eco-design and the use of recycled plastic content.

The informal waste sector is a significant stakeholder in many countries and decision-makers are encouraged to find a way to integrate this sector into policy-driven decisions (UNEP, 2021).

Last but not least, behavioural research is required so as to understand what policies and accompanying actions must be put into place to sustainably drive change related to people's actions regarding the use of Single Use Plastic Products (SUPP). As a result, an array of targets, for example, (i) the creation of an inventory to track plastic flows, (ii) the progressive phasing out of selected and unnecessary single-use plastics, (iii) the increase in capacity for local plastic waste recycling, and (iv) communication and education strategies to change attitude and behaviour, to mention but a few, are required to implement a plan revolving around use, reuse, recycling and waste disposal within a proper monitoring and evaluation framework.

This National Strategy Plan is a roadmap consisting of 11 targets which fall under 6 thematic areas (Knowledge, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse/Repurpose, Recycle and End-of-Life) and 4 Cross-Cutting Actions (CCAs), each having a set of associated activities, which are briefly described hereunder:

- Target 1: Creation of inventory database of plastics and plastic wastes (Thematic Area: Knowledge).
- Target 2: Set phase wise reduction of non-essential and problematic Single-Use Plastics (SUP) in line with availability of sustainable alternatives based on technical, financial and social viability (Thematic Area: Refuse).
- Target 3: Achieve at least 80% phase wise collection of plastic wastes by 2035 (Thematic Area: End-of-Life).
- Target 4: Set phase wise reduction of plastic packaging consumption by 2035 (Thematic Area: Reduce).
- Target 5: Development of a voluntary sector-specific Plastic Reduction Pledge (PRP) for those sectors identified in the Roadmap and Action Plan for a Circular Economy in the Republic of Mauritius (2023) (Thematic Area: Reduce).
- Target 6: Reducing, where possible, the imports of virgin plastic pellets (Thematic Area: Reduce).
- Target 7: Formalise producer accountability through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes by 2035 (Thematic Area: Reduce).
- Target 8: Baseline studies in the marine environment and coastal ecosystem on macro, meso and micro plastics (Thematic Area: Knowledge).
- Target 9: Reuse and repurpose durable plastic products (Thematic Area: Reuse/Repurpose).
- Target 10: Adopt a phased approach towards building plastic waste recycling capacity (Thematic Area: Recycle).
- Target 11 Environmentally sound end-of-life management for non-recyclable and contaminated plastic wastes (Thematic Area: End-of-Life).

#### *Cross-Cutting Actions (CCAs)*

- CCA 1 – Education, Awareness & Behavioural Change
- CCA 2 – Research, Innovation & Data
- CCA 3 – Financing Mechanisms & Economic Instruments

- CCA 4 – Governance, Coordination & Legal Framework

The CCAs effectively cut across all the targets to reinforce their achievability. Furthermore, in order to create an environment conducive towards achieving the targets and CCAs, a set of overarching policies and regulations have been proposed to accompany the implementation of the roadmap to enable the country to transit from a linear to a circular plastic economy.

The implementation of the National Strategy Plan (NSP) entails the establishment of a Department of Plastic Management (DPM) under the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (MOESWMCC), which will be mandated to create 6 divisions, namely:

- Division 1: Data & Statistics
- Division 2: Research & Development
- Division 3: Recycling & Circular Economy
- Division 4: Education, Awareness & Behavioural Change
- Division 5: Policy Development
- Division 6: Monitoring & Enforcement

Details regarding the above-mentioned divisions are elaborated in Section 4.5.

### **3.1 TARGETS AND KEY ACTIVITIES**

This section not only describes the targets, CCAs and their related activities, but also provides indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress towards their implementation along the proposed time-frame.

The time-frame for the key activities and actions have been defined as follows:

- Short-term (ST): 1-2 years
- Medium-term (MT): 3-5 years
- Long-term (LT): 6-10 years

It should be emphasized that the time-frames corresponding to the targets, cross-cutting actions and associated activities are indicative and should be subject to review as and when required. The implementation of the NSP/Roadmap covers a 10-year period commencing in 2026. An initial review will be undertaken at the end of the second year to identify early challenges and required adjustments, followed by comprehensive reviews every three years to assess progress

and introduce, where necessary, corrective measures towards achieving NSP/Roadmap targets and CCAs. The review periods are further indicated under each target.

Tables 3.1 to 3.11 include the indicators corresponding to each of the different activities required to implement targets 1 to 11.

These targets and Cross-Cutting Actions are to be aligned with the Global Plastics Treaty as and when this treaty will be finalized. This roadmap shall be reviewed to implement the agreed provisions of the Global Plastics Treaty to promote coherent policy development towards global efforts to reduce plastic pollution, nurture circularity and protect environmental and human health.

### **Target 1: Creation of inventory database of plastics and plastic wastes (Thematic area: Knowledge)**

#### **Rationale**

From the National Source Inventory Report, it was highlighted that there is no proper data management system for the continuous recording and monitoring of entries, exits and flows of plastics and plastic wastes in the country. A tracking system will have to be put in place for the creation of this inventory database, which will help to support decision-making, reporting obligations, EPR implementation, and plastic-related fiscal policies. The following proposed classification of plastics and plastic wastes would fall within the tracking system, such as:

- plastics carry bags and SUP containing polymers listed in the First Schedule
- goods packed in plastic packages
- problematic and non-essential single use plastics (SUP) (to be identified in Target 2)
- virgin plastic pellets
- recycled plastics
- durable plastics
- non-recyclable and contaminated plastic wastes

Problematic plastic products are those that have adverse impacts across their full life-cycle — including production, use, and end-of-life as well as on human health and/or the environment. The potential criteria for identifying problematic plastic products are given Box 1.1.

<b>Box 1.1: Criteria for identification of problematic plastic products</b>
Hazards: product containing chemicals of concern (Table 8.2)
Emissions: Release of nano-, micro- (primary and secondary) and macro plastics during its production, intended use or end-of-life.
Barriers to circularity: non-recyclable plastics, for example, contaminated plastics
Safety issues: Lack of information on exposure to chemicals of concern during product acquisition or use

*Source: <https://pub.norden.org/temanord2024-508/3-potential-criteria-for-problematic-unnecessary-and-avoidable-plastic-products.html>*

In addition, it should be noted that the IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) under the IslandPlas Project, part of the Coastal and Ocean Resilience (COR) Programme, has launched a Call for Proposals for a project on Data Collection for a Plastic Waste National Level Quantification and Sectorial Material Flow Analysis for Mauritius. The outputs of this project will therefore provide a first set of data on the profiling of plastic wastes, which can then be integrated in this tracking system. The data captured by the tracking system can be used to feed the inventory database, that will provide real-time information on plastic flows. This inventory database can then be used as a basis for implementation of Targets 2 to 10.

The implementation of Target 1 focuses on establishing a robust national system for tracking, classifying, and monitoring all plastic flows in Mauritius. A dedicated unit at MRA Customs will be set up to classify and quantify plastic imports and exports. HS codes will have to be extended to include goods packed in plastic packaging, allowing for more accurate monitoring of trade-related plastic flows. Simultaneously, national surveys and plastic waste characterisation studies will be undertaken every three to five years to capture the quantity, composition, and type of plastic wastes generated locally. These studies will feed into a national database and support evidence-based policy decisions. To ensure digital integration, a tracking system for plastic entries, exits, and flows will be established in collaboration with MRA Customs and Statistics Mauritius. The system will provide real-time data on production, consumption, and waste management, linking various ministries and stakeholders. Capacity-

building programmes will train customs and environment officers in data management, digital reporting, and classification procedures. The implementation will be guided by a phased approach over the medium to long term, with continuous stakeholder engagement, international support from IUCN and AFD/FFEM, and oversight by the PMC. Monitoring and evaluation will occur through regular progress reports. By 2035, the framework aims to operationalise a comprehensive, transparent, and evidence-based plastic flow inventory system that supports circular economy transitions in Mauritius.

Table 3.1. Key Activities for Target 1

Key Activities	Responsible Authority	Supporting Authorities	Time-Frame	Key Indicators	Monitoring & Evaluation
Activity 1.1: Development of a unit by Ministry of Environment that will be posted at MRA Customs, to classify and quantify entries and exits of plastics and plastic wastes, including goods packed in plastic packages pending implementation of Activity 1.2	Ministry of Environment	MRA Customs	Medium-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicated unit established and staffed</li> <li>• Number of data entries recorded per month</li> <li>• % of plastic categories quantified (virgin, recycled, waste, packed goods)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly monitoring of customs data uploads</li> <li>• Bi-annual audit of classification accuracy</li> <li>• Annual review by Ministry of Environment and MRA Customs</li> </ul>
Activity 1.2: Classification of goods packed in plastic packages/containers through the possible extension of HS codes, for example, shampoo bottles, taking into consideration that HS codes are on 8-digit levels. A similar extension of HS code has been developed for PET bottles, in view of implementing an EPR mechanism.	MRA Customs	Ministry of Environment, Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Customs, Prime Minister Office (PMO), Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED),	Long-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of new HS codes developed and validated</li> <li>• Updated national classification list of plastic goods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of HS-code updates</li> <li>• Verification of data alignment with international trade standards</li> </ul>

<p>Note: A consultant will have to be recruited for this activity.</p>		<p>Statistics Mauritius (CSO), Business Mauritius (BM), Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Association of Mauritian Manufactures (AMM), Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives, IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO)</p>			
<p>Activity 1.3: Conduct survey on classification and quantification of local plastic flows. A consultant will have to be recruited for this activity.</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Customs, Statistics Mauritius (CSO), Business Mauritius (BM), Mauritius Chamber of</p>	<p>Medium term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National survey completed</li> <li>• % coverage of industrial and municipal sectors</li> <li>• Publication of plastic flow data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultant progress reports</li> <li>• Field validation of survey samples</li> <li>• Comparative analysis with IslandPlas data</li> </ul>

<p>Note: A consultant will have to be recruited for this activity.</p>		<p>Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Association of Mauritian Manufactures (AMM), Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (Industry and SME divisions), SME and Cooperatives, IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO)</p>			
<p>Activity 1.4: Conduct National Plastic Wastes Characterization Studies in order to determine whether actions taken to combat plastic pollution through the implementation of initiatives, alternatives, recycling and regulations have a positive impact towards reducing plastic wastes. These</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>Research Institutions</p>	<p>Medium term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline data published</li> <li>• Updated dataset every 5 years</li> <li>• % change in polymer composition in MSW</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research reports validated by Ministry of Environment</li> </ul>

<p>studies will also provide information on the types of plastic polymers (for e.g., LDPE, HDPE, PE etc.) that are continuously being used and disposed of in the municipal solid wastes (MSW). This characterization study will have to be conducted every 3 to 5 years, following the results that will be obtained from IslandPlas project.</p> <p>Note: A consultant will have to be recruited for this activity.</p>					
<p>Activity 1.5: Development of a tracking system for all entries, exits and flows of plastics and plastic wastes. A consultant will have to be recruited for this activity. This tracking system will thus assist in the creation of the inventory database.</p> <p>Note: A consultant will have to be recruited for this activity.</p>	MRA Customs	Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (Industry and SME divisions), Statistics Mauritius	Long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functional tracking system developed and operational</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System testing and user-acceptance reports</li> <li>• Continuous monitoring</li> <li>• Annual evaluation of data reliability and interoperability</li> </ul>

**Target 2: Set phase wise reduction of non-essential and problematic Single-Use Plastics (SUP) in line with availability of sustainable alternatives based on technical, financial and social viability (Thematic area: Refuse)**

**Rationale**

The excessive reliance on and proliferation of non-essential and problematic Single-Use Plastics (SUP), for instance, unnecessary packaging such as two or more bottles of shampoo wrapped in plastic, bananas packed in plastic, English cucumber wrapped in cling film, bulk packing of beverage and water bottles etc., has raised concerns regarding their environmental, health, and social impacts, including their disposal/treatment channels.

In order to curb plastic pollution, non-essential and problematic Single-Use Plastics (as identified in Target 1-data from characterisation study and survey) should, where possible, be reduced based on the availability of alternatives that are both economically and technically viable. However, another important consideration, before deciding on any bans of non-essential and problematic Single-Use Plastics, is the need for product visibility and hygiene, which are crucial in sustaining sales in retail environments.

For instance, transparent packaging like clear window panels is often used to showcase products to enhance consumers' confidence before purchasing. Therefore, this target aims at progressively eliminating non-essential and problematic Single-Use Plastics through the implementation of proposed activities (2.1 to 2.3) listed in the table below.

**Box 2.1: Examples of Avoidable, problematic, or unnecessary plastics with viable alternatives**

- Single-use plastic bags (already banned in Mauritius, but enforcement can be strengthened).
- Plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, and plates (easily replaced by paper, bamboo, or metal alternatives).
- Balloon sticks, cotton bud sticks, plastic stir sticks (replace with paper, wood, bamboo).
- Oxo-degradable plastics packaging (replace with paper packaging, cardboard)

**Box 2.2: Examples of Plastics That Cannot Be Eliminated (as there are no alternatives currently) but Can Be Reduced**

- Beverage bottles (PET, HDPE) → Reduce via deposit-refund systems, refill stations, rPET use.
- Plastic food packaging (for hygiene & preservation) → Reduce via eco-design, compostable packaging, reusable containers (for e.g., plastic cups, bowls, trays etc.).
- Shopping packaging (secondary wraps, shrink films) → Reduce through bulk transport, reusable crates, biodegradable films.
- Hotel & tourism amenities (toiletry bottles, wrappers) → Replace with refill dispensers, larger reusable formats.
- Agricultural plastics (mulch film, seedling trays, drip irrigation pipes) → Optimize use, substitute with biodegradable films.

**Box 2.3: Plastics That Cannot Be Eliminated nor Reduced (Must Be Safely Handled and Managed)**

- Medical plastics (syringes, IV bags, PPE, blood bags) – cannot be substituted due to sterility; must be safely collected and incinerated.
- Construction plastics (PVC pipes, insulation, window frames) – long lifespan, non-substitutable; focus on recycling at end-of-life.
- Electronics & automotive plastics (casings, dashboards, wiring insulation) – essential for durability; require e-waste recycling systems.
- Industrial safety equipment (helmets, protective gear) – high-performance plastics needed for safety.

**Box 2.4: Proposed Alternatives/Alternatives Currently in Use**

- Bagasse (sugarcane pulp) (can be used for trays, plates, take-away food)
- Cardboard/paper packaging (with plastic lining) (can be used for dairy, snack, food packaging, food wraps, paper bags)
- Wood/palm/fiber can be used for cutlery, plates, straws)
- Glass - subject to food security and safety due to high risk of breakage during filling processes

The implementation of Target 2 aims to progressively eliminate non-essential and problematic Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) in Mauritius by promoting sustainable alternatives and reducing dependency on plastic materials that are avoidable or have viable substitutes. The Ministry of

Environment, through the Plastic Management Committee (PMC), will lead the process, supported by Business Mauritius, MCCI, AMM, research institutions, and international partners such as the EU and UNDP. Once identified, the next phase will involve evaluating the availability and affordability of sustainable alternatives or practices (as illustrated in Boxes 2.2 and 2.4). Research and consultations with industries and retailers will determine which materials—such as bagasse, paper, cardboard, or bamboo—can feasibly replace specific plastics without compromising quality or hygiene. Following this, a timeline for phase-wise reduction will be established, setting clear milestones and percentage reduction targets up to 2035. This timeline will align with technical, financial, and social realities and will be integrated into national regulations in harmony with EU Directive 2019/904 and the upcoming Global Plastic Treaty. Continuous monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken through quarterly sub-committee reviews and annual progress assessments.

Table 3.2. Key Activities for Target 2

Key Activities	Responsible Authority	Supporting Authorities	Time-Frame	Key Indicators	Monitoring & Evaluation
<p>Activity 2.1: Identification of problematic and non-essential plastics (Box 2.1), whilst taking into account the social, commercial and sanitary realities</p> <p>Note: A consultant will have to be recruited for this activity.</p>	Ministry of Environment	Business Mauritius, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM), Research institutions, technical and funding support: EU and UNDP, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection, ACIM (Association des Consommateurs de l’île Maurice)	Medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive list of problematic and non-essential plastics compiled</li> <li>• Number of plastic product categories evaluated</li> <li>• Stakeholder consultations conducted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verification of database and consultation records</li> <li>• Annual review of identified items by Ministry of Environment</li> <li>• External validation by business and civil society actors</li> </ul>
<p>Activity 2.2: Assessing the availability of sustainable alternatives or practices (Boxes 2.2 and 2.4)</p>	Ministry of Environment	Business Mauritius, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Association of Mauritian	Medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory of sustainable alternatives (technical and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical review meetings</li> <li>• Evaluation of pilot projects on</li> </ul>

		Manufacturers (AMM), Research institutions		<p>financial feasibility)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of identified alternatives tested or piloted</li> <li>• Technical reports published</li> </ul>	<p>alternative materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual reporting on substitution potential and market readiness</li> </ul>
Activity 2.3: Determining the timeline for the phase wise reduction of single-use plastic, problematic and non-essential plastic as well as the banning of plastic carry bags containing polymers identified in the plastic carry bags regulation.	Ministry of Environment	Business Mauritius, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM), Research institutions, ACIM	Medium to long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phased reduction plan approved</li> <li>• % reduction targets per product category</li> <li>• Adoption of reduction milestones by industry sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of regulation updates</li> <li>• Annual progress assessment against reduction targets</li> </ul>

**Target 3: Achieve at least 80% phase wise collection of plastic wastes by 2035 (Thematic area: End-of-Life).**

### **Rationale**

This target is in line with the Government vision to provide 3 recycled bins for the 300,000 households (as mentioned in the Budget 2024-25) and the engagement of industries to segregate their wastes at source, following the Waste Resource Recovery Act (2023).

Cabinet has agreed to the setting-up of a Steering Committee to coordinate the implementation of the project for the setting up and operation of two regional Integrated Waste Processing Facilities on a Public-Private-Partnership basis. In order to allow for a high-quality waste stream to the Integrated Waste Processing Facilities, waste segregation at source would be fundamental through the provision of three bins to each household namely, one for organic wastes, one for recyclable materials and the third one for residual wastes to be sent to the landfill.

The Integrated Waste Processing Facilities are expected to come into operation in March 2027 and well before that time, Government would operationalise the source segregation strategy by providing bins to householders, deploying adequate logistics for separate collection of waste at the level of Local Authorities, making appropriate Source Segregation Regulations and undertaking an aggressive information/sensitisation campaign.

Source:

<https://pmo.govmu.org/CabinetDecision/2025/Highlights%20of%20Cabinet%20Meeting%20%20Friday%202023%20May%20%202025.pdf>

This target will therefore assist in progressively increasing the collection of household and industrial plastic wastes through the implementation of a proposed list of activities (3.1-3.4).

The implementation of Target 3 focuses on strengthening the national plastic waste collection system to achieve an 80% collection rate by 2035. This target aligns with the Government's commitment to provide three segregated bins to the 300,000 households under the 2024–25 Budget and to operationalise the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act (2023), ensuring proper source segregation and recycling efficiency. The Ministry of Local Government, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment's Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD), will lead implementation. Furthermore, plastic waste collection

infrastructure will be expanded through the installation of dedicated bins, particularly in underserved areas (Activity 3.1). This will support the transition towards three-bin segregation systems — for organic, recyclable, and residual wastes — ensuring cleaner waste streams for upcoming Integrated Waste Processing Facilities (IWPF) scheduled for operation by March 2027. Under Activity 3.2, collection performance will be monitored according to the WMRRRA (2023), with data from local authorities and recyclers feeding into the inventory database (Target 1). Concurrently, Activity 3.3 will phase the plastic waste collection target, starting with 5–10% coverage in Year 1 and increasing by 10–20% annually. Finally, Activity 3.4 will integrate informal waste collectors into the formal system through registration, training, and incentives, thereby enhancing efficiency and social inclusion. Monitoring and evaluation will be conducted quarterly through sub-committee reports, with mid-term (2030) and end-term (2035) assessments tracking progress toward full national coverage.

Table 3.3. Key Activities for Target 3

<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Authority</b>	<b>Supporting Authorities</b>	<b>Time-Frame</b>	<b>Key Indicators</b>	<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>
Activity 3.1: Expansion of Plastic Waste Collection Infrastructure (i.e., increase number of waste collection points through a greater number of dedicated bins especially in underserved areas)	Ministry of Local Government	Ministry of Environment (SWMD), AMM, Business Mauritius, MCCI, recyclers and NGOs, ACIM	Medium to Long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of bins installed (households, commercial zones, and underserved areas)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodic field verification of bin deployment</li> <li>• Monitoring via municipal waste management reports</li> <li>• Annual progress assessment linked to WMRRA (2023)</li> </ul>
Activity 3.2: Monitoring of plastic waste collection following WMRRA (2023) and the implementation of	Ministry of Local Government	Ministry of Environment (SWMD), AMM, Business Mauritius, MCCI,	Long Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % area coverage of plastic waste collection</li> <li>• Volume of plastic waste collected per month</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly data collection from local councils</li> <li>• Annual reporting on</li> </ul>

the Integrated Waste Processing Facility (IWPF)		recyclers and NGOs, ACIM			WMRRA compliance
Activity 3.3: Phase wise collection of plastic wastes: 5% to 10% for year 1, followed by incremental increase of 10% to 20% per year in line with the 3-bins implementation system	Ministry of Local Government	Ministry of Environment (SWMD), AMM, Business Mauritius, MCCI, recyclers and NGOs, ACIM	Long Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % increase in plastic waste collected annually</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yearly progress review on collection milestones</li> <li>• Mid-term evaluation (2030) and end-term review (2035)</li> </ul>
Activity 3.4: Identify and integrate informal waste collectors (collectors not registered) into the formal system through registration, training, and incentive schemes.	Ministry of Local Government	NGOs, municipal and district councils, Business Mauritius, MoE, ACIM	Medium-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of informal collectors registered</li> <li>• % of total waste collected by integrated informal sector</li> <li>• Number of training implemented</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bi-annual reporting by local authorities and NGOs</li> <li>• Monitoring of collector registration database</li> </ul>

**Target 4: Set phase wise reduction of plastic packaging consumption by 2035 (Thematic area: Reduce).**

**Rationale**

The formulation of Target 4 follows from the implementation of targets 1 and 2. A three-stage process should be adopted. Firstly, there is a need to conduct an inventory plastic packaging as underlined in Target 1. This will provide a baseline for existing types and quantities of plastic packaging being used in Mauritius per sector. Secondly, the implementation of Target 2 will allow a ‘first layer’ reduction of plastic packaging through the identification of non-essential and problematic Single-Use Plastics (SUP) whilst considering the availability of sustainable alternatives and/or practices. Thirdly, quantify residual plastic packaging after this ‘first layer’ reduction and identify channels for further reduction in a phase wise manner. A suggested phase wise approach could contain the following:

- Phase 1 (medium term): switch to alternative materials for high-volume and low-risk items (e.g., replace multi material films with mono material PE/PP; move from plastic tray to moulded fibre (paper board trays with wax coating)); replace plastic shrink wrap with paper board sleeves or folded carton over-wrap); optimize packaging geometry to reduce material use.
- Phase 2 (medium term): explore reusable or refillable packaging where feasible; increase recycled content; pilot take-back or reuse programs with various stakeholders.
- Phase 3 (medium term): pursue circular packaging solutions (e.g., aluminum alternatives, mono-material plastics with high recyclability, biobased if truly recyclable) and broader system-level changes (supplier standards, customer-facing take-back). Mono-material plastics are packaging or products made predominantly (>95%) from a single polymer type, rather than combining multiple plastic layers (e.g., PET/PE laminates) as per the EU 2025/40 Regulation. These materials can be sorted and recycled more efficiently, producing higher-quality recyclates.
- Phase 4 (long term): scale successful pilots, collaborate with industry consortia, invest in end-to-end system redesign (logistics, reverse logistics, recycling infrastructure).

The implementation of Target 4 aims to achieve a structured, phase-wise reduction of plastic packaging in Mauritius by 2035 through coordinated action among government

institutions, industry, and development partners. The Ministry of Environment will lead the initiative under the oversight of the Plastic Management Committee (PMC), supported by the Ministry of Industry and SMEs, IOC (ExPLOI Project), MRA, and private-sector partners such as Business Mauritius, MCCI, and AMM. Activity 4.1 will identify and prioritise problematic and non-essential plastic packaging for phase-out, following the groundwork established in Targets 1 and 2. The third step (Activity 4.2) focuses on introducing sustainable alternatives in line with the four defined phases—transitioning from short-term replacement with mono-materials and paper-based substitutes to long-term adoption of circular packaging systems and reusable solutions. Parallely, Activity 4.3 involves the development of eco-design packaging guidelines promoting reuse, recyclability, and reduction of over-packaging, with technical input from MSB and IOC (ExPLOI). To ensure industrial readiness, Activity 4.4 provides technical and financial support for manufacturers transitioning to sustainable production. Depending on national priorities and the outcomes of the forthcoming UN Plastic Treaty, the creation of a Plastic Transition Fund<sup>3</sup> should be considered. Finally, Activity 4.5 will define sector-specific reduction targets, ensuring measurable progress toward 2035 goals. Monitoring will be carried out annually through stakeholder reports, progress audits, and mid-term evaluations (2030), ensuring continuous alignment with regional and international plastic reduction frameworks.

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<sup>3</sup> Implementation of the NSP is contingent on policy approval for establishing the Plastic Transition Fund, availability of staffing and resources based on the country's economic situation and required clearances, and the definition and policy approval of any fiscal incentives or subsidies subject to fiscal affordability and projected revenue growth.

Table 3.4. Key Activities for Target 4

Key Activities	Responsible Authority	Supporting Authorities	Time-Frame	Key Indicators	Monitoring & Evaluation
<p>Activity 4.1: Selection of a ‘first layer’ or priority phase-out plastic packaging as listed in Activity 2.1.</p> <p>Note: A consultant will have to be recruited for this activity.</p>	Ministry of Environment	Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (Industry and SME divisions), MoFED, MRA, PROs, IOC (ExPLOI), ACIM	Medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority list of phase-out plastic packaging developed</li> <li>• Number of plastic items assessed for substitution</li> <li>• Stakeholder consultations completed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verification of selection documentation</li> <li>• Annual review of implementation readiness</li> <li>• Progress tracking through ministry reports and stakeholder feedback</li> </ul>
Activity 4.2: Phase wise introduction of selected alternatives for plastic packaging as elaborated in Phases 1 to 4 in the rationale	Ministry of Environment	Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (Industry and SME divisions), NPCC, AMM, MCCI, IOC (ExPLOI)	Medium to long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of alternative packaging solutions identified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of pilot performance</li> <li>• Evaluation of cost-effectiveness and adoption rates</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of sectors adopting alternatives</li> <li>• Pilot projects initiated and evaluated</li> </ul>	
<p>Activity 4.3: Set guidelines that promote Eco-design packaging that nurture reuse and recyclability whilst avoiding over packaging - transition</p> <p>Note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A consultant will have to be recruited for this activity.</li> <li>2. Qualitropic from la Réunion has published guidelines on eco-design and alternatives of plastics</li> </ol>	MSB	<p>Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (Industry and SME divisions), NPCC, AMM, MCCI</p> <p>Ministry of Environment, AMM, MCCI, Regional partner such as IOC (ExPLOI), QUALITROPIC,</p>	Medium to long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eco-design guidelines published</li> <li>• Number of awareness and training sessions conducted</li> <li>• % of manufacturers adopting eco-design principles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of guideline dissemination and industry compliance</li> <li>• Annual industry surveys on eco-design adoption</li> <li>• Tracking of feedback from MSB and NPCC workshops</li> </ul>
Activity 4.4: Provide technical and financial support to current manufacturers of single-use products to shift their focus towards the	Ministry of Environment,	Business Mauritius, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Association of	Medium to Long-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of Plastic Transition Fund utilised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial and progress audits of funded enterprises</li> </ul>

<p>production of more circular and sustainable commodities.</p> <p>This will avoid choosing an alternative that may create more problems for the ecosystems.</p> <p>Note: The creation of a Plastic Transition Fund can be considered in the longer term depending on Government priorities and on the outcomes of the forthcoming UN Plastic Treaty.</p>		<p>Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM), Research institutions, Regional partner such as QUALITROPIC, IOC (ExPLOI)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of enterprises supported</li> <li>• % transition from single use to circular products</li> <li>• Volume of sustainable materials produced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of fund allocation and impact</li> </ul>
<p>Activity 4.5: Define sector-specific targets for the reduction of plastic packaging</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>Business Mauritius, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM), Research institutions, Regional partner such as QUALITROPIC , IOC (ExPLOI)</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sector-specific % reduction targets established</li> <li>• Number of industries adopting reduction targets</li> <li>• Integration of reduction targets into EPR and sustainability policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual review of sectoral progress</li> <li>• Monitoring of compliance through Business Mauritius and AMM</li> <li>• Long-term impact evaluation</li> </ul>

**Target 5: Development of a voluntary sector-specific Plastic Reduction Pledge (PRP) for those sectors identified in the Roadmap and Action Plan for a Circular Economy in the Republic of Mauritius (2023) (Thematic area: Reduce).**

**Rationale**

In view of ensuring a level-playing field so that domestic producers as well as importers are not subjected to stringent regulations, which may cause irreversible damage to local businesses, it is proposed that a voluntary Plastic Reduction Pledge be developed for the following sectors: Agricultural Sector, Construction and real estate sector, Manufacturing sector, Energy sector, Tourism sector and ICT and digitalization sector.

The Plastic Reduction Pledge is a mechanism that is likely to more effectively overcome the technological, financial, cultural, regulatory/institutional barriers, which have also been highlighted in the Roadmap and Action Plan for a Circular Economy in the Republic of Mauritius (2023).

Signatories of the pledge will have to communicate an action plan, incorporating phase-wise milestone towards plastic recycling, as well as, reduction targets. To motivate the signatories to the pledge, a shared financing responsibility framework should be introduced that ropes in both public and private sectors, including an EPR system (as in Target 7), concessional loans, dedicated funds, amongst others to support businesses shifting to low-plastic or plastic-pollution free practices aligned with the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle).

Therefore, this target will through this voluntary initiative complement any mandatory regulation and collectively provide a dynamic framework that would take into consideration the diverse challenges of different industries thereby, making way for tailored rather than one-size-fits-all solutions which will be more acceptable to the stakeholders' community

The implementation of Target 5 aims to establish a voluntary Plastic Reduction Pledge (PRP) framework that encourages key economic sectors—agriculture, construction, manufacturing, energy, tourism, and ICT—to progressively reduce plastic use and improve recycling practices. The initiative will complement existing regulatory measures and promote shared accountability between government and industry stakeholders. The Ministry of Environment will take the lead, in collaboration with Business Mauritius, the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM), and AHRIM.

Implementation will begin with Activity 5.1, launching a national stakeholder engagement campaign to invite organizations to become PRP signatories. Each signatory will commit to developing a sector-specific action plan outlining measurable, phase-wise milestones for reducing plastic consumption and enhancing recycling capacity. To support this transition, a shared financing responsibility mechanism will be introduced. This will mobilize both public and private sector funding, including concessional loans, dedicated funds, and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems described in Target 7. These instruments will help enterprises adopt low-plastic or plastic-free practices, integrate eco-design principles, and advance the 3Rs - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - principle. Activity 5.2 focuses on fostering regional and international partnerships, for instance, the Nairobi Convention's Plastics and Associated Chemicals Strategy. These transnational partnerships will promote technology exchange, joint training, and pilot projects in circular economy practices. Progress will be monitored through the number of signatories, percentage of sectors covered, and public reporting of pledge commitments.

Table 3.5. Key Activities for Target 5

Key Activities	Responsible Authority	Supporting Authorities	Time-Frame	Key Indicators	Monitoring & Evaluation
<p>Activity 5.1: Introduce a Voluntary Plastic Reduction Pledge Mechanism</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>1. The Ministry of Environment will invite all stakeholders concerned to be signatories to a voluntary Plastic Reduction Pledge (PRP) through a national campaign.</p> <p>2. The Ministry can have the support of Expertise France (Circular Economy project, financed by European Union) for the Construction and Real Estate sector.</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>Business Mauritius, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM), Research institutions, Association of Hoteliers and Restaurants in Mauritius (AHRIM), Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (Industry and SME divisions), IOC (ExPLOI), UNDP (Islands)</p>	<p>Medium-term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of sectors engaged (agriculture, construction, manufacturing, energy, tourism, ICT)</li> <li>• Number of signatories to the PRP</li> <li>• % of sectors submitting PRP action plans</li> <li>• % of signatories implementing reduction and recycling milestones</li> <li>• Number of businesses accessing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress reports on PRP signatories and sector participation</li> <li>• Monitoring of action plan implementation through annual self-reporting by industries</li> <li>• Verification of reduction milestones via independent audits</li> </ul>

<p>3. For the Tourism sector, the Ministry can have the support of ISLANDS (UNDP) and ExPLOI (IOC) projects</p>				<p>financial or EPR support schemes</p>	
<p>Activity 5.2: Establish regional and international partnerships to nurture transnational cooperation towards embracing circular economy practices; for instance, the Nairobi Convention Plastics and Associated Chemicals Strategy.</p> <p>The objective of the Nairobi Convention's Plastics and Associated Chemicals Strategy is to provide a regional, coordinated framework for the Western Indian Ocean countries to prevent, reduce, and manage plastic pollution and its associated chemicals.</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>Business Mauritius, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM), Research institutions, Association of Hoteliers and Restaurants in Mauritius (AHRIM), IORA, UN, EU, AFD. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration &amp; International Trade, IOC</p>	<p>Medium term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of formal agreements signed with regional/international partners</li> <li>• Number of training sessions, capacity-building workshops, or exchange visits conducted</li> <li>• Number of joint projects or pilot initiatives launched under the partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual review of partnership outcomes</li> <li>• Monitoring of pilot project implementation reports</li> <li>• Mid-term evaluation (2030) on partnership performance and outcomes</li> <li>• End-term review (2035) on contribution to circular economy goals and PRP scaling</li> </ul>

**Target 6: Reducing, where possible, the imports of virgin plastic pellets (Thematic area: Reduce).**

**Rationale**

Virgin plastic pellets are made from fossil fuels, which are non-renewables and which undoubtedly contribute to carbon emissions. The reduction of the imports of virgin plastic pellets must be considered as this will lead to a decrease in the amount of plastic products and will eventually mitigate the amount of plastic wastes being generated. The shift to recycled plastic pellets might be an option for certain types of applications in some sectors but not for others. For instance, in the medical sector, virgin plastic pellets may be the only available option due their inherent specificities. Also, the use of recycled plastics to replace virgin plastics must be carefully assessed due to the presence of chemicals of concern and additives that may pose risks to human health and the environment. Therefore, the decision of whether to shift to recycled (imported and locally produced recycled plastic pellets) or virgin plastic pellets or other alternatives will depend on business needs and sustainability goals. For instance, the reduction of virgin plastic imports should not jeopardise the sustainability of existing local businesses that rely on virgin plastics. It should also be pointed out that with the tightening of the global plastic regulations, eco-friendly products may have to be developed. However, this can only be achievable if eco-friendly products meet required functionality standards, without negatively impacting the environment and human health. For instance, there is a lot of controversy on the utilization of biodegradable materials as a possible replacement to virgin plastics.

From the National Source Inventory Report, it has been gathered that there is a lack of accessible data on the types and quantities of virgin plastic pellets that are imported given that these are subsumed within the plastic in primary forms classification. It is hence recommended that this target can further be supported based on the results of the ongoing project on: *Carry out a comprehensive supply chain analysis for plastic pellets and recommendations for its reduced use (ISLANDS Project)*. This project, complemented with stakeholders' consultations, will thus provide baseline data for the setting up of reduction targets on virgin plastic pellets imports in the long-term.

It is proposed that research and development be undertaken on availability and quality of recycled plastics, design for recycling in products and packaging, as well as, for the

development of bioplastics and associated technological capabilities. Financial support could be obtained from MRIC, HEC, IOC, UNDP etc. as outlined in the cross-cutting actions: CCA 2- Research, Innovation and Data and CCA 3- Financing Mechanism and Economic Instruments.

In parallel, local enterprises/companies, who wish to consider the integration of recycled plastics or the use of eco-friendly alternatives etc., in their production process, can benefit from *‘The Income Tax Act 1995 and Income Tax Regulations 1996: Provision for deduction of an annual allowance for firms investing in “green technology equipment expenditure”, as well as, the Greening Support Scheme (GSS - SME Mauritius) (Grant up to Rs 250,000 to Small Medium Enterprises to finance recycling projects, amongst others)’*.

The implementation of Target 6 aims to progressively reduce Mauritius’ reliance on virgin plastic pellets, which are derived from non-renewable fossil fuels and contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. The objective is to promote a gradual shift towards recycled or eco-friendly alternatives, where technically and economically feasible, without undermining industrial performance or product safety. The Ministry of Environment will lead the initiative in coordination with SME Mauritius, Business Mauritius, MCCI, AMM, MRIC, HEC, IOC, and other relevant ministries and research institutions. The Government will explore the creation of a dedicated Plastic Transition Fund under cross-cutting action (CCA 3) to alleviate financial burdens on local enterprises adapting to sustainable materials (Activity 6.2). This fund will operate on a shared public-private responsibility model and align with recommendations from the forthcoming UN Plastic Treaty. Finally, Activity 6.3 will define phase-wise reduction targets for virgin plastic imports, supported by sector-specific voluntary plastic reduction pledges developed under Target 4. Progress will be monitored through data generated by the ISLANDS Project, which provides baseline information on plastic pellet flows. Regular monitoring, supported by annual reviews and mid-term evaluation (2030), will ensure that the strategy is both environmentally sustainable and economically viable, driving Mauritius toward a circular and low-carbon plastic economy by 2035.

Table 3.6. Key Activities for Target 6

Key Activities	Responsible Authority	Supporting Authorities	Time-Frame	Key Indicators	Monitoring & Evaluation
<p>Activity 6.1: Consider the setting up of a dedicated fund to alleviate the financial burden through shared public-private responsibility. This activity can be considered in the longer term depending on Government priorities and on the outcomes of the forthcoming UN Plastic Treaty.</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>SME Mauritius, MCCI, Business Mauritius, AMM, MRIC, HEC, UNDP, IOC, Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (Industry and SME divisions), Academic/research institutions (create Industry-Academia linkages)</p>	<p>Medium to long-term (by 2035)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal developed for Plastic Transition Fund</li> <li>• Number of financial mechanisms evaluated</li> <li>• Level of public and private sector contribution</li> <li>• Number of enterprises benefiting from financial incentives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual review of fund creation process and feasibility studies</li> <li>• Monitoring of stakeholder participation and investment commitments</li> <li>• Reporting on fund disbursement and project impact</li> </ul>

<p>Activity 6.2: Set phase wise percentage targets for the reduction of virgin plastic pellets importation through the development of sector-specific of voluntary plastic reduction pledges (Target 4)</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>SME Mauritius, MCCI, Business Mauritius, AMM, MRIC, HEC, UNDP, IOC, Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (Industry and SME divisions), Academic/research institutions (create Industry-Academia linkages)</p>	<p>Medium to long-term (by 2035)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % reduction targets established for 2030 and 2035</li> <li>• Number of sectors adopting reduction targets</li> <li>• Integration of reduction targets into Plastic Reduction Pledge (Target 5)</li> <li>• % decline in virgin plastic pellet imports annually</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual import monitoring through MRA customs data</li> <li>• Evaluation of sectoral compliance with voluntary pledges</li> <li>• Comparative analysis with baseline data from ISLANDS Project</li> <li>• End-term evaluation (2035) on reduction performance and economic impact</li> </ul>
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**Target 7: Formalise producer accountability through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes by 2035 (Thematic area: Reduce).**

**Rationale**

The country is in the process of formally introducing and enforcing EPR regulations on beverage bottles and e-wastes (plastic packaging used in electronic and electrical waste, batteries, used oils and tyres. This approach shifts costs from taxpayers to producers, whilst promoting circular economy goals, and enabling a phased, and enforceable implementation. This target aims to formalise producer accountability through EPR so as to ensure that producers bear responsibility for plastic waste, driving eco-design, recycling, and reduced pollution. It should be highlighted that some companies/industries already have a voluntary EPR in place and they can showcase their modus operandi. The formalisation of the EPR entails the legal obligations of producers and quasi producers to collect and dispose of their plastic wastes. EPR obligations may be fulfilled individually or collectively through a recognized and registered/licenced PRO. This is addressed in CCA 4.

In addition, a Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS), as per the National Budget 2025/2026, will be introduced in order to increase the recovery rate of plastic bottles being dumped in the environment. This scheme should be fair to consumers and any deposit made should be refunded in monetary unless otherwise accepted by consumers. It should also be noted that traders should not impose vouchers or coupons in lieu of monetary refund.

Given that recycled plastic products tend to be more expensive, various stakeholders were adamant in the need for creating and sustaining market for these products. This is indeed a complex challenge for which there is no easy solution. For instance, the provision of subsidies and financial incentives to producers using recycled plastics for their products could have been an option that would have created a more level playing field between the prices of products made from virgin plastics and those manufactured from recycled plastics. However, as understood from the Ministry of Finance, the provision of incentives is a matter for policy approval after thorough analysis of the economic context, availability of products on the market and other factors. In addition, well defined and specific incentives can be put forward by relevant stakeholders for discussions during budgetary consultations for consideration as a matter of policy decision and in the light of fiscal space.

It is thus proposed that institutions in both public and private sectors lead by example and adopt procurement policies that favour products made from recycled plastic. This is further being explored in Target 9. To further consolidate this initiative, businesses and organisations should avail of income tax credits and deductions when they incorporate recycled plastic in their processes.

**Note:** Producers would include retailers, importers, exporters and quasi-producers. The functions of quasi-producers are similar to those of producers, especially in the context of EPR, while not directly manufacturing plastic. They are considered as producers under EPR regulations because of their role in distribution, processing, or packaging, and thus contributing to plastic production indirectly.

The implementation of Target 7 aims to institutionalise Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) as a national framework to ensure that producers, importers, and quasi-producers bear legal and financial responsibility for the plastic waste generated by their products. This target supports the transition towards a circular economy, reduces taxpayer burden, and promotes eco-design, recycling, and pollution reduction. Activity 7.1 will identify sectors and producers ready to adopt the EPR system. Pilot partnerships will be initiated with companies such as Sofap, Maurilait, and PIM, enabling voluntary early implementation and best practice demonstration. Simultaneously, Activity 7.2 will define the list of products to be governed by EPR. Under Activity 7.3, measurable, incremental targets will be established for collection, recycling, and end-of-life disposal, supported by licenced Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs). Possible fiscal reforms under Activity 7.4 will explore tax credits and plastic credit systems to incentivise recycled plastic use. The Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS) for PET bottles (Activity 7.5) will be operationalised, integrating informal collectors and setting clear coverage and recovery benchmarks. Finally, Activity 7.6 will implement a dedicated EPR for used tyres, ensuring 100% collection by 2035. Monitoring will be conducted annually by the Sub-Committee, with mid-term (2030) and final (2035) evaluations assessing compliance, recovery efficiency, and fiscal impact. As portrayed in the implementation plan (Section 3.3), all the activities underlying Target 7 kickstart as from 2026.

Table 3.7. Key Activities for Target 7

Key Activities	Responsible Authority	Supporting Authorities	Time-Frame	Key Indicators	Monitoring & Evaluation
<p>Activity 7.1: To identify which sectors/producers/quasi producers (except for beverage bottles and e-wastes) will be in a position, financially and technically, to embrace and discharge an EPR mechanism</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment-SWMD</p>	<p>MRA, AMM, MCCI, pilot companies (Sofap, PIM, Maurilait), ADEME, IOC (ExPLOI), Bottlers Association, Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO), municipalities, district councils, MITCI, tyre importers, garages, recyclers, Business Mauritius, Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), Ministry of Finance, ACIM</p>	<p>Medium to Long-term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of sectors/producers financially and technically ready for EPR</li> <li>• Number of voluntary EPR collaborations established</li> <li>• Number of stakeholder consultations conducted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bi-annual review of sectoral readiness reports</li> <li>• Verification of voluntary participation agreements</li> </ul>
<p>Activity 7.2: To identify the proposed list of products that will be governed by an EPR mechanism, except for PET, e-wastes and tyres. Note: A consultant will have to be recruited for this activity.</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment-SWMD</p>	<p>MRA, AMM, MCCI, pilot companies (Sofap, PIM, Maurilait), ADEME, IOC (ExPLOI), Bottlers Association,</p>	<p>Medium to Long-term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive product list identified</li> <li>• Number of product</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of classification documentation</li> <li>• Validation through technical committee</li> </ul>

		<p>Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO), municipalities, district councils, MITCI, tyre importers, garages, recyclers, Business Mauritius, Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), Ministry of Finance, ACIM</p>		<p>categories classified for EPR</p>	<p>meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual monitoring of new categories added under EPR legislation</li> </ul>
<p>Activity 7.3: To set up incremental or phased EPR targets in terms of measurable goals (collection rate, recycling and disposal of products at end-of-life)</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment-SWMD,</p>	<p>MRA, AMM, MCCI, pilot companies (Sofap, PIM, Maurilait), ADEME, IOC (ExPLOI), Bottlers Association, Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO), municipalities, district councils, MITCI, tyre importers, garages, recyclers, Business Mauritius, Mauritius Revenue Authority</p>	<p>Medium to Long-term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % collection rate achieved annually</li> <li>• % recycling rate per product stream</li> <li>• % safe disposal at end-of-life</li> <li>• Number of PROs licensed and operational</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-term evaluation (2030) of EPR target compliance</li> <li>• End-term review (2035) assessing national performance vs baseline</li> </ul>

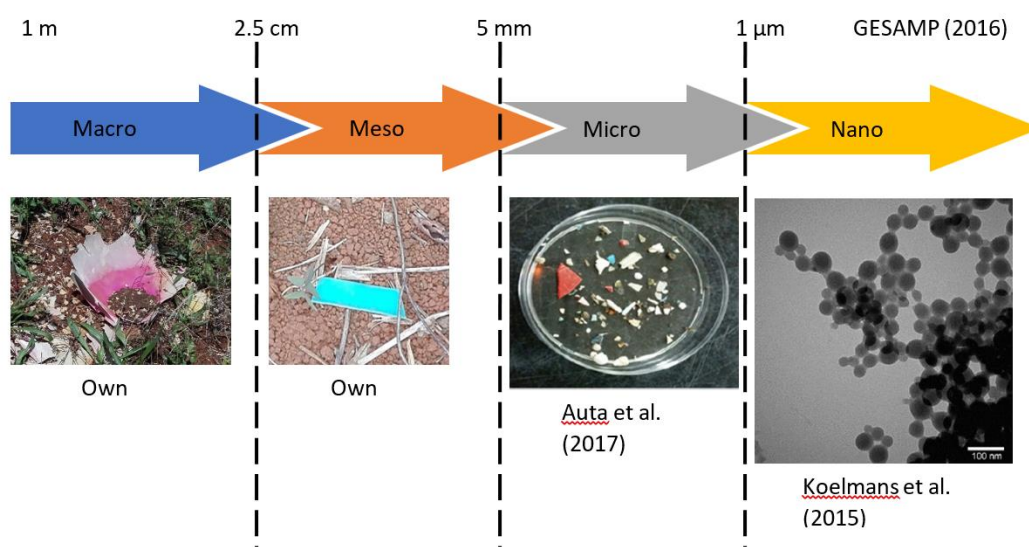
		(MRA), Ministry of Finance, ACIM			
Activity 7.4: To initiate discussion on the inclusion of appropriate tax credits or any other rebates to encourage the use and purchase of recycled plastics products and to implement plastic credits	Ministry of Environment-SWMD	MRA, AMM, MCCI, pilot companies (Sofap, PIM, Maurilait), ADEME, IOC (ExPLOI), Bottlers Association, Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO), municipalities, district councils, MITCI, tyre importers, garages, recyclers, Business Mauritius, Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), Ministry of Finance, ACIM	Medium to Long-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of tax incentive proposals submitted</li> <li>• Number of approved fiscal measures</li> <li>• % of producers benefiting from credits or deductions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of policy submissions and government decisions</li> </ul>
Activity 7.5: Operationalise/Support the PET bottle deposit refund scheme (DRS) initiative as mentioned in National Budget 2025/2026: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings and transparent discussions with concerned parties for implementation plan/program, for instance, determination of</li> </ul>	Ministry of Environment-SWMD	Bottlers Association, AMM, Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO), municipalities, district councils, Ministry of	Short to medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DRS officially launched and implemented</li> <li>• PET collection rate (% recovery)</li> <li>• Consumer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular monitoring of PET recovery data</li> <li>• Annual review of DRS financial</li> </ul>

<p>key collection points; integration of informal and community-based collectors in the EPR process, etc.</p> <p>Note: Islands project published a study on DRS Seychelles: <a href="https://www.undp.org/chemicals-waste/publications/beating-plastic-pollution-key-insights-and-lessons-seychelles-deposit-refund-scheme">https://www.undp.org/chemicals-waste/publications/beating-plastic-pollution-key-insights-and-lessons-seychelles-deposit-refund-scheme</a></p>		<p>Local Government and Disaster Risk Management, ACIM</p>		<p>participation rate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of informal collectors integrated into DRS</li> </ul>	<p>sustainability and inclusivity</p>
<p>Activity 7.6: Develop and implement a dedicated Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme), with traceable end-of-life treatment and disposal for used tyres to ensure 100% collection by 2035. While the EPR scheme becomes fully operational, launch interim national collection campaigns (e.g., take-back days, mobile drop-off points, school/municipal drives). Use the Environment Protection Fee (EPF) to finance these transitional campaigns and strengthen pre-EPR logistics and sorting systems depending upon Government policies and priorities.</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>MRA, MITCI, tyre importers, garages, recyclers, Local Authorities, ACIM</p>	<p>Short to medium term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft EPR for tyres submitted and validated</li> <li>• % tyre collection coverage</li> <li>• Number of collection campaigns conducted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tracking of draft EPR progress and approval process</li> <li>• Mid-term review (2030) and final evaluation (2035) on EPR effectiveness</li> </ul>

**Target 8: Baseline studies in the marine environment and coastal ecosystem on macro, meso and micro plastics (Thematic area: Knowledge).**

**Rationale**

Mauritius faces several challenges in addressing marine plastic pollution despite existing bans and initiatives. Public awareness and behavioural change are progressing slowly, and littering, especially in coastal and tourist areas, continues to contribute to marine debris. The problem is compounded by high reliance on plastic packaging, lack of economic incentives for recycling, and the growing threat of macro (25mm – 1000 mm), meso (5mm – 25mm), micro (<5mm), and nano (1 to 100 nanometer) plastics, which are harder to detect and manage.



There is currently no published data on plastics in the Indian Ocean gyre, and data on the islands of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) are scarce. For instance, Duhec et al. (2015) showed a density of 0.25 plastic debris/m<sup>2</sup> on the beaches of Alphonse Island (territory of Seychelles), which represents 7.1 tonnes of plastics/km<sup>2</sup> (assuming a beach width of 20 m). Bouwman et al. (2016) recorded 0.04 plastic debris/m<sup>2</sup> on St. Brandon Island (territory of Mauritius) (assuming a beach width of 20 m). On three sites in northern Madagascar, the levels are comparable, with densities ranging from 0.09 to 0.16 plastic debris/m<sup>2</sup> (Gjerdseth, 2017). In Réunion Island, quantities vary from 0.08 to 0.89 macro-waste/m<sup>2</sup> across 6 different sites over a three-month study period (Cartraud, 2019). These few data points in the IOC area fall within the average of records made between 1990 and 2019 across the world’s oceans and seas, which range from 0.001 plastic debris/m<sup>2</sup> of coastline in Coquimbo (Chile) in the Pacific, to 9.85 plastic debris/m<sup>2</sup>

in Istanbul (Turkey) in the Black Sea (Bouwman et al., 2016). The above information has been provided by IOC (Mauritius).

IOC under the ExPLOI project has launched a Plastic Waste Observatory to build a database that will measure the level of marine plastic pollution in the Indian Ocean region. The protocol underlying this database consists of the following broad components:

- Identifying reference coastlines (sites) in the 5 IOC member states.
- Establishing the scientific sampling protocol and the variables to be observed.
- Creating a database.
- Training the regional Principal Investigator in each state.
- Supporting the international initiative of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) towards the creation of a new Essential Ocean Variable dedicated to plastic debris.
- Sampling the reference sites using an identical protocol for each island state.

The Mauritius Oceanography Unit (MOI) had embarked on a two-year research project on microplastics in the waters of Mauritius in July 2017. Microplastics were detected at six sites across Mauritius. Offshore waters had consistently higher microplastic concentrations than lagoon waters, suggesting potential offshore sources or accumulation patterns (*personal communication, MOI*). To build on the findings of the initial microplastics study, the MOI launched the project entitled “Management Instruments to Limit the Impact of Plastic Pollution on Marine Life” in 2021. The project is funded by the National Environment Funds (NEF) and aims to develop standardized methodologies for investigating microplastic accumulation in sediments and marine organisms while expanding monitoring efforts across Mauritius. Two permanent monitoring stations (Environment Observatories) have been established for microplastics seawater analysis. A Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy Microscope has also been purchased to identify the chemical composition of microplastics. This initiative will enhance national marine pollution management and inform policy decisions. This project has been extended until 2026. To sustain this project for an additional 10-year period, continued financial and human resource support including capacity building is critical. Additionally, funds need to be earmarked for the purchase of advanced equipment (Raman spectroscopy), required for identifying and characterizing nano plastics in marine organisms.

This target therefore aims at collecting baseline data on macro, meso and micro plastics by assessing the macro and micro plastics profiles in the marine environment and coastal ecosystem, as well as, the impacts of microplastics on human health in the local context.

The implementation of Target 8 aims to establish a robust and standardised scientific framework to assess the extent and distribution of macro, meso, and micro plastics in Mauritius' marine and coastal ecosystems. The plan will build on the ongoing efforts of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) and the IOC ExPLOI Project, which is set to lay the foundation for long-term monitoring of plastic pollution in the Western Indian Ocean region. Under Activity 8.1, comprehensive baseline studies will be conducted across selected marine hotspots to map the presence and density of macro and micro plastics. These studies will produce baseline reports, spatial hotspot maps, and classified monitoring zones for continuous observation. Activity 8.2 will focus on community engagement, designating an authority to oversee community-based plastic waste collection programmes for rivers, lagoons, and beaches. Concurrently, Activity 8.3 will integrate microplastic monitoring into existing Coastal Water Quality Guidelines to ensure continuous data generation within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Finally, Activity 8.4 will sustain and consolidate findings through the Environmental Observatories managed by MOI and the IOC Plastic Waste Observatory, ensuring the publication of annual Marine Plastic Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Activities 8.3 and 8.4 are ongoing data capture and monitoring activities falling under the responsibility of Division 1, for which funds have been separately earmarked. Progress will be evaluated through annual reporting, mid-term (2030), and final (2035) assessments measuring data quality, stakeholder participation, and policy uptake.

Table 3.8. Key Activities for Target 8

Key Activities	Responsible Authority	Supporting Authorities	Time-Frame	Key Indicators	Monitoring & Evaluation
Activity 8.1: Conduct comprehensive baseline studies to quantify macro, meso and micro-plastics in marine ecosystems, as well as, assessing the impacts of microplastics on human health in the local context	Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI)	Ministry of Environment, Research Institutions, IOC (ExPLOI)-IRD, Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, University of Mauritius-IRD	Medium-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline report published</li> <li>• Number of sampling sites identified and monitored</li> <li>• Hotspot maps developed</li> <li>• % coverage of coastal areas assessed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verification of study outputs and datasets</li> <li>• Peer review of reports by national and regional experts (COI, IRD)</li> <li>• Mid-term (2030) and final (2035) evaluation of data quality and trends</li> </ul>
Activity 8.2: To designate an authority for community-based plastic waste collection programs for the quantification of macro plastics (for e.g., regular beach, lagoon, outer islands and river clean-ups, installation of waste segregating bins of sufficient size, etc.)	National Environment Cleaning Authority	NGOs such as Reef Conservation, Mission Verte, IOC (ExPLOI), professional divers and fishing associations	Medium to long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated authority</li> <li>• Number of community clean-up events held annually</li> <li>• Quantity (tonnes) of macro plastics collected</li> <li>• % of coastline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual reports from designated authority</li> <li>• Monitoring of data from NGOs (Reef Conservation, Mission Verte)</li> <li>• Review of waste collection and segregation efficiency</li> </ul>

				covered by community initiatives	
Activity 8.3: Integrate micro and macro plastics monitoring in coastal environments under the Coastal Water Quality Guidelines as outlined in the General Notice No. 620 of 1999.	Ministry of Environment	Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, Research Institutions, MOI, GEF-SGP UNDP, Ministry of Tourism, NGO Reef Conservation, Foundation Odysseo,IOC (EXPLOI), MOI, University of Mauritius-IRD	Medium to long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated Coastal Water Quality Guidelines published</li> <li>• % of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)</li> <li>• Quantity of micro and macro plastics identified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular audits of sampling and testing results</li> <li>• Annual review of environmental monitoring reports</li> </ul>
Activity 8.4: Sustain and consolidate the existing marine plastic indicators into MOI's Environmental Observatories, as well as, the Plastic Waste Observatory under IOC.	MOI	Statistics Mauritius, IOC (EXPLOI), Ministry of Environment,	Medium to long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of marine plastic indicators monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual publication of national marine pollution reports</li> </ul>

**Target 9: Reuse and repurpose durable plastic products (Thematic area: Reuse & Repurpose).**

**Rationale**

Mauritius lacks a structured ecosystem for the reuse and repurposing of plastics. Durable plastics in public, private, hospitality, commercial and industrial sectors have high reuse and repurpose potential. A clear distinction has to be made between reuse and repurpose.

Reuse of plastics means using plastic materials more than once in their original form instead of throwing them away after a single use. For example, the reuse of plastic bags as bin liners; reuse grocery bags for shopping purposes, etc. In addition, a report published by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2019) promotes circularity through reuse and also highlights that replacing single-use plastic with reusable alternatives can yield major environmental and economic gains. For instance, the use of glass can be considered but manufacturers in Mauritius pointed out that the challenge for the use and reuse glass containers is the high risk of breakage, which eventually can jeopardise the whole production process.

Repurpose means to use a plastic material for a purpose other than its original intended use without bringing about any changes in its chemical composition. For example, plastic bottles being converted into flower pots; plastic bottles (with LED lights) repurposed as a chandelier, etc.

This target will eventually promote upstream circular economy solutions, reduce plastic leakage, and boost local economic opportunities, thereby aligning with global circular economy practices.

In order to achieve this target, a national situational analysis (as proposed in Activity 1.1 of Target 1) is required to assess plastic waste streams for potential reuse and repurposing in key economic sectors. The outputs of the IslandPlas project (as mentioned in rationale for Target 1) will therefore provide baseline data on the profiling of plastic wastes in the local context, and this can be used to explore possible avenues for reuse and repurposing of plastics.

The implementation of Target 9 aims to establish a structured and scalable framework for reusing and repurposing durable plastic products across Mauritius. This initiative will promote upstream circular economy solutions, reduce plastic leakage, and create new green business opportunities. The SWMD will serve as the lead authority, supported by the Ministry of Local

Government, AMM, MCCI, AHRIM, MRIC, and the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB). Under Activity 9.1, public-private partnerships will be developed to establish decentralised collection, cleaning, and processing hubs within industrial and commercial zones. These hubs will serve as focal points for aggregation and preparation of reusable plastics, promoting efficiency and regional coverage. Activity 9.2 will focus on developing technical standards for reusable and repurposable containers, in collaboration with MSB, ensuring product safety, hygiene, and quality compliance in line with international best practices. Complementing this, Activity 9.3 will deploy washing and refilling infrastructure in strategic hubs to facilitate large-scale reuse systems in hospitality and manufacturing sectors. Through Activity 9.4, the MRIC will launch pilot projects and national innovation awards to promote successful models of reuse and repurposing. Activity 9.5 will review public procurement policies to prioritise the use of recycled and reusable products across ministries. Division 1 (Data & Statistics) will compile all key indicators data. However, it is proposed by the Procurement Policy Office that the Ministry of Environment liaises with the Directorate of the Procurement to set Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) on a pilot basis for selected Ministries (those who are high consumers of plastic materials) prior to the setting up of the 5 subcommittees. Finally, Activity 9.6 will define incremental reuse and repurpose targets, with measurable milestones towards 2035. Progress will be tracked through national reports, stakeholder consultations, and mid-term (2030) and final (2035) evaluations, ensuring that reuse becomes a central pillar of Mauritius's circular economy.

Table 3.9. Key Activities for Target 9

Key Activities	Responsible Authority	Supporting Authorities	Time-Frame	Key Indicators	Monitoring & Evaluation
<p>Activity 9.1: Support the development of decentralised collection, cleaning and processing hubs via public-private partnerships in industrial and commercial zones.</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment (SWMD)</p>	<p>Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM), MCCI, Research institutions, Association of Hoteliers and Restaurants in Mauritius (AHRIM), PROs Research Institutions, Mauritius Standards Bureau, Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management, ACIM</p>	<p>Medium to long-term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of operational hubs established</li> <li>• % increase in reusable material collected</li> <li>• Number of public-private partnership agreements signed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site inspections and technical audits</li> <li>• Regular progress reports from private partners</li> </ul>
<p>Activity 9.2: Develop technical specifications for standardized reusable and repurposing beverage containers, in line with international practices. Note: A consultant/technical expert will have to be recruited for this activity.</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment (SWMD)</p>	<p>Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM), MCCI, Research institutions, Association of Hoteliers and Restaurants in Mauritius (AHRIM), PROs Research Institutions, Mauritius Standards Bureau, Ministry of Local Government and</p>	<p>Medium to long-term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standards for reusable containers published</li> <li>• Number of manufacturers complying with specifications</li> <li>• % increase in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodic review aligned with international packaging standards (ISO, UNEP)</li> </ul>

		Disaster Risk Management, ACIM		standardized containers in use	
Activity 9.3: Deploy washing and refilling infrastructure in strategic hubs, including collection points and return logistics.	Ministry of Environment (SWMD)	Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM), MCCI, Research institutions, Association of Hoteliers and Restaurants in Mauritius (AHRIM), PROs Research Institutions, Mauritius Standards Bureau, Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management, ACIM	Long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of washing and refilling hubs installed</li> <li>• % reduction in single-use beverage containers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field verification of infrastructure operational status</li> <li>• Regular monitoring reports from hub operators</li> </ul>
Activity 9.4: Roll out successful pilots at national level to promote success stories (for e.g., press conferences, innovation awards, rewards etc.)  Note: Subject to the approval of MRIC Board	Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC)	Ministry of Environment, Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM), Research institutions, Association of Hoteliers and Restaurants in Mauritius (AHRIM), Research Institutions, Press	Medium-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of pilot projects supported</li> <li>• Number of public outreach and recognition events (awards, campaigns, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual MRIC progress reports</li> </ul>
Activity 9.5:	Ministry of Environment	Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Public	Long-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of public tenders specifying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy review by Public</li> </ul>

<p>Review of Public procurement policies and guidelines for the integration of recycled plastics, where possible, in the procurement exercise. This will consolidate the existing practices and initiatives that favor the use of recycled products and/or the reuse and repurpose of plastic products. It should be noted that in the hospitality sector, many hotels are already engaging in reusing their containers.</p>		<p>Infrastructure, ACIM, Public Procurement Office</p>		<p>reusable/recycled formats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of ministries adopting revised procurement guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>Procurement Office</p>
<p>Activity 9.6: Set incremental or phased reuse and repurposing targets</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment (SWMD)</p>	<p>Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM), MCCI, Research institutions, Association of Hoteliers and Restaurants in Mauritius (AHRIM), PROs Research Institutions, Mauritius Standards Bureau, Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management, ACIM</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % reduction in virgin plastic consumption</li> <li>• National reuse and repurpose targets established by 2030 and 2035</li> <li>• % increase in sectoral participation (hospitality, manufacturing, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual reporting</li> <li>• Mid-term evaluation (2030) on progress</li> <li>• Final assessment (2035) of reuse rate improvement across sectors</li> </ul>

**Target 10: Adopt a phased approach towards building plastic waste recycling capacity (Thematic area: Recycle).**

**Rationale**

During stakeholders' consultations, it was pointed out that given the inherent challenges underlying the local recycling context- land constraints, limited market for recycled products, lack of appropriate technologies, and high investment costs- a phase-wise approach towards progressively building plastic recycling capacity constitutes a more feasible and acceptable option.

To alleviate the costs associated with the recycling process, local manufacturers/recyclers could consider the various existing incentives being provided for 'green technology equipment expenditure' under The Income Tax Act 1995 and Income Tax Regulations 1996: Provision for deduction of an annual allowance for firms investing in "green technology equipment expenditure", as well as, the Greening Support Scheme (GSS - SME Mauritius) (Grant up to Rs 250,000 to Small Medium Enterprises to finance recycling projects, amongst others), as well as, green loans being provided by local bank.

Regional cooperation can be considered as a channel towards promoting recycling potential through improved economies of scale, shared knowledge and material flows arising from inter-regional collaborative projects. For instance, the ISLANDPLAS projects aims to advance circular solutions that reduce plastic wastes leakage amongst 7 African Islands, namely Cabo Verde, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Sao Tome, and Principe, Seychelles and Zanzibar. Furthermore, The ExPLOI (Expédition Plastique Océan Indien) project is a regional initiative led by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) which focuses on tackling plastic pollution in the South-West Indian Ocean region. As part of the call for projects, ExPLOI could support the recycling capacities of SMEs or civil society.

The implementation of Target 10 focuses on developing a phased and scalable strategy for enhancing Mauritius' national recycling capacity, acknowledging existing constraints such as limited land availability, high technology costs, and restricted market demand for recycled products. This target promotes a gradual transition from small-scale recycling to an integrated national system through partnerships, incentives, and regional cooperation. The Ministry of Environment will lead implementation with the support of the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives, Business Mauritius (BM), MCCI, AMM, HRDC, Atal Bihari Vaijpayee Institute

of Public Service and Innovation and the IOC (ExPLOI Project). Under Activity 10.1, a national baseline survey will be conducted to determine which plastics are recyclable and which are not. Activity 10.2 will focus on the development of technical standards and national specifications for recycled plastic products to ensure quality, safety, and chemical compliance. This task will be led by the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB) and MAURITAS, referencing global frameworks like the Global Framework on Chemicals (2023). Finally, Activity 10.3 will involve training recyclers and local authorities on contamination control, sorting techniques, and safety procedures. Monitoring will be conducted through annual progress reviews, with mid-term (2030) and final (2035) evaluations assessing recycling capacity growth, product quality certification rates, and private-sector participation in the national recycling framework.

Table 3.10. Key Activities for Target 10

Key Activities	Responsible Authority	Supporting Authorities	Time-Frame	Key Indicators	Monitoring & Evaluation
<p>Activity 10.1: Conduct baseline survey/study on the types of plastic products that can be recycled and those that cannot be recycled after consultations with different stakeholders</p> <p>For instance, local recyclers are already recycling HDPE/PP products-uncontaminated without metal parts- such as crates, dust bins, jerry cans, chairs, shopping baskets. In addition, there are currently projects where non-recyclable plastics are integrated in concrete and slabs</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (Industry and SME divisions), Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM), Research Institutions, recyclers, Business Mauritius, MCCI, Consumer Association of Mauritius (ACIM), SME and Cooperatives Ministry of Finance, MRA, COI (ExpLOI), ACIM</p>	<p>Short term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual progress review of recycling potential</li> </ul>
<p>Activity 10.2: Establish technical specifications and national standards for recycled plastic products to ensure safety, functionality and</p>	<p>Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB)</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Ministry of Industry, SME</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National standards for recycled plastics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of standards development by</li> </ul>

<p>quality, whilst taking into consideration the management chemicals of concern, for instance, flame retardants such as Dechlorane plus and polyaromatic hydrocarbons; PFAs (polyfluoroalkyl substances), alkylphenols, etc. Refer to Chemicals of concern in plastics: Proposal by Norway, Cook Islands and Rwanda (2024) and Global Framework on Chemicals - For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste (2023).</p> <p>Note: A consultant/technical expert will have to be recruited for this activity.</p>		<p>and Cooperatives (Industry and SME divisions), Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM), Research Institutions, recyclers, Business Mauritius, MCCI, Consumer Association of Mauritius (ACIM), SME and Cooperatives Ministry of Finance, MRA, IOC (ExPLOI), MAURITAS, Made in Moris, ACIM</p>		<p>developed and gazetted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of recycled plastic products certified</li> <li>• Number of manufacturers adopting new standards</li> </ul>	<p>Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual review of certification and compliance reports</li> <li>• Evaluation of product quality and chemical safety (PFAs, Dechlorane Plus, PAHs)</li> <li>• Mid-term (2030) and final evaluation (2035) of compliance rates</li> </ul>
<p>Activity 10.3: Provide training to recyclers and local authorities on upgraded sorting, contamination control, and safety measures.</p>	<p>Business Mauritius for recyclers Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation for public sector</p>	<p>Local Authorities, AMM, NGOs, Ministry of Environment, IOC (ExPLOI), ACIM, NPCC, HRDC</p>	<p>Medium term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of training sessions conducted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual review on training conducted</li> <li>• Survey on the effectiveness of the training</li> </ul>

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## **Target 11: Environmentally sound end-of-life management for non-recyclable and contaminated plastic wastes (Thematic area: End-of-Life)**

### **Rationale**

Soiling or contamination of recyclable plastics with non-recyclable substances can impede the recycling procedure and result in their disposal in landfills. The lifecycle of non-recyclable plastics has raised concerns due to their extended presence in natural ecosystems, degradability and extensive ecological damage. Furthermore, the safe management of non-recyclable plastic wastes is rooted in environmental, health, social considerations. Non-recyclable plastic wastes often persist in the environment, contributing to pollution in land, water, and air. The proper management of these non-recyclable plastic wastes will thus prevent their leakage into natural ecosystems. It is hence proposed that, by 2035, all plastic wastes that cannot be recycled for technical or economic reasons—such as sanitary items, contaminated packaging, etc.—will be safely managed through traceable end-of-life solutions. This includes the approach of converting Waste-to-Wealth through appropriate energy recovery systems, and strict environmental controls, supported by clear classification systems, infrastructure investment, and regulatory oversight.

The implementation of Target 11 aims to ensure the safe, traceable, and environmentally sound management of non-recyclable and contaminated plastic wastes in Mauritius by 2035. These wastes—such as diapers, sanitary items, and multi-layered food packaging—pose major ecological and public health challenges due to their persistence and contamination risks. Activity 11.1 focuses on identifying and quantifying key non-recyclable plastics through updated waste characterisation studies. This will establish a national inventory and classification of such materials. The results will guide Activity 11.2, which entails revising the National Waste Management Plan to incorporate protocols for the safe collection, transportation, and controlled landfilling of these waste streams. Activity 11.3 will assess the feasibility of Waste-to-Wealth (WtW) technologies—such as waste-to-energy and pyrolysis—while ensuring compliance with the Basel Convention on the safe transboundary movement of hazardous waste. Under Activity 11.4, partnerships will be established with hospitals, hotels, and industries to enhance the segregation and treatment of sanitary and contaminated plastic wastes, reducing their leakage into municipal systems. Activity 11.5 introduces where possible financial and fiscal incentives (e.g., tax credits or grants) to encourage investment in safe end-of-life management technologies. Finally, Activity 11.6 will define incremental targets for

2035. Monitoring and evaluation will be exercised through annual reports, stakeholder reviews, and mid-term (2030) and final (2035) assessments. This approach ensures that all non-recyclable plastics are responsibly collected, treated, or converted under strict environmental safeguards. It should be noted that a National Implementation Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) was validated recently.

Table 3.11. Key Activities for Target 11

<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Authority</b>	<b>Supporting Authorities</b>	<b>Time-Frame</b>	<b>Key Indicators</b>	<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>
<p>Activity 11.1: Identify and quantify key non-recyclable plastic wastes (e.g., diapers, hygiene products, multi-layered food packaging) through updated waste characterisation studies.</p> <p>Note: A consultant/technical expert will have to be recruited for this activity.</p>	Ministry of Environment	Research institutions, SWMD, MSB	Medium-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory of non-recyclable plastics developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verification of survey and waste analysis data</li> <li>• Annual validation of datasets by Ministry of Environment and SWMD</li> <li>• Integration of findings into national waste registry</li> </ul>
<p>Activity 11.2: Review national waste management plan to define protocols for safe collection, transport, and controlled landfilling of non-recyclable plastic wastes as identified in Activity 11.1.</p> <p>Note: A consultant/technical expert will have to be recruited for this activity.</p>	Ministry of Environment (SWMD)	Local Authorities (municipalities, district councils), private operators	Medium-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised national waste management plan approved</li> <li>• Number of operational guidelines developed</li> <li>• % of non-recyclable plastic waste treated under safe protocols</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular monitoring of plan implementation by Local Authorities</li> <li>• Mid-term (2030) and end-term (2035) evaluation of treatment efficiency</li> </ul>

<p>Activity 11.3: Assess the feasibility and environmental safeguards for Waste-to-Wealth (WtW) options either locally, regionally and internationally, based on the signed conventions related to the safe transboundary movement of hazardous wastes</p> <p>Note: A consultant/technical expert will have to be recruited for this activity.</p>	<p>Economic Development Board</p>	<p>CEB, private operators, Research institutions, Economic Development Board (EDB), Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>Long-term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility study published</li> <li>• Environmental impact assessments (EIA)</li> <li>• Number of regional collaborations initiated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of WtW feasibility reports and EIA results</li> <li>• Annual review of pilot performance indicators</li> <li>• Evaluation of alignment with Basel Convention and UN Plastic Treaty</li> </ul>
<p>Activity 11.4: Establish partnerships with hospitals, hotels and industries to consolidate efforts towards the collection and treatment of non-recyclable plastic wastes</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment (SWMD)</p>	<p>Ministry of Health, Ministry of Tourism, Local Authorities (municipalities, district councils), SWMD, AHRIM, AMM, Business Mauritius, Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (Industry and SME divisions)</p>	<p>Medium to Long-term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of stakeholder partnership agreements signed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual review of partnership outcomes</li> </ul>

<p>Activity 11.5: Introduce where possible financial or fiscal incentives to support investment in technologies and infrastructure for safe end-of-life management of non-recyclable plastic wastes.</p>	<p>Ministry of Finance</p>	<p>Local Authorities (municipalities, district councils), SWMD, MRA, Business Mauritius</p>	<p>Long-term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incentive programme launched</li> <li>• Amount of financial assistance disbursed</li> <li>• % increase in private investment in waste management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual audit of incentive fund utilization</li> <li>• Monitoring of investment outcomes vs targets</li> <li>• End-term financial assessment on cost-effectiveness</li> </ul>
<p>Activity 11.6: Set incremental or phase wise targets for the environmentally sound end-of-life management for non-recyclable and contaminated plastic wastes by 2035</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment (SWMD)</p>	<p>Local Authorities, private operators, SWMD, MSB, CEB, private operators, AHRIM, AMM, Business Mauritius</p>	<p>Long-term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % reduction in landfill-bound plastics</li> <li>• % increase in treated non-recyclable waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual progress monitoring by Ministry of Environment</li> <li>• Mid-term (2030) evaluation of milestone achievements</li> <li>• Final (2035) assessment of end-of-life target implementation outcomes</li> </ul>

## **3.2 CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS (CCAs)**

### **CCA 1 – Education, Awareness & Behavioural Change**

**Objective:** Strengthen national understanding of plastic pollution and promote behavioural change across all segments of society.

Sensitisation is a crucial component to create not only awareness on the multifaceted nature of plastic pollution but more importantly in bringing about meaningful behavioural change across all sectors of the society. In this respect, the roadmap emphasises the need for a coherent, long-term framework to transform knowledge, attitudes, social norms, and daily practices related to plastic use and disposal. And this is why the NSP is complemented by a National Awareness and Education Programme (NAEP), which is designed as a cornerstone intervention under Cross-Cutting Action 1 (Education, Awareness and Behavioural Change) for a Plastic Pollution-Free Mauritius. Rather than a one-off communication campaign, the NAEP is conceived as a ten-year, system-level programme aimed at embedding sustainability into institutions, communities, and cultural practices.

By aligning educational, awareness, and behavioural activities with national plastic reduction goals and international commitments (such as SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the Global Plastic Treaty), this CCA 1 will ensure coherence across policy levels. Its short- and medium-term timelines provide a phased approach towards achieving incremental but tangible results whilst maintaining long-term sustainability. By building awareness early and embedding responsible behaviours in both formal and informal learning systems, the strategy ensures that future generations develop habits aligned with sustainable consumption and waste management. In other words, it is vital to empower citizens, institutions, and communities with the knowledge and tools to act responsibly. For example, by embedding plastic literacy across all levels of education, conducting targeted awareness campaigns for households, businesses, and coastal communities, and mobilising data platforms such as the Environmental Observatories, as well as, any future online platforms such as the ‘Observatoire des dechets’, which will initiate long-term cultural, institutional and behavioural shifts towards greater plastic accountability. Furthermore, training enforcement officers, customs, and community leaders will also ensure that regulations are not only enacted but effectively embraced and implemented.

The implementation of CCA 1 aims to strengthen national understanding of plastic pollution and foster behavioural change across all segments of society. This will be achieved through a combination of education, awareness, and community engagement actions, aligned with national and international commitments such as the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, and the forthcoming Global Plastic Treaty. Implementation begins with CCA1.1, which focuses on integrating the outcomes of the National Awareness and Educational Programme (NAEP) on Plastic Pollution and Circular Economy into ongoing national initiatives. The Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Education will lead this short-term activity to ensure coherent messaging and alignment with the Plastic Roadmap’s broader objectives. Next, CCA1.2 emphasises embedding plastic literacy and behavioural transformation at all educational levels—from pre-primary to tertiary and vocational institutions. Programmes will include “Train-the-Trainers” initiatives, engagement with NGOs, and competitions promoting creative plastic waste reduction. Educational clubs will act as drivers for practical, community-based action on upcycling and responsible plastic use. Under CCA1.3, the Ministry of Environment and the IOC (ExPLOI Project) will lead targeted awareness campaigns for households, businesses, and coastal communities. These will promote reuse, sorting, and safe disposal practices, reducing plastic leakage into marine environments. CCA1.4 will strengthen citizen participation by mobilising the Environmental Observatory, enhancing data transparency and community science engagement. Finally, CCA1.5 will build institutional capacity through the training of enforcement officers, customs personnel, and community leaders in plastic regulation and public communication. Monitoring will be carried out through quarterly progress reports and annual evaluations, ensuring that behavioural change becomes deeply embedded in Mauritius’ path toward a sustainable, plastic-pollution-free future.

Table 3.12. CCA1- Education, Awareness and Behavioural Change

<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Authority</b>	<b>Time-Frame</b>	<b>Related Targets</b>	<b>Key Indicators</b>	<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>
CCA1.1: Integrate actions as outlined in the National Awareness and Education Programme (NAEP) on plastic pollution and circular economy	Ministry of Environment with the support of MRIC, Business Mauritius Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation, IOC	Short-term	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of awareness campaigns launched</li> <li>• Number of institutions engaged</li> <li>• % increase in public knowledge on plastic pollution and circular economy</li> <li>• Number of participants in national events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly progress reports from the Ministry of Environment and Education</li> <li>• Annual public survey on awareness levels</li> <li>• Independent evaluation of campaign effectiveness</li> <li>• Review meetings with NGOs and educational institutions</li> </ul>
CCA1.2: Integrate the following measures at pre-primary, primary, secondary, tertiary institutions and	Ministry of Education	Medium-term	2, 3, 8, 9, 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of schools and institutions integrating plastic literacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual monitoring by Ministry of Education</li> <li>• Review of school reports and</li> </ul>

<p>Vocational Education and Training (VET):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- plastic usage and plastic wastes literacy</li> <li>- ‘Train-the-Trainers’ programme on how to inculcate the importance of behavioural change in one’s everyday life towards responsible plastic usage and plastic wastes disposal</li> <li>-Invite NGOs/environmental activists for talks on the necessity of a plastic-pollution free environment</li> <li>- existing environment clubs/societies in educational institutions must regularly organise events and activities to embrace a culture geared towards a plastic-pollution free society (for example, promote upcycling</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of teachers trained under ‘Train-the-Trainers’ programme</li> <li>• Number of environment clubs conducting plastic-related events</li> <li>• % increase in student engagement and projects on circular economy</li> </ul>	<p>environmental club activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher feedback and assessment of programme impact</li> <li>• Bi-annual evaluation workshops with Ministry of Environment and Education stakeholders</li> </ul>
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of plastic wastes, competition on how to reduce the proliferation of plastics, etc.)					
CCA1.3: Launch separate awareness campaigns targeting for households, coastal communities including beach users and businesses on reuse, source sorting, and safe disposal	Ministry of Environment with the support of IOC (EXPLOI)	Short to Medium-term	3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of campaigns conducted per target group</li> <li>• % increase in households practising waste sorting</li> <li>• Number of coastal cleanup events held</li> <li>• % of businesses implementing reuse and sorting practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of campaign reach and participation</li> <li>• Annual review by COI (ExPLOI) and Ministry of Environment</li> <li>• Waste audit data from community and business sectors</li> <li>• Impact assessment through surveys and behavioural observation</li> </ul>
CCA1.4 Mobilise the Environmental Observatory and Science to Policy Platform, as well as, future online platforms such as the ‘Observatoire des dechets’ (under the National	Ministry of Environment, with the support of IOC	Short-term	1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of datasets uploaded to the Observatoire des Déchets</li> <li>• Number of citizen science initiatives conducted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous tracking of observatory activity reports</li> <li>• Annual audit of data quality and participation</li> </ul>

Waste Management Strategy) for data dissemination and visible actions undertaken				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequency of data publication</li> <li>• % increase in public access to plastic data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation by the National Waste Management Strategy coordination unit</li> <li>• Mid-term review (2030) of digital engagement metrics</li> </ul>
CCA1.5 Train enforcement agencies (for instance, enforcement officers, customs), and community leaders on plastic regulations and public engagement	Ministry of Environment with the support of IOC, Local Authorities, Atal Bihari Vaijpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation	Medium-term	1, 6, 7, 10, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of enforcement officers and community leaders trained</li> <li>• % increase in compliance with plastic regulations</li> <li>• Number of community awareness sessions facilitated by trained leaders</li> <li>• Number of enforcement operations conducted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of training attendance and feedback reports</li> <li>• Annual performance audits of enforcement activities</li> <li>• Monitoring of community engagement outcomes</li> <li>• Evaluation by Ministry of Environment on training impact</li> </ul>

## **CCA 2 – Research, Innovation & Data**

**Objective:** Support evidence-based policymaking and local innovation for sustainable plastic solutions.

Research, innovation, and data form the backbone of evidence-based policymaking and the sustainable management of plastics in Mauritius. The proposed establishment of a Plastic Research and Innovation Programme to fund and support national and regional projects that tackle prevention, reduction, reuse, collection, sorting, development of sustainable plastic alternatives and recycling of plastics constitutes the foundation for advancing new research and experimental approaches. Anchoring this initiative within the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC), and leveraging partnerships with the Ministry of Environment and the Indian Ocean Commission’s ExPLOI project, ensures that both international expertise and local capacity are harnessed to deliver practical and scalable outcomes. In August 2025, IOC under the umbrella of the Expédition Plastique océan Indien (ExPLOI) project, has launched a Call for Projects which should support research and innovation projects. By embedding research and innovation into this National Strategy Plan, CCA 2 ensures that Mauritius can anticipate global trends such as the outcomes of the forthcoming UN Plastic Treaty, adapt policies accordingly, and maintain regional leadership in sustainable plastics management.

The implementation of CCA 2 aims to strengthen evidence-based policymaking and innovation in plastic waste management by fostering scientific research, technological development, and cross-sector collaboration. This component will ensure that Mauritius remains regionally competitive and globally aligned with emerging sustainability frameworks such as the UN Plastic Treaty and the Global Framework on Chemicals (2023). The first activity (CCA2.1) will focus on establishing a Plastic Research and Innovation Programme under the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC), in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) through its ExPLOI project. This programme will serve as the central platform for financing and coordinating national and regional R&D projects on prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling, and plastic alternatives. Each funded project will address practical challenges in plastic management and contribute to national datasets on plastic flow and material recovery. In line with the AFD–FFEM partnership under ExPLOI project, funds of up to €50,000 have already been made available per research project. MRIC, under its Blue and Green Innovation thematic and subject to the approval of its board, can

launch R&D support schemes offering financial support to local institutions, researchers, and start-ups. In this regard, MRIC with the support of the Ministry of Environment, can in the next National Budget 2026-2027, consider earmarking a budget of Rs10M to fund the Plastic Research and Innovation Programme. These projects will emphasise innovation in plastic flow mapping, waste characterisation, life-cycle assessment (LCA), and alternative materials testing to ensure environmental safety and cost-effectiveness. This CCA 2.1 can be considered in the medium to long-term depending on Government priorities as well as on the outcomes of the forthcoming UN Plastic Treaty. The second activity (CCA2.2) will prioritise R&D projects focused on generating the National Source Inventory for plastics and evaluating the biodegradability and compostability of alternative materials. Monitoring will be conducted annually by MRIC and the Ministry of Environment through progress reports and performance evaluations. Mid-term (2030) and end-term (2035) assessments will measure scientific outputs, data integration, and the policy impact of funded projects, ensuring continuous innovation toward a circular plastic economy.

Table 3.13. CCA 2 – Research, Innovation & Data

<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Authority</b>	<b>Time-Frame</b>	<b>Related Targets</b>	<b>Key Indicators</b>	<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>
CCA2.1 Establish a Plastic Research and Innovation Programme, which will support and fund projects, as outlined in CCA 2.2.	MRIC with the support of Ministry of Environment, IOC (ExPLOI)	Medium to long term	1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme established and operational</li> <li>• Number of research projects funded</li> <li>• Number of partnerships with national, regional, and international institutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual review</li> <li>• Monitoring of grant distribution and project outcomes</li> <li>• Progress evaluation</li> <li>• Publication of annual innovation performance reports</li> </ul>
CCA2.2: Prioritise R&D projects focusing on the following: - National capacities on plastic flow mapping and data analysis - National Source Inventory and conduct waste characterisation studies	MRIC with the support of IOC (ExPLOI)	Medium to long term	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of R&amp;D projects launched and completed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of technical reports and data outputs</li> </ul>

<p>- Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), Life Cycle Costing (LCC) and environmental soundness of local alternative materials for plastics</p> <p>- Testing and certification of biodegradability and compostability of plastic alternatives</p>					
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### **CCA 3 – Financing Mechanisms & Economic Instruments**

**Objective:** Mobilise sustainable financing towards ensuring the economic viability of the roadmap.

To accelerate the national transition towards a plastic-free and circular economy, the roadmap emphasizes mobilizing diverse funding sources—both national and international—to support projects and action plans aligned with national sustainability targets. Key activities include tapping into mechanisms such as the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC), Higher Education Commission (HEC), UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the National Environment and Climate Change Fund, UNEP, and the European Union’s Circular Economy support programmes. These sources can collectively finance the Plastic Transition Fund, ensuring consistent and transparent resource allocation for implementing priority projects and capacity-building initiatives. Parallel to this, local financing opportunities—such as the Greening Support Schemes (GSS) under SME Mauritius, and Green Loans provided by national banks like CIM Finance, the Development Bank of Mauritius (DBM), and MCB—are encouraged to facilitate private-sector engagement. Such instruments are critical in enabling SMEs, recycling companies, and manufacturers to transition toward reduced plastic dependency, improve recycling infrastructure, and adopt innovative sustainable materials. The Ministry of Environment will act as the central coordinating authority for these efforts, ensuring alignment with national policies and international commitments. Collaboration with Business Mauritius, MCCI, and industry stakeholders will promote financial inclusivity and shared accountability in achieving roadmap targets. The medium-term timeframe envisions establishing transparent funding pipelines, incentivizing innovation, and creating synergy among public, private, and community actors. By effectively integrating financing mechanisms at multiple levels, Mauritius can foster long-term economic resilience, stimulate green entrepreneurship, and accelerate progress on circular economy goals—particularly the reduction of plastic waste, improvement of recycling efficiency, and enhancement of local manufacturing sustainability.

*Note: Resource Mobilisation Plan (section 6.2) will further elaborate on the financing mechanism supporting the NSP.*

The implementation of CCA 3 focuses on mobilising sustainable financing mechanisms to ensure the economic viability of Mauritius’s transition towards a plastic-free and circular economy. The plan integrates national and international funding sources to support priority

actions outlined in the NSP/Roadmap, enhance recycling capacity, and encourage innovation in sustainable materials. The Ministry of Environment will act as the lead coordinating authority, supported by Business Mauritius (BM), the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), and financial institutions. Implementation will begin with Activity CCA3.1, which involves tapping into national and international funding agencies such as the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC), Higher Education Commission (HEC), GEF Small Grants Programme (UNDP), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), UNEP, and the European Union's Circular Economy initiatives. The Plastic Transitory Fund is a fund set up by Government to support research and also ease the burden of private sector in adopting business practices that will help Mauritius become a plastic-pollution free island. Before any donor or government funding, it is assumed that the estimated cost to be incurred by private sector in adopting sustainable practices would be roughly equivalent to the public sector cost of implementing the roadmap. In line of the objective of the Plastic Transition Fund, it is estimated that Government would be willing to fund 20% of the above-mentioned private sector cost.

Concurrently, Activity CCA3.2 will focus on mobilising local financing mechanisms, including the Greening Support Schemes (GSS) under SME Mauritius and Green Loans offered by DBM, CIM Finance and other local financial institutions (for e.g., MCB). These instruments will help SMEs, recyclers, and manufacturers in their journey towards reducing their dependency on virgin plastics, modernise production processes, and adopt sustainable alternatives. The Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with BM and MCCI, will ensure alignment between public and private sector financing. Monitoring and evaluation will be conducted regularly through financial performance reports, audits of the Plastic Transition Fund, and stakeholder consultations.

Table 3.14. CCA 3 – Financing Mechanisms & Economic Instruments

Key Activities	Responsible Authority	Time-Frame	Related Targets	Key Indicators	Monitoring & Evaluation
<p>CCA3.1: Tap on national and international funding agencies, such as MRIC, HEC, GEF SGP UNDP, IOC, UNDP, National Environment and Climate Change Fund, UNEP, as well as EU support for circular economy reforms to finance national projects and action plans relevant to achieving the targets of this roadmap. These sources may be used to channel initial funds towards the Plastic Transition Fund.</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>Medium term</p>	<p>1, 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of international funding proposals submitted</li> <li>• Amount of funds mobilised annually (MUR/EUR/USD)</li> <li>• Number of funded projects aligned with the Plastic Roadmap</li> <li>• % of funding directed to SMEs, recycling firms, and innovation hubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual financial and progress reports from Ministry of Environment</li> <li>• Monitoring of fund utilisation through the Plastic Transition Fund under Division 5.</li> <li>• Evaluation of funded project progress</li> <li>• Reporting to the Plastic Management Committee (PMC)</li> </ul>

<p>CCA3.2: Tap on any other financing schemes, for e.g., Greening Support Schemes (GSS/SME Mauritius) as well as Green Loans provided by local banks (e.g., CIM finance, Development of Mauritius (DBM), MCB), to facilitate the transition of local businesses towards reduction of plastic usage and adoption of sustainable plastic alternatives</p>	<p>Business Mauritius, MCCI, recycling companies</p>	<p>Medium term</p>	<p>All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of SMEs, recyclers, and manufacturers accessing loans or GSS grants</li> <li>• Amount of private investment mobilised for sustainable plastic transition</li> <li>• Number of circular production or reuse initiatives supported</li> <li>• % increase in business compliance with circular economy standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bi-annual progress reporting from Business Mauritius and MCCI</li> <li>• Annual review of SME Mauritius and DBM loan disbursement data</li> <li>• Field evaluation of supported projects by Ministry of Environment and Business Mauritius</li> <li>• Financial audits and performance evaluations conducted every two years</li> <li>• End-term assessment (2035) of economic and environmental impact on SMEs and recyclers</li> </ul>
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## **CCA 4 – Governance, Coordination & Legal Framework**

**Objective:** Ensure institutional coherence, enforceability, and multi-stakeholder alignment.

To strengthen the national framework for sustainable plastic management, the roadmap highlights the need for inclusive governance, updated regulations, and the establishment of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems. The first step is to broaden the Plastic Management Committee, ensuring that it reflects a cross-section of Mauritian society—including representatives from government, the private sector, NGOs, academia, and civil society. This inclusive structure will foster collective decision-making, transparency, and accountability across all stages of implementation. The Ministry of Environment, as the lead coordinating authority, must ensure that national regulations are updated and harmonized with both the EU Directive 2019/904 and EU Directive 2025/40 on single-use plastics and the forthcoming Global Plastic Treaty. This legal alignment will ensure that Mauritius keeps pace with international environmental standards and transitions effectively toward circular economy principles. In parallel, regular multi-stakeholder consultations through the Plastic Management Committee should be institutionalized to maintain dialogue among public authorities, businesses, and community organizations. Such platforms will help identify barriers, share innovations, and coordinate the actions necessary to meet roadmap targets efficiently. A critical pillar of this reform is the development of a comprehensive EPR mechanism, led by the Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD). This mechanism will include the enactment of EPR regulations, the identification of plastic product categories under EPR obligations, and the licensing of Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs) responsible for collecting, recycling, and diverting plastics from landfills. These medium and long terms measures collectively aim to build a robust institutional foundation for Mauritius’s circular plastic economy. By integrating inclusive governance, legal modernization, and producer accountability, the country can accelerate its shift toward sustainable production and consumption patterns, reduce environmental pollution, and reinforce its commitment to global and regional sustainability frameworks.

The implementation of CCA 4 aims to establish a coherent institutional and legal framework for sustainable plastic management in Mauritius by fostering coordination among key stakeholders, strengthening governance mechanisms, and enactment of national laws. The Ministry of Environment will lead the process, beginning with Activity CCA4.1, which involves broadening the Plastic Management Committee (PMC) under the Environment Act

2024. This committee will ensure representation from government ministries, private sector bodies, NGOs, academia, and civil society. By institutionalising inclusivity, the PMC will strengthen transparency and multi-stakeholder participation, facilitating collaborative decision-making and policy coherence. Under Activity CCA4.2, the Ministry, in collaboration with the State Law Office (SLO), will update national regulations to align with the EU Directive 2019/904 on Single-Use Plastics and the forthcoming Global Plastic Treaty.

Activity CCA4.3 focuses on organising regular multi-stakeholder consultations, engaging the public, private, and civil society sectors to monitor implementation progress and address emerging challenges. These consultations will serve as collaborative platforms for knowledge exchange, innovation sharing, and joint problem-solving. Finally, Activity CCA4.4 will establish a comprehensive Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mechanism, under the coordination of the Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD). This includes enacting EPR regulations, identifying product categories under EPR obligations, and licensing Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs) to manage plastic waste collection, recycling, and diversion from landfills. Monitoring and evaluation will be done through timely PMC progress reports. Mid-term (2030) and final (2035) assessments will measure institutional efficiency, compliance rates, and policy impact, ensuring Mauritius achieves a transparent, accountable, and circular plastic governance system.

Table 3.15. CCA 4 – Governance, Coordination & Legal Framework

<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Authority</b>	<b>Time-Frame</b>	<b>Related Targets</b>	<b>Key Indicators</b>	<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>
CCA4.1: Broaden the Plastic Management Committee as per the Environment Act 2024 to ensure a comprehensive representation from all sectors of Mauritian society including private sector, NGOs, and civil society.	Ministry of Environment	Medium term	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and diversity of members (public, private, NGO, civil society)</li> <li>• Number of meetings held annually</li> <li>• Number of policy recommendations issued</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance records and meeting minutes</li> <li>• Annual performance assessment</li> </ul>
CCA4.2: Creation of a Department of Plastic Management	Ministry of Environment	Medium term	All	Enactment of the Plastic Governance and Control Act	SLO review Cabinet approval

<p>CCA4.3: Update national regulations in line with roadmap targets and EU Directive 2019/904 and EU Directive 2025/40 as well as forthcoming Global Plastic Treaty</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>Medium term</p>	<p>1, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised legal framework</li> <li>• Number of regulations harmonised with international treaties</li> <li>• Number of enforcement actions conducted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual review of legal implementation progress</li> <li>• End-term (2035) assessment of legal alignment effectiveness</li> </ul>
<p>CCA4.4: Organise regular multi-stakeholder consultations with public, private, and civil society actors to support roadmap implementation and identify challenges and opportunities</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>Medium term</p>	<p>All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of consultation sessions organised per year</li> <li>• Number of stakeholders participating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of consultation attendance and outputs</li> <li>• Annual stakeholder feedback assessment</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of recommendations integrated into national strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress reporting to the Plastic Management Committee</li> </ul>
<p>CCA4.5: Develop and set-up EPR mechanism, which will entail the consideration of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enactment of EPR regulations</li> <li>• List of products subject to EPR regulations</li> <li>• Licensing of PROs to collect and channel plastic wastes away from the landfill</li> </ul>	<p>Ministry of Environment – Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD)</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>7, 10, 11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPR regulations to be enacted</li> <li>• Number of product categories under EPR</li> <li>• Number of licensed Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of EPR implementation</li> <li>• Annual reporting on PRO operations and compliance</li> <li>• Mid-term evaluation (2030) of EPR effectiveness</li> <li>• Final (2035) assessment of national EPR performance and</li> </ul>



<b>Target 2: Phase out all non-essential and problematic Single-Use Plastics (SUSUP)</b>	Activity 2.1: Identification of problematic and non-essential plastics										
	Activity 2.2: Assessing the availability of sustainable alternatives or practices										
	Activity 2.3: Determining the timeline for the phase wise reduction										
<b>Target 3: Achieve at least 80% effective collection of plastic wastes by 2030</b>	Activity 3.1: Expansion of Plastic Waste Collection Infrastructure										
	Activity 3.2: Monitoring of plastic waste collection										
	Activity 3.3: Phase wise collection of plastic wastes										
	Activity 3.4: Identify and integrate informal waste collectors										
<b>Target 4: Reduce plastic packaging consumption by 50%</b>	Activity 4.1: Selection of a ‘first layer’ or priority phase-out plastic packaging										

<b>by 2030 (25% by 2027)</b>	Activity 4.2: Phase wise introduction of selected alternatives for plastic packaging										
	Activity 4.3: Set guidelines that promote Eco-design packaging										
	Activity 4.4: Provide technical and financial support										
	Activity 4.5: Define sector-specific targets										
<b>Target 5: Reduce Plastic Use and Waste in Manufacturing, Industrial and Service Sectors by 30% by 2035</b>	Activity 5.1: Signatories to a voluntary Plastic Reduction Pledge (PRP)										
	Activity 5.2: Establish regional and international partnerships										
<b>Target 6: Reducing, where possible, the imports of virgin plastic pellets</b>	Activity 6.1: Setting up of a dedicated fund										
	Activity 6.2: Set phase wise percentage targets										
<b>Target 7: Formalise producer</b>	Activity 7.1: To identify which sectors/producers/quasi										

<b>accountability through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes by 2035</b>	producers will be in a position, financially and technically, to embrace and discharge an EPR mechanism											
	Activity 7.2: To identify the proposed list of products											
	Activity 7.3: To set up of incremental or phased EPR targets											
	Activity 7.4: To initiate discussion on the inclusion of appropriate tax credits											
	Activity 7.5: Operationalise/Support the PET bottle deposit refund scheme (DRS)											
	Activity 7.6: Ensure 100% collection of used tyres by 2035											
<b>Target 8: Baseline studies in the marine environment and coastal ecosystem on</b>	Activity 8.1: Conduct comprehensive baseline studies											
	Activity 8.2: To designate an authority for community-based											

<b>macro, meso and micro plastics</b>	plastic waste collection programs											
	Activity 8.3: Integrate micro and macro plastics monitoring in coastal environments											
	Activity 8.4: Sustain and consolidate the existing marine plastic indicators											
<b>Target 9: Reuse and repurpose durable plastic products</b>	Activity 9.1: Support the development of decentralised collection, cleaning and processing hubs											
	Activity 9.2: Develop technical specifications for standardized reusable and repurposing beverage containers											
	Activity 9.3: Deploy washing and refilling infrastructure in strategic hubs											
	Activity 9.4: Roll out successful pilots at national level to promote success stories											

	Activity 9.5: Review of Public procurement policies and guidelines											
	Activity 9.6: Set incremental or phased reuse and repurposing targets											
<b>Target 10: Adopt a phased approach towards building plastic waste recycling capacity</b>	Activity 10.1: Conduct baseline survey/study on the types of plastic products											
	Activity 10.2: Establish technical specifications and national standards											
	Activity 10.3: Provide training											
<b>Target 11: Environmentally sound end-of-life management for non-recyclable and contaminated plastic wastes</b>	Activity 11.1: Identify and quantify key non-recyclable plastic wastes											
	Activity 11.2: Review national waste management plan											
	Activity 11.3: Assess the feasibility and environmental safeguards											
	Activity 11.4: Establish partnerships											

	Activity 11.5: Introduce where possible financial or fiscal incentives										
	Activity 11.6: Discuss the incremental or phase wise targets										
<b>CCA 1 – Education, Awareness &amp; Behavioural Change</b>	CCA1.1: Integrate actions as outlined in the National Awareness and Education Programme (NAEP)										
	CCA1.2: Integrate the educational and awareness measures at education institutions										
	CCA1.3: Launch targeted awareness campaigns										
	CCA1.4 Mobilise the Environmental Observatories										
	CCA1.5 Train enforcement agencies										
<b>CCA 2 – Research, Innovation &amp; Data</b>	CCA2.1 Establish a Plastic Research and Innovation Programme										

	CCA2.2: Prioritise R&D projects										
<b>CCA 3 – Financing Mechanisms &amp; Economic Instruments</b>	CCA3.1: Tap on national and international funding agencies to finance national projects and action plans										
	CCA3.2: Tap on any other financing schemes to facilitate the transition of local businesses towards reduction of plastic usage and adoption of sustainable plastic alternatives										
<b>CCA 4 – Governance, Coordination &amp; Legal Framework</b>	CCA4.1: Broaden the Plastic Management Committee as per the Environment Act 2024										
	CCA4.2: Creation of a Department of Plastic Management										
	CCA4.3: Update national regulations										
	CCA4.4: Organise regular multi-stakeholder consultations										

	CCA4.5: Develop and set-up EPR mechanism										
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## 4 POLICIES, FRAMEWORKS AND INSTRUMENTS

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

From the National Source Inventory report and information and data gathered from the Solid Waste Management Division, the total plastic wastes generated were estimated to be 72,566 tonnes in 2022. A significant amount of portion of plastic wastes is landfilled and a substantial amount remains unaccounted for. Several structural, behavioural, and infrastructural challenges hinder progress towards a plastic-pollution free society:

- **Inadequate Enforcement:** Despite bans on certain plastics, a 2021 study by Foolmaun et al. revealed that 65% of citizens still used banned plastic bags. Enforcement has been undermined by limited human resources, inadequate monitoring, and legal complexity.
- **Behavioural and Cultural Barriers:** Plastic remains convenient, cheap, and deeply embedded in consumer habits. Many individuals are unaware of the long-term ecological risks or there's a persistent preference for plastic bags due to their convenience and affordability.
- **Cost and Availability of Alternatives:** While sustainable alternatives exist (e.g., "tente vacoas" bags from Pandanus leaves), their production cost remains high. The market for compostable or reusable products is fragmented, with some misleading claims (e.g. OXO-degradable plastics) persisting.
- **Industrial Transition and SME Support:** Importers and manufacturers face difficulty adapting their supply chains. They often lack access to information, scalable alternatives and to credit.
- **Infrastructure Limitations:** Mauritius lacks sufficient facilities for composting bio-based plastics and has limited domestic recycling capacity. Collection and segregation systems remain underdeveloped, particularly outside urban areas.
- **Data and Monitoring Deficiencies:** Although the National Source Inventory and waste characterisation efforts have improved transparency, plastic flows remain poorly quantified, particularly for imported packaging and informal sector recovery.

- **Conceptual Ambiguity:** The term "plastic-free" remains loosely defined. In absence of a precise scope, it risks undermining policy clarity and feasibility.

In line with the circularity concept, the following broad strategies could be considered:

*Improving Recycling and Circular Economy:*

- **Increase Recycling Rates:** While current recycling rates for plastic waste are low (around 2.5-4%), the goal is to significantly increase this. The MCCI's roadmap suggests a target of **50% recycling by 2030** for waste plastic, with the remaining 50% being either landfilled or converted into energy.
- **Promotion of Material Recovery:** Developing a legal framework and enabling measures to promote material recovery and circularity, including financial incentives for recyclers.
- **Supporting Local Recycling Initiatives:** Encouraging and supporting local organizations and businesses involved in plastic waste recycling and upcycling, such as the new micro-factories that can process plastic waste into useful resources.

*Enhanced Waste Management Infrastructure:*

- **Improved Collection and Segregation:** Efforts are focused on enhancing waste collection infrastructure, including the installation of segregated public bins and promoting waste segregation at source.
- **Proper Management of Landfilled Waste:** While aiming for reduction, there's also a recognition of the need for environmentally sound management of plastic waste that still ends up in landfills (currently around 61% of plastic waste).
- **Addressing Bio-Waste:** As alternatives to plastics are introduced, the government acknowledges the need to prepare the solid waste infrastructure to accept and treat bio-waste resulting from biodegradable alternatives.

*Public Awareness and Behavioural Change:*

- **Nationwide Campaigns:** Regular awareness and sensitization campaigns are carried out to educate the public on the negative impacts of plastic pollution and promote sustainable practices.
- **Integration into Education:** Incorporating subjects pertaining to pollution, including marine plastic pollution, into primary and secondary school curricula.

- **Promoting Eco-Friendly Alternatives:** Encouraging the use of local, eco-friendly alternatives to plastic, such as products made from Pandanus leaves ("tente vacoas").

*Research, Monitoring, and International Cooperation:*

- **Microplastic Monitoring:** Projects are underway to monitor and analyze microplastics at selected sites to inform decision-making for proper management.
- **Scientific Information and Knowledge Sharing:** Promoting research and development and sharing scientific information on plastic pollution and effective solutions.
- **Domestication of International Treaty (as and when they are adopted internationally):** Mauritius will incorporate provisions of the forthcoming International Legally Binding Instrument to end plastic pollution once this has been signed and ratified.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Engaging in regional cooperation efforts to address plastic pollution, such as through the Indian Ocean Commission (for e.g., ExPLOI, SWIOFISH, etc.), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) project IslandPlas

At this stage it is worthy to report on what actions Mauritius has embraced towards the containing plastic pollution:

- **Regulatory Leadership:** The Environment (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020 and the Environment (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020 have established clear bans on problematic plastics, such as non-biodegradable bags and selected single-use products.
- **Public Awareness and Engagement:** The legislative efforts have undoubtedly raised public and industry awareness of plastic pollution as a critical issue.
- **Creation of Green Jobs:** The PET financial incentive scheme has supported informal collectors, illustrating potential for inclusive economic opportunity.
- **Stakeholder Mobilisation:** Roadmaps have been proposed by the MCCI and UNEP (Circular Economy Roadmap 2023), promoting collaborative frameworks across sectors.
- **Institutional Architecture:** The establishment of the Plastic Management Division (2021) and reinforcement of the Plastic Management Committee (per the Environment Act 2024) lay the groundwork for coordination.

- **International Alignment:** Mauritius is actively participating in the negotiations of the Global Plastics Treaty and reviewing national legislation to align with emerging obligations. Regional cooperation with the IOC and SIDS is also expanding.

This section thus describes the policies, frameworks and instruments relevant for Mauritius in its journey towards implementing the 11 targets and 4 cross-cutting actions (CCAs) that collectively underline this National Strategy Plan/roadmap. An analysis of the different international conventions on plastics that Mauritius is a party to has been conducted. The Environment Act 2024, the Environment (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020 and the Environment (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020 have been assessed to determine any gaps, challenges and successes. Consequently, a set of proposed policies, frameworks and instruments are put forward to support the implementation of this roadmap.

## **4.2 OVERVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC LEGAL FRAMEWORKS**

Mauritius is a party to several multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) that directly inform the development of its National Strategy Plan for Plastic Waste Management. These include: The Global Plastic Treaty, International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Convention 1973, Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention) 1992, Paris Agreement 2015, and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants 2001. These legal instruments provide a foundational framework for national plastic governance, ensuring compliance with international standards, enhancing access to technical and financial support, and strengthening Mauritius' role in global and regional dialogues on sustainable plastic use.

### **4.2.1 The Global Plastic Treaty**

In 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted Resolution 5/14 calling for the development of a legally binding international instrument to end plastic pollution. The Global Plastic Treaty, currently under negotiation through the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), aims to regulate the entire life cycle of plastics, including production, design, use, and end-of-life management. Key provisions under discussion include restrictions on virgin plastic production, global EPR frameworks, and chemical transparency.

Mauritius actively participates in the INC negotiations and recognises that the Treaty which is expected to establish legally binding obligations is still under negotiation. The National

Strategy Plan on Plastic is therefore designed to ensure early alignment with the expected provisions of the Global Treaty. It provides a national mechanism to operationalise commitments on lifecycle plastics governance, traceability, reduction of unnecessary single-use plastics, and international data reporting.

#### **4.2.2 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Convention 1973**

Mauritius implemented the MARPOL Convention through various legislative actions. The purpose is to prevent marine pollution from ships in order to protect the marine environment. The following legislative actions were taken by Mauritius:

- Merchant Shipping Act 2007: This Act is the main legislation for maritime activities in Mauritius. It allows the incorporation of international conventions like MARPOL into national law.
- Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Harmful Substances Carried by Sea in Packaged Form) Regulations 2020: These regulations specifically address Annex III of MARPOL, which concerns the prevention of pollution by harmful substances carried by sea in packaged forms. They outline requirements for packaging, marking, labeling, documentation, stowage, quantity limitations, and prohibit the carriage, shipment, and jettisoning of harmful substances except in accordance with these regulations.
- Environment Act 2024: This act provides a broad policy framework for environmental stewardship and includes provisions for preventing and controlling pollution in the coastal and maritime zones. It establishes environmental standards and regulations that can be applied to shipping activities to prevent pollution.
- Environment (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020 and Environment (Control of Single-Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020: Even though these regulations do not specifically apply to ships, they show Mauritius' commitment to reducing plastic pollution, a significant component of marine debris addressed under MARPOL Annex V.

While **Annex V** of MARPOL targets the discharge of plastics and garbage from ships, Mauritius recognises that the **majority of marine plastic pollution originates from land-based sources**. The NSP

addresses this upstream dimension by improving terrestrial waste management systems, thereby supporting MARPOL's objectives on marine debris reduction.

#### **4.2.3 Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention) 1992**

The Basel Convention 1992- Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal- is an international environmental treaty, which aims at controlling and minimizing hazardous waste movements across borders, ensuring safe management, and protecting vulnerable countries from becoming dumping grounds.

Mauritius acceded to the Basel Convention in November 1992. Since then, it has taken several actions to implement the convention's provisions. Firstly, it ratified the convention in 1992 in order to demonstrate its commitment to effective management of hazardous wastes. Over the years, it has enacted legislation which reiterates its international commitment towards managing hazardous wastes. Currently, these two legislations are the: Environment Act 2024 and the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act 2023. Moreover, Mauritius participates in the meetings of the Basel Conventions and reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the convention.

Since the **2019 amendment**, the Convention explicitly includes **certain types of plastic waste** under its control regime. This requires prior informed consent for exports and imports of plastic waste streams, and restricts transboundary movements of non-recyclable or mixed plastic wastes. Mauritius adheres to these rules and submits annual national reports on waste movements and treatment to the Basel Secretariat.

#### **4.2.4 Paris Agreement 2015**

The Paris Agreement is an international treaty on climate change. The treaty encourages states to take action in order to address the threats linked to climate change. In 2015, Mauritius became a signatory to the treaty and has since then taken steps to adhere to its treaty obligations. The main actions taken by Mauritius are the following:

- Enactment of the Climate Change Act 2020: The Act sets a legal and institutional framework which addresses climate change issues and ensures compliance with international agreements. The Climate Change Act 2020 provides a legal framework for meeting its emission reduction targets, which include:

- A 40% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 (compared to business-as-usual);
  - A goal to produce 60% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030.
- Nationally Determined Contributions: Since adhering to the Paris Agreement, Mauritius has submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

#### 4.2.5 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants 2001

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty which was adopted in 2001 and came into force in 2004. This treaty aims at protecting human health and the environment from those chemicals that persist in the environment; bioaccumulate in living organisms, and pose significant risks due to their toxicity. Signatories to this treaty have an obligation to eliminate or restrict the production and use of listed POPs; ensure environmentally sound disposal of stockpiles and wastes, and take measures to reduce unintentional releases, particularly from combustion and industrial processes. The Convention also emphasizes technical assistance, information exchange, and financial support to help developing countries meet their commitments, making it a cornerstone of international efforts to reduce chemical pollution and safeguard global health and ecosystems.

Mauritius ratified the Stockholm Convention in 2004 and has developed a **National Implementation Plan (NIP)** to identify and manage POPs in industrial processes, consumer goods, and waste streams. In 2025, Mauritius initiated a review of its NIP to account for **newly listed POPs** and their occurrence in plastic additives, such as brominated flame retardants and perfluorinated substances (PFAS).

As plastic waste—especially from electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), automotive parts, or packaging—can contain or release POPs during disposal or open burning, the NSP includes specific provisions for:

- Safer handling of plastics with toxic additives,
- Extended Producer Responsibility schemes covering product categories likely to contain POPs,
- Integration of POPs monitoring into national waste audits.

This ensures coherence between plastic pollution control and toxic chemical management obligations.

#### **4.2.6 Nairobi Convention's Plastics and Associated Chemicals Strategy**

The Nairobi Convention's Plastics and Associated Chemicals Strategy (often operationalized through a Regional Action Plan to Combat Marine Plastic Pollution) is the core framework for the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region to protect its marine and coastal environment. The strategy adopts a comprehensive, full-life-cycle approach to plastic pollution, covering everything from design and production to waste management and disposal.

A major focus is on the challenge of associated chemicals and polymers of concern embedded in plastic products. The strategy recognizes these hazardous substances threaten human health, harm ecosystems, and critically undermine efforts to establish a true circular economy by contaminating recycled materials. To counter this, it promotes greater transparency in chemical disclosure and encourages the development and use of safer, sustainable alternatives.

The strategy is implemented through coordinated Regional Action Plans for Contracting Parties, emphasizing cooperation against the transboundary nature of marine litter. Key areas include strengthening national legal frameworks, improving land-based waste management, fostering sustainable production and consumption patterns, and building regional capacity and expertise. The ultimate goal is a systemic transformation to eliminate the long-term discharge of plastic pollution and accelerate a safe circular economy in the WIO.

### **4.3 NATIONAL REGULATIONS**

In line with its aim of becoming a plastic pollution-free country, Mauritius has set a number of regulations, policies and instruments at national level.

#### **4.3.1 National Regulations**

##### **Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Carry Bags) Regulations 2004**

The Environment Protection (Plastic Carry Bag) Regulations 2004 marked Mauritius' initial legislative step to combat plastic bag pollution. Although the available records indicate this regulation was ultimately revoked and replaced by the later 2015 regulations (which aimed for a full ban), it is historically significant as the first attempt to regulate the pervasive use of lightweight plastic carry bags.

This 2004 framework sought to introduce controls on the import, manufacture, sale, and supply of plastic carry bags. Its primary objective was to curb the indiscriminate use of these bags that contributed heavily to litter, clogged drainage systems, and environmental degradation, a persistent issue for the island nation. While the level of implementation and effectiveness before its revocation is debated, it established the precedent for legislative action on single-use plastics in Mauritius, setting the stage for stricter bans that followed.

### **Waste Reduction and Ban on Problematic Plastics:**

- **Banning of Non-Biodegradable Plastic Bags (2020/2021):** The Environment (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020, effective March 2021, aims to eliminate the use, import, manufacture, sale, and distribution of most petroleum-based plastic bags. There have been extensions on the moratorium for certain types of biodegradable plastic bags to align with international instruments.
  - 2015 (in force 2016): The initial ban on non-biodegradable plastic bags, though pioneering, was largely unsuccessful due to limited public engagement, inadequate enforcement mechanisms, and absence of viable alternatives.
  - 2020 (in force 2021): The revised regulations expanded the scope of the ban to include roll-on bags and pocket-type bags and to impose more stringent penalties for different categories. Specific exemptions were retained (e.g., for agriculture, medical use, waste disposal, packaging, security tamper bags).
- **Control of Single-Use Plastic Products (2020):** The Environment (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020, effective January 2021, targets the ban on several single-use plastic items like cutlery, straws, plates, cups, bowls, trays, hinged containers, stirrers, and lids/covers for immediate food consumption. A moratorium for some selected items (for e.g., bowls, cups, trays) has been extended to January 14, 2026, to ease the transition of industries towards adoption of sustainable alternatives, where possible. Following various stakeholders' meetings, a policy decision in this regard is yet to be taken.
  - **Environment Protection (Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Bottle Permit) Regulations 2001**

These regulations currently govern the use and management of PET beverage bottles. A **MUR 2 excise duty** introduced in 2006, was increased to MUR 2 excise duty in 2010 and these support a PET collection incentive scheme, which has contributed to a collection rate of approximately **30-40%**. The regulation is under revision to introduce a **mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** scheme, with the potential integration of a **Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS)** by **2026**.

#### **4.4 GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK**

Under Section 101 of the Environment Act 2024, the objects of the Plastic Management Committee (PMC) shall be to – (a) ensure the development and implementation of policies, projects, strategies, programmes and action plans for plastic management; (b) make proposals for the formulation, review and enforcement of legislation in respect to plastic, including the application of appropriate standards; (c) advise on research, innovation and development programmes for the purpose of promoting alternatives to plastics and reducing microplastics; (d) ensure public awareness on plastic pollution and related matters; (e) make recommendations for mainstreaming of regional and international commitments to end plastic pollution in policies, strategies and action plans of relevant Ministries; (f) ensure the implementation of projects to fulfil national, regional and international commitments in relation to control of plastic pollution; and (g) coordinate and control the amount of plastic waste in the environment by adopting circular economy and other environmental-friendly disposal solutions.

To implement the objects of the PMC, Section 100 (3) (c) of the Act allows the PMC to set up sub-committees as necessary. In this regard, five (5) subcommittees are being proposed to serve as the technical and operational arms of the Plastic Pollution-Free Roadmap/NSP for Mauritius. More specifically, the subcommittees would oversee the implementation of a set of interrelated targets and the monitoring of all the activities underlying each of the 11 targets. Furthermore, these subcommittees will also be tasked with the responsibility of ensuring the integration of the relevant cross-cutting actions (CCAs) in support of each target. This will ensure coherence and coordination in the implementation of the different components underlying the NSP under the umbrella of the overarching thematic areas – knowledge, refuse, reduce, recycle, reuse/repurpose, end of life.

### Subcommittee 1

This subcommittee will be responsible for implementing the activities related to the following targets:

- Target 1: Creation of inventory database of plastics and plastic wastes.
- Target 8: Baseline studies in the marine environment and coastal ecosystem on macro, meso and micro plastics.

Targets 1 and 8 focus on capturing and recording data on plastic flows (inventory database of plastic and plastic waste) as well as data and findings underlying baseline studies on macro, meso and micro plastics in our marine environment and coastal ecosystem. Therefore, this subcommittee will oversee the setting up of a knowledge driven inventory database of plastic flows that will act as a foundation to initiate and support the other targets as well as policy decisions.

### Subcommittee 2

Reduction of non-essential and single use problematic plastics, plastic packaging and imports of virgin plastic pellets constitute a key thematic pillar (Reduce) underlying the roadmap. Therefore, this subcommittee will be responsible for overseeing plastic reduction activities related to the following targets:

- Target 2: Set phase wise reduction of non-essential and problematic Single-Use Plastics (SUP) in line with availability of sustainable alternatives based on technical, financial and social viability.
- Target 4: Set phase wise reduction of plastic packaging consumption by 2035.
- Target 6: Reducing, where possible, the imports of virgin plastic pellets.

### Subcommittee 3

This subcommittee will be responsible for engaging stakeholders concerned to oversee the following targets and their related activities, which fall under thematic area ‘Reduce’:

- Target 5: Development of a voluntary sector-specific Plastic Reduction Pledge (PRP) for those sectors identified in the Roadmap and Action Plan for a Circular Economy in the Republic of Mauritius (2023).
- Target 7: Formalise producer accountability through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes by 2035.

#### Subcommittee 4

This subcommittee will be responsible to oversee the following targets and their related activities, which fall under thematic areas ‘Reuse/Repurpose and Recycle’:

- Target 9: Reuse and repurpose durable plastic products.
- Target 10: Adopt a phased approach towards building plastic waste recycling capacity

#### Subcommittee 5

This subcommittee will be responsible to oversee the following targets and their related activities, which fall under thematic area ‘End-of-Life’:

- Target 3: Achieve at least 80% phase wise collection of plastic wastes by 2035.
- Target 11: Environmentally sound end-of-life management for non-recyclable and contaminated plastic wastes.

### **Indicative Terms of Reference (ToR) of Subcommittees**

The proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the 5 subcommittees of the Plastic Pollution-Free Mauritius as suggested hereunder can be adopted and/or amended as and when required:

#### 1. Mandate

The mandate of these sub-committees is to:

- Provide specialized expertise for the design, implementation, and monitoring of the targets.
- Support evidence-based policy decisions through research, data collection, and stakeholder consultation.

- Coordinate actions between government, private sector, academia, and civil society for effective reduction, reuse, recycling, and sound end-of-life management of plastics.
- Approve KPIs, budgets and timelines to monitor progress towards each target

## 2. Composition

Each Subcommittee may be composed of:

- Chair: Appointed representative of the Ministry of Environment.
- Members: Representatives from relevant ministries/agencies, private sector associations, academia/research institutions, NGOs, and regional/international partners
- Secretariat: Provided by the Ministry of Environment.

Membership may be expanded to include technical experts on an ad-hoc basis.

## 3. Roles and Responsibilities

- Approve work plans, budget and timelines to deliver on assigned targets.
- Draft technical recommendations (for e.g., eco-design, EPR frameworks, phase-wise targets).
- Oversee baseline studies, classification systems, and surveys.
- Propose and review alternatives to plastics and promote uptake of sustainable materials.
- Support capacity building of SMEs, recyclers, and local authorities.
- Ensure alignment with national policies.
- Facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue across public, private, and community actors.
- Liaise with regional and international programmes (IOC (ExPLOI), Nairobi Convention, Global Plastics Treaty).
- Reporting to the Plastic Management Committee through progress updates.

## **4.5 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

Established in January 2021, the Plastic Management Division (PMD) operates under the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management, and Climate Change and falls under the Department of Environment. It is tasked with coordinating plastic policy implementation, stakeholder engagement, data consolidation, and strategic planning. It also plays a lead role in the Plastic Management Committee (Environment Act 2024, Section 100).

Given the significance of the plastic management issue in terms of human, capital and technical resources, a dedicated Department, is imperative to allow the Ministry to take proactive role in tackling the issue of plastic pollution, by allowing better policy implementation, enforcement of regulations, promotion of sustainable alternatives, and to be in line with international standards. This measure will also provide the necessary institutional arrangements for the implementation of this Roadmap.

It is therefore proposed that the Plastic Management Division (PMD) be re-engineered to a full-fledged department, entitled ‘Department of Plastic Management (DPM)’. This will consist of five divisions, namely:

- Division 1: Data & Statistics
- Division 2: Research & Development
- Division 3: Recycling & Circular Economy
- Division 4: Education, Awareness & Behavioural Change
- Division 5: Policy Development
- Division 6: Monitoring & Enforcement

The newly created Department of Plastic Management will have to be institutionalised through an Act, namely the Plastic Governance and Control Act, details of which are provided at section 4.6. The interplay among the five divisions within the Department of Plastic Management and related targets, activities and thematic areas is portrayed in matrix form as shown Table 4.1, and described as follows:

### **Division 1: Data & Statistics**

This division will be responsible for the creation and operation of the inventory database management system and will continuously track and record plastic flows (imports, exports, local production, recycled and non-recyclable plastics and plastic wastes), including enforcement in land and at entry ports, macro, meso and micro plastics in the marine and coastal ecosystem across its whole lifecycle. The creation of an Environment Unit, under the aegis of the Department of Plastic Management, will be posted at MRA Customs (airport and port of Mauritius). This Environment Unit will include Environmental Wardens, who will be responsible for the classification of goods packed in plastics entering and exiting the country. The relevant activities pertinent to Division 1 are: Target 1 (1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5); Target 3 (3.2);

Target 8 (8.1, 8.3, 8.4); Target 10 (10.1); CCA 1 (CCA 1.3, 1.4). In addition, this division will also undertake monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the roadmap.

## **Division 2: Research & Development**

This division will be responsible for the following thematic areas: refuse, reuse and repurpose. The responsibilities of Division 2 will also include: (1) identification of problematic and non-essential plastics followed by a selection of a ‘first-layer’ of phase out plastic packaging; (2) assessing the availability of sustainable alternatives or practices; (3) set guidelines that promote eco-design packaging, as well as, reuse and recyclable packaging; (5) provide technical support to facilitate the transition from single use products to circular and sustainable commodities, including reusable and repurposed beverage containers; (6) establish technical specifications and national standards for recycled plastic products; (7) identify key non-recyclable plastic wastes; (8) assess the feasibility and environmental safeguards for Waste-to-Wealth (WtW) options; and (9) prioritise R&D projects as outlined in CCA 2.2. Therefore, the relevant activities pertinent to Division 2 are: Target 1 (1.4); Target 2 (2.1, 2.2) Target 4 (4.3); Target 8 (8.1); Target 9 (9.2); Target 10 (10.2); Target 11 (11.1, 11.3); CCA 2 (CCA 2.1, 2.2).

## **Division 3: Recycling & Circular Economy**

Currently, the Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD) operates under the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change and is tasked with the responsibility of ensuring proper management of solid and hazardous wastes, amongst others. In order to improve institutional efficiency, it is being proposed that the responsibilities relating to the management of plastic wastes be shared amongst: (i) the Division 3 of the DPM; (ii) the SWMD and (iii) Local Government.

Division 3 will be responsible for the following thematic areas: reuse, reduce, recycle and end-of-life. The responsibilities of Division 3 will also include: (1) expansion of plastic waste collection infrastructure; (2) phase wise collection of plastic waste; (3) identification and integration of informal waste collectors; (5) phase wise introduction of selected alternatives for plastic packaging; (6) identification of proposed list of products that will be governed by EPR; (7) Operationalise the PET bottle Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS); (8) Support the development of decentralised collection, cleaning and processing hubs; (9) Deploy washing and refilling infrastructure in strategic hubs. Therefore, the relevant activities pertinent to Division 3 are:

Target 2 (2.3); Target 3 (3.1, 3.2, 3.3) Target 4 (4.2, 4.5); Target 7 (7.2, 7.3); Target 9 (9.1, 9.3, 9.5); Target 10 (10.2); CCA 3 (3.1); and CCA 4 (4.5).

As described in Target 3, the Ministry of Local Government, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD), will continue to lead the implementation of the project for the setting up and operation of the upcoming Integrated Waste Processing Facilities (IWPF).

#### **Division 4: Education, Awareness & Behavioural Change**

This division will be responsible for the following thematic areas: knowledge, reuse, repurpose and recycle. The responsibilities of Division 4 will also include: (1) community-based plastic waste collection programs for the quantification of macro plastics; (2) roll out successful pilots at national level to promote success stories; (3) organise training for recyclers and local authorities; (5) organize training and awareness sessions at pre-primary, primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational levels ; (6) launch awareness campaigns targeting for communities; (7) train enforcement agencies and community leaders on plastic regulations and public engagement; (8) organise regular multi-stakeholder consultations. Therefore, the relevant activities pertinent to Division 4 are: Target 8 (8.2); Target 9 (9.4); Target 10 (10.3); CCA 1 (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5); CCA 2 (2.1) as well as, to the National Awareness and Education Programme.

**Division 5: Policy Development** This division will have the following responsibilities:

Oversee the proper functioning of the subcommittees based on their respective Terms of Reference (ToR).

Develop policies (as and when appropriate) for:

- phase wise reduction of single-use plastics, problematic and non-essential plastics
- phase wise collection of plastic wastes
- phase wise reduction of plastic packaging consumption
- phase wise percentage targets for the reduction of virgin plastic pellets
- phase wise targets for the end-of-life management of non-recyclable and contaminated plastic wastes
- incremental or phased EPR targets
- improving National Waste Management Plans

- look for possible funding avenues and liaise with donor agencies

Advise on:

- Public Procurement Office to integrate recycled plastics in their public procurement exercise
- the establishment of public and private partnerships
- possible financial and/or fiscal incentives towards supporting technologies and infrastructure investment

Therefore, the relevant activities pertinent to Division 5 are: Target 1 (1.1), Target 2 (2.3); Target 3 (3.3, 3.4); Target 4 (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5); Target 5 (5.1, 5.2); Target 6 (6.1, 6.2); Target 7 (7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.6); Target 8 (8.2); Target 9 (9.1, 9.2, 9.5, 9.6); Target 10 (10.1, 10.2); Target 11 (11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6); CCA 1 (1.1, 1.2, 1.5); CCA 2 (2.2); CCA 3 (3.1, 3.2); CCA 4 (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5), as well as, to the National Awareness and Education Programme.

### **Division 6: Monitoring & Enforcement**

The division provides the institutional capacity to enforce plastic-related laws and regulations properly—such as bans on single-use plastics, extended producer responsibility schemes, and compliance with international environmental obligations—which are essential to achieving policy goals like a plastic pollution-free Mauritius by 2030. It facilitates coordinated action among stakeholders, ensuring transparent data gathering, compliance monitoring, public awareness, and fostering sustainable practices within industry and communities. Without a dedicated division, enforcement would be scattered, limiting the government’s ability to track plastic flows, control illegal plastic waste disposal, and incentivize recycling and plastic reductions. Thus, a specialized Plastic Monitoring and Enforcement Division plays an essential role in safeguarding Mauritius's environment, public health, and economy by institutionalizing strong plastic waste management, reducing pollution, and supporting sustainable development goals.

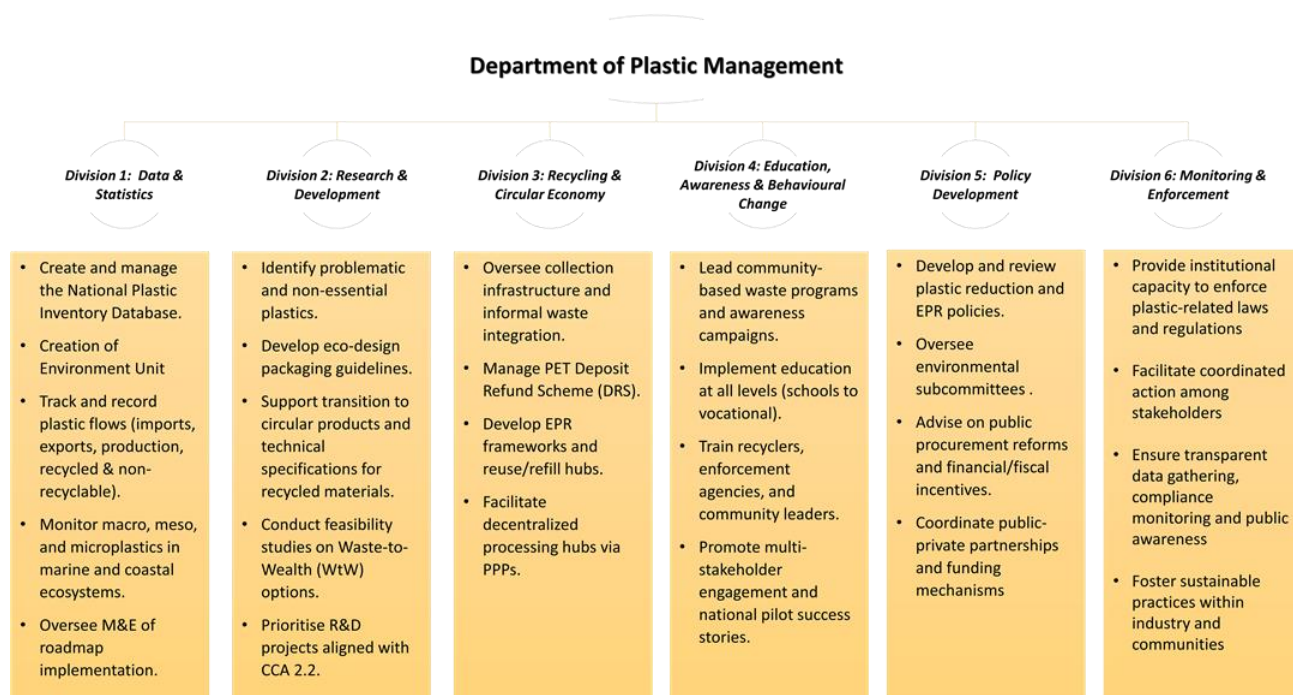
Therefore, the relevant activities pertinent to Division 6 are: Target 2 (2.3); Target 3 (3.2 3.3); Target 4 (4.2, 4.5); Target 6 (6.2); Target 7 (7.3, 7.5, 7.6); Target 8 (8.3); Target 9 (9.6); Target 11 (11.6); CCA 1 (1.4); CCA 4 (4.4), as well as, to the National Awareness and Education Programme.

Table 4.1. Indicative Interplay between divisional structure, targets, activities and thematic areas

Targets, Cross Cutting Areas and Thematic Areas		Divisions					
		Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4	Division 5	Division 6
Targets and Cross Cutting Actions (CCA)	Thematic Areas corresponding to each target	Data & Statistics	Research & Development	Recycling & Circular Economy	Education & Awareness	Policy Development	Monitoring & Enforcement
Targets		Activities corresponding to Targets & Divisions					
Target 1	Knowledge	1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5	1.4			1.1	
Target 2	Refuse		2.1, 2.2	2.3		2.3	2.3
Target 3	End of life	3.2		3.1, 3.2, 3.3		3.3, 3.4	3.2, 3.3
Target 4	Reduce		4.3	4.2, 4.5		4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5	4.2, 4.5
Target 5	Reduce					5.1, 5.2	
Target 6	Reduce					6.1, 6.2	6.2
Target 7	Reduce			7.2, 7.3		7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.6	7.3, 7.5, 7.6

<b>Target 8</b>	<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>8.1, 8.3, 8.4</b>	<b>8.1</b>		<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<b>Target 9</b>	<b>Reuse/Repurpose</b>		<b>9.2</b>	<b>9.1, 9.3, 9.5</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>9.1, 9.2, 9.5, 9.6</b>	<b>9.6</b>
<b>Target 10</b>	<b>Recycle</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>10.1, 10.2</b>	
<b>Target 11</b>	<b>End of life</b>		<b>11.1, 11.3</b>			<b>11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6</b>	<b>11.6</b>
<b>Cross-Cutting Actions (CCAs)</b>	<b>Supports all Thematic areas</b>	<b>Activities corresponding Cross Cutting actions &amp; Divisions</b>					
<b>CCA1</b>		<b>1.3, 1.4</b>			<b>1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5</b>	<b>1.1, 1.2, 1.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>CCA2</b>			<b>2.1, 2.2</b>		<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>	
<b>CCA3</b>				<b>3.1</b>		<b>3.1, 3.2</b>	
<b>CCA4</b>				<b>4.5</b>		<b>4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>

## Organigram of the Department of Plastic Management



### 4.6 ENABLING POLICIES

Enabling policies constitute the set of legislations, regulations and support system that will facilitate the implementation of the targets and related activities. For specifically, these will include:

- Plastic Governance and Control Act
- The Plastic Governance and Control (Control of Single Use Plastic Products and Plastic Bags) Regulations
- The Governance and Control (Extended Producer Responsibility-Plastic Packaging) Regulations
- The National Awareness and Education Programme -NAEP
- Any international/regional treaties endorsed by Government

#### Plastic Governance and Control Act

The Government of Mauritius is engaged in a comprehensive, multi-faceted strategy to tackle plastic pollution. The National Strategy Plan on Plastic serves as a key operational document designed to assist government agencies and stakeholders in understanding their roles and

responsibilities in addressing this complex issue, with an emphasis on a coordinated, multi-agency approach.

However, due to the cross-cutting nature of plastic management—which intersects with numerous economic sectors and national priorities—a more robust and integrated framework is required. This highlights the need for a dedicated Plastic Governance and Control Act.

The Plastic Governance and Control Act would establish a long-term, overarching legislative and institutional framework to provide clear direction, strategic guidance, effective coordination, and high-level political support. This framework is essential to mainstream plastic management across sectors and to ensure the successful implementation of measures to combat plastic pollution. All the plastic-related provisions (including the PMC) which are currently referred to in the Environment Act 2024 will be transferred to the Plastic Governance and Control Act.

In addition to institutionalising the Department of Plastic Management, the Act will also serve to:

- **Demonstrate Government Commitment:** to address its vulnerability to the harmful effects of plastic pollution, which poses significant risks to several key economic sectors;
- **Enhance International Credibility and Funding Opportunities:** to send a strong signal to the international community regarding Mauritius’s proactive stance, thereby enhancing credibility and increasing the country’s eligibility for funding from institutions such as IUCN, IOC, EU, UNDP-GEF SGP, AFD, bilateral donors and future funding mechanisms under the proposed Global Plastic Treaty; and
- **Strengthen National Plastic Governance:** Provide a robust legal and policy tool to guide national efforts on plastic pollution. Moreover, it will support Mauritius in aligning with, and fulfilling, the expected requirements of the forthcoming Global Plastics Treaty.

All relevant regulations proposed hereunder will be developed under the Plastic Governance and Control Act:

#### **I. Legal Instrument: The Plastic Governance and Control (Control of Single Use Plastic Products and Plastic Bags) Regulations [Year]**

Mauritius currently regulates single-use plastics (SUPPs) and plastic bags through several separate laws, which has led to fragmented enforcement, overlapping obligations, and regulatory loopholes. The proposed solution is to adopt a single overarching regulation covering all disposable plastics, including plastic bags, to create a uniform, coherent, and enforceable system.

A unified regulation would broaden coverage by consolidating plastic bag controls within the SUPP framework. This would align with National Strategic Plan (NSP) Target 2 on phasing out problematic plastics based on feasibility. It would also standardise criteria for biodegradable and compostable plastics by requiring proof of biodegradation under recognised technical standards such as AS 5810 and BS EN 17427, while ensuring that the list of prohibited polymers remains adaptable to new market developments.

Centralising monitoring systems by creating a single traceability database (in line with NSP Target 1) would reduce duplication and data gaps. Enforcement could be strengthened through administrative sanctions, licence suspensions, risk-based inspections, and mandatory reporting from entities that sign the voluntary Plastic Reduction Pledge (Target 5).

A harmonised regulation would also support evidence-based decision-making. The Department of Plastic Management would lead research, define terminology, evaluate alternative materials through life-cycle assessments, and promote multi-sector collaboration through existing NSP committees.

## **II. Legal Instrument: The Plastic Governance and Control (Extended Producer Responsibility- Plastic Packaging) Regulations [Year]**

Introducing an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulation for plastic packaging would represent a major reform in Mauritius' approach to plastic pollution. EPR would legally require producers—including retailers, importers, exporters and quasi-producers—to finance and manage the environmental impacts of the plastic packaging they introduce into the market. This transition must be gradual and based on robust research, requiring baseline assessments of plastic flows, recycling capacity, socioeconomic effects and viable alternatives before implementation.

EPR should cover the full lifecycle of packaging, from design and production to consumption and post-consumer management. It must address all forms of packaging—primary, secondary, tertiary and reusable systems. Before developing the scheme, government must identify which

sectors are technically and financially capable of complying, as well as determine the specific products to be regulated. These preparatory activities align with Target 7 of the National Strategic Plan.

Effective enforcement would rely on a producer registry linked to customs data, mandatory audits and transparent reporting, risk-based inspections and administrative sanctions such as licence suspension or revocation for non-compliance. Successful EPR also depends on adequate waste management infrastructure. Fees paid under EPR should finance systems such as national deposit-return schemes, local recycling plants (e.g., r-PET), reuse logistics, and compostable waste treatment where scientifically justified. Implementation requires collaboration across producers, municipalities, recyclers, NGOs and consumers, with NSP committees serving as the governance platform. Early planning is essential to enable effective rollout before 2035.

### **National Awareness and Education Programme (NAEP)**

The National Awareness and Education Programme (NAEP) is the underlying support mechanism that pervades and nurtures each of the 11 targets. The NAEP has two key objectives: the first is to raise public awareness of the environmental, health, and socio-economic risks associated with plastics, including microplastics in food and water, marine ecosystem degradation, and negative impacts on tourism; and the second to promote the widespread adoption of reusable and recyclable alternatives by ensuring their affordability and accessibility, while institutionalising waste sorting and sustainable practices in schools, places of worship, communities, and institutions as visible models for society. The programme therefore aspires to foster meaningful and lasting behavioural change by embedding sustainability principles into educational curricula, community initiatives, and cultural practices. Moreover, it is designed to align Mauritius with regional and global frameworks, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 12, 13, and 14), and key initiatives led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Indian Ocean Commission. More details are provided in the NAEP Report.

## 5 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION PLAN

The Resource Mobilisation Plan (RMP) provides a budget at national level which mobilizes financial resources across manpower, R&D and CAPEX requirements. The financial and technical support required for the implementation of the roadmap may be partly or jointly funded under The ExPLOI Project (2024–2029). The ExPLOI Project is led by the Indian Ocean Commission and aims at tackling marine plastic pollution in Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Comoros by combining science, education, policy, and local action. It also focuses on improving knowledge of plastic flows and impacts, raising public awareness through campaigns and training, supporting national and international policies (including the UN plastics treaty), and engaging the private sector through platforms and dialogue. At the local level, it launches calls for projects on circular economy solutions, offering technical and financial support for initiatives in reduction, reuse, sorting, and recycling. Overall, the project seeks to build a regional circular economy while reducing plastic leakage into the Indian Ocean. Other sources of funding would include: IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), National Budget for 2026-2027, IOC, MRIC, HEC, UNDP, EU-Climate Fund, Plastic Transition Fund, AFD, HRDC, green loans, etc.

### 5.1 Budget

Budget for the first 5 years of the NSP/Roadmap					
Targets	Human Resource (MUR)	Research & Development (including trainings and workshops) (MUR)	CAPEX (MUR)	Total (MUR)	Potential sources of funding
<b>Target 1: Creation of an inventory database and monitoring mechanism for all entries</b>	78,000,000	600000.00	1000000.00	13.6M	IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), National Budget for 2026-2027, IOC, MRIC
<b>Target 2: Phase out all non-essential and problematic Single-Use Plastics (SUSUP)</b>	30,600,000	11200000.00	0.00	11.2M	National Budget 2026-2027, MRIC, HEC, IOC, UNDP, EU-Climate Fund

<b>Target 3: Achieve at least 80% effective collection of plastic wastes by 2030</b>	192,200,000	600000.00	80000000.00	161.6M	National Budget 2026-2027, CSR funds
<b>Target 4: Reduce plastic packaging consumption by 50% by 2030 (25% by 2027).</b>	1,200,000	1500000.00	0.00	2.1M	National Budget 2026-2027, MRIC, HEC, IOC, UNDP, EU, Plastic Transition Fund
<b>Target 5: Reduce Plastic Use and Waste in Manufacturing, Industrial and Service Sectors by 30% by 2035</b>	30,000,000	0.00	0.00	30M	National Budget 2026-2027, IOC, Plastic Transition Fund, green loans, CSR funds
<b>Target 6: Reducing, where possible, the imports of virgin plastic pellets</b>	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Target 7: Formalise producer accountability through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes by 2035.</b>	600,000	0.00	0.00	0.6M	National Budget 2026-2027, private sector, IOC, HRDC
<b>Target 8: Baseline studies in the marine environment and coastal ecosystem on macro, meso and micro plastics</b>	0	2000000.00	0.00	2M	National Budget 2026-2027, IOC, MRIC, HEC, UNDP, GEF SGP UNDP, AFD
<b>Target 9: Reuse and repurpose durable plastic products</b>	600,000	0.00	0.00	0.6M	National Budget 2026-2027, private sector

<b>Target 10: Adopt a phased approach towards building plastic waste recycling capacity</b>	600,000	10600000.00	0.00	11.2M	National Budget 2026-2027, IOC, MRIC, HEC, UNDP, GEF SGP UNDP, AFD, ISLANDPlas, private sector, HRDC, green loans, CSR funds
<b>Target 11: Environmentally sound end-of-life management for non-recyclable and contaminated plastic wastes</b>	1,800,000	0.00	0.00	1.8M	National Budget 2026-2027, IOC, MRIC, HEC, UNDP, GEF SGP UNDP, AFD, ISLANDPlas, private sector, green loans
<b>CCA 1 – Education, Awareness &amp; Behavioural Change</b>	1,300,000	6800000.00	1000000.00	8.2M	National Budget 2026-2027, IOC, MRIC, HEC, UNDP, GEF SGP UNDP, AFD, ISLANDPlas, private sector, HRDC, NGOs, CSR funds
<b>CCA 2 – Research, Innovation &amp; Data</b>	0	10000000.00	0.00	10M	National Budget 2026-2027, IOC, MRIC, HEC, UNDP, GEF SGP UNDP, AFD, ISLANDPlas
<b>CCA 3 – Financing Mechanisms &amp; Economic Instruments</b>	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	All of the above
<b>CCA 4 – Governance, Coordination &amp; Legal Framework</b>	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total budget for Targets and CCAs without funds associated with creation of Department of Plastic Management (DPM) (MUR)</b>				<b>252.9M</b>	
<b>Funds required for creating the Department of Plastic Management (3 divisions and 5 subcommittees) (MUR)</b>				<b>90M</b>	
<b>Total budget including creation of DPM (MUR)</b>				<b>342.9M</b>	
<b>Plastic Transition Fund (20% of MUR 342.9M) (MUR)</b>				<b>68.58M</b>	
<b>Total Funding for implementation of the roadmap (MUR)</b>				<b>411.48M</b>	

The total budget for the implementation of the 10-year NSP/Roadmap is estimated at MUR 626.4M. This includes a total budget of MUR 342M allocated for the 11 targets and 4 Cross-

Cutting Actions (CCAs), excluding funds associated with the creation of the Department of Plastic Management. The creation of the DPM, comprising six divisions and five subcommittees, requires an additional MUR 180M, bringing the total budget to MUR 522M. A Plastic Transition Fund (MUR 104.4M) equivalent to 20% of MUR 522M is also proposed to support private sector’s gradual transition to the implementation of the roadmap. The budget and implementation timeline are aligned with the Circular Economy Roadmap (2023) and distributed across a 10-year timeframe (2026–2035) corresponding to the set activities under the 11 targets and 4 CCAs. Detailed assumptions and activity-based costing are provided in Annex 1 of the NSP. Funding sources include the National Budget 2026–2027, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC), Higher Education Commission (HEC), UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme, AFD, IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), ISLANDPlas, EU-Climate Fund, HRDC, green loans, and private sector contributions.

The estimated budget over the 10-year period is summarised below:

<b>Total budget for Targets and CCAs without funds associated with creation of Department of Plastic Management (DPM) (MUR)</b>	<b>342M</b>
<b>Funds required for creating the Department of Plastic Management (6 divisions and 5 subcommittees) (MUR)</b>	<b>180M</b>
<b>Total budget including creation of DPM (MUR)</b>	<b>522M</b>
<b>Plastic Transition Fund (20% of MUR 522M) (MUR)</b>	<b>104.4M</b>
<b>Total Funding for implementation of the roadmap (MUR)</b>	<b>626.4M</b>

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

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### 6.1 NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR A PLASTIC POLLUTION-FREE MAURITIUS (2026–2035)

The National Strategic Plan (NSP) for a Plastic Pollution-Free Mauritius is the result of a participatory process involving public authorities, private sector stakeholders, academia, civil society, and international institutions. This collective effort lays the foundation for a transition toward a more circular, resource-efficient, and resilient society in the face of environmental challenges. It is based on a shared diagnosis: the urgent need to rethink how we produce, consume, and manage plastics in order to protect ecosystems, improve quality of life, and strengthen the country’s strategic autonomy.

This roadmap also builds upon other major national initiatives, notably the Circular Economy Roadmap adopted in 2023. Ensuring alignment and synergy between both plans is essential to accelerate the transition, avoid redundancies, and strengthen the coherence of Mauritius’ sustainable development trajectory.

Rather than a fixed or perfect document, this plan is a foundational framework — one to be refined, shared, and adopted collectively. It proposes clear objectives by 2035 and a systemic approach rooted in circular economy principles, particularly the *4Rs*: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. It calls for harnessing local strengths — NGOs, businesses, administrations — and building on the many initiatives already underway across the country.

### 6.2 KNOWLEDGE AS A CORNERSTONE FOR ACTION

One of the major challenges in developing this plan was building the National Source Inventory (NSI). Although essential for establishing a reliable diagnostic, data collection faced numerous obstacles: conflicting figures across institutions, lack of responses to official requests, and in some cases, the total absence of data on key plastic flows (e.g., packaging, polymers, end-use sectors).

This underlines the need for a harmonized, accessible, and consistent information system that tracks plastics across their entire lifecycle — from importation and transformation to consumption and end-of-life. The successful implementation of the roadmap depends on the availability and access to plastic data flows given that *‘what gets measured, gets managed’*.

### **6.3 REFUSE: THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION**

The first “R” of the circular economy — Refuse — is central. It means eliminating problematic and unnecessary plastics, particularly those that are difficult to recycle or for which viable alternatives already exist. For example, the immediate ban of OXO-degradable plastics from 2025 is justified, as these materials — falsely marketed as biodegradable — are banned in the EU due to their non-bio-assimilable nature.

Likewise, PLA (polylactic acid), often presented as a green alternative, lacks a viable end-of-life solution in Mauritius due to the absence of industrial composting infrastructure. Its use should be strictly regulated. The same goes for excessive and unnecessary packaging, such as plastic wrapping of produce with natural protection or redundant secondary packaging. One particularly emblematic example is the plastic packaging frequently found around fresh coconuts — a product which is naturally protected and traditionally sold without any synthetic wrapping. Such practices are both ecologically harmful and symbolically inconsistent with the country’s move toward sustainability. Refusing these kinds of excessive and damaging uses of plastic is a cultural and economic imperative for Mauritius.

### **6.4 REDUCE: CUTTING THE FLOW AT THE SOURCE AND ENSURING FULL ACCOUNTABILITY**

The second “R” — Reduce — focuses on the most impactful action in the fight against plastic pollution: cutting the inflow of plastic at the source. This requires a systemic reduction in packaging volumes and plastic waste generation, even the reduction of virgin plastic imports. Redesigning products and eliminating unnecessary packaging are essential to limiting the volume of plastic entering the economy.

However, reducing quantities alone is not enough — what truly matters is capturing and managing all plastic flows across their lifecycle. This will require the effective rollout of source separation and the implementation of a comprehensive Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme. These measures will ensure that all market players take full responsibility for the plastics they place on the Mauritian market — not only preventing environmental leakage, but also guaranteeing their proper end-of-life treatment.

By internalising responsibility through EPR, producers and importers, supported by licenced PROs, will be compelled to minimise waste at the design stage and contribute to the

infrastructure needed for collection, sorting, and recycling. This structural shift will reinforce the foundations of a circular plastics economy and help align national plastic flows with Mauritius' long-term environmental goals.

## **6.5 REUSE: BUILDING ON EXISTING STRENGTHS TO SCALE UP**

The third “R” — Reuse — calls for a systemic shift toward packaging and product systems that are designed to be used multiple times. In Mauritius, reuse is not a new concept. The country has a long-standing and effective depositrefund system (DRS) in place for certain beverage containers, which has operated for decades. This system represents a valuable local success that demonstrates both the feasibility and cultural acceptance of reuse models. The country needs to build on this success by expanding reuse systems to other types of packaging — including household, commercial, and takeaway formats. This expansion will require opening the system to new players through shared logistics, pooling of washing infrastructure, and enabling regulatory frameworks. By creating the conditions for collaboration and economies of scale, Mauritius can facilitate access to reuse systems for SMEs and innovators whilst reducing costs for consumers and equally if not more importantly reducing our dependence on single-use plastics, which will ease pressure on our waste collection and disposal systems.

## **6.6 RECYCLE: UNLOCKING VALUE THROUGH CLEAN AND TRACEABLE FLOWS**

The fourth “R” — Recycle — remains a critical pillar in closing the loop on plastic waste. While Mauritius has an installed recycling capacity of around 5,000 tonnes per year, only about 2,500 tonnes are currently recycled due to the diffuse nature of plastic flows, limited source separation, and insufficient market demand for recycled products.

To address this shortcoming, the country must operationalize mandatory source separation, starting with a first regulatory phase targeting businesses and commercial generators, followed by a second phase covering households, which will kick off once Integrated Waste Processing Facilities (IWPFs) become operational. This phased approach will be essential to collect cleaner and more homogeneous plastic streams, which are a prerequisite for efficient recycling.

In parallel, it will be crucial to invest in washing plastic hubs — facilities that can clean, sort, and prepare post-consumer plastics to meet the quality standards required by recycling industries. Without such pre-treatment infrastructure, collected plastics often remain unrecyclable.

Finally, Mauritius must also reinforce both downstream processing capacity and market outlets for recycled plastics — through support to local transformation units, green procurement policies, and fiscal incentives that stimulate demand for recycled content. Without stable and scalable end-markets, even well-sorted plastics risk ending up in landfills or exported at low value.

## **6.7 END-OF-LIFE PLASTICS: MANAGING WHAT CANNOT BE RECYCLED**

Not all plastics can or should be recycled. For those that are too contaminated, too degraded, or technically non-recyclable — such as multilayer composites, heavily soiled packaging, or certain sanitary items — Mauritius must implement sound, traceable end-of-life solutions.

It is therefore essential to capture these residual plastic wastes effectively, ensuring they do not leak into the environment. The country will need to define, through both political and technical decisions, the most appropriate treatment options: this may include engineered landfilling or energy recovery through safe and regulated processes. These choices must be based on environmental impact assessments, infrastructure capacity, and economic viability.

What matters most is to guarantee that these non-recyclable plastics do not end up in the natural environment, where they would continue to pollute ecosystems for decades. By securing safe and monitored disposal routes, Mauritius can complete the loop on plastic flows and uphold the principle of environmental responsibility — even for the most difficult fractions.

## **6.8 CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS: ENABLERS OF SYSTEMIC CHANGE**

To ensure the success of the roadmap, four cross-cutting components have been integrated as fundamental enablers of systemic change. Communication and public awareness play a central role in fostering behavioural shifts and building a shared culture of responsibility around plastic use and disposal. At the same time, research, data generation, and innovation are essential to inform evidence-based decisions and continuously adapt to emerging challenges.

Equally important are the financial instruments that will support this transition — including a proposed Plastic Transition Fund — designed to foster innovation through research funding, whilst at the same time, alleviating the investment burden for local businesses in adopting sustainable environmentally-friendly business processes and practices.

Mauritius is not alone in facing these challenges. Across the globe, countries are grappling with the same urgent need to curb plastic pollution and shift toward more sustainable systems. The strength of Mauritius lies in its ability to mobilise support, exchange knowledge, and collaborate with international and regional partners. This roadmap provides the structure through which such partnerships can be deepened and translated into local impact.

While the roadmap sets clear objectives, it must be acknowledged that its indicators will inevitably be challenged and are open to debate. Nevertheless, this should not deter Mauritius from taking bold and necessary political decisions to move forward. What matters most is to ensure that the transition is accompanied through dialogue, transparency, and inclusive consultation.

By aligning around the 4Rs — Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle — and ensuring proper end-of-life treatment, the roadmap provides a vision of a more circular, resource-efficient, and resilient society.

To conclude, this roadmap sets a clear and pragmatic course toward a plastic pollution-free Mauritius, anchored in the principles of circular economy. It mobilises the strengths of the country — its institutions, industries, civil society, and international partners — and offers a concrete framework to drastically reduce plastic leakage into the environment.

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## 7 APPENDIX

### 7.1 PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

To support informed material substitution, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has conducted a series of LCA meta-studies on commonly used single-use plastic products. These studies evaluate the environmental performance of various alternative materials and systems across key product categories. The table below synthesizes these findings, highlighting preferred alternatives and the conditions under which they outperform conventional plastics, based on global best practices and waste management contexts.

*Table 7.1. Alternatives to plastics based on UNEP Life Cycle Assessment recommendations*

<b>Product/Application</b>	<b>Recommended plastic alternatives</b>	<b>Conditions for preference</b>
<b>Shopping bags</b>	Reusable bags made from LDPE, non-woven polypropylene, or cotton	Must be reused multiple times: LDPE (4-8 times), PP (10-20 times), cotton (50-175 times); depends on waste systems
<b>Bottled beverages</b>	Returnable plastic or glass bottles	Effective if reverse logistics and washing are energy-efficient with short return distances
<b>Drinking water</b>	Tap water in reusable containers; returnable or rPET bottles when tap water is unsafe	Tap water preferred where available; otherwise choose bottles with recycled content or return systems
<b>Takeaway food packaging</b>	Reusable containers made of PP or glass; single-use paper/cardboard where reuse is not feasible	Reusables preferred if used $\geq 20$ times; single-use acceptable only with good recycling or composting systems

<b>Beverage cups</b>	Reusable cups made from ceramic, stainless steel, PP, glass, or bamboo	Preferable when reused enough times and washed efficiently; single-use cups have similar impacts regardless of material
<b>Tableware</b>	Reusable cutlery and crockery made from any durable material	Always preferred; requires access to return/washing facilities and consumer willingness to reuse
<b>Baby nappies</b>	Reusable cloth nappies	Must be washed at low temperatures, air dried, and reused over long periods or across multiple children
<b>Menstrual products</b>	Reusable menstrual cups, cloth pads, or absorbent underwear	Recommended when hygiene infrastructure is adequate and culturally acceptable
<b>Face masks</b>	Reusable masks that meet filtration standards ( $\geq 70\%$ ) and are properly washed	Must be washed in full loads and reused as per product guidelines; suitable for general public use
<b>Food packaging (Retail)</b>	Packaging with high recycled content or returnable systems; minimize unnecessary packaging	Match packaging function with food type (e.g., shelf life); consider compostable bio-based materials where applicable

## 7.2 CHEMICALS OF CONCERN

Table 7.2. Chemicals of concern

Chemical Class	Examples	Types of Plastics	Uses	Associated Concerns
<b>Flame Retardants (FRs)</b>	<p>BFRs: Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs)<sup>1</sup>, Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD)<sup>1,24</sup>, Decabromobisphenol A (TBBPA), Decabromodiphenyl ether(decaBDE)<sup>1,2,4</sup> Dechlorane plus<sup>1,3,4</sup> (<b>very High concern</b>, (Dceewgov.au, 2025), Polybromobiphenyls (PBB), Hexabromobenzene (HBB)<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Short &amp; medium chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs<sup>1,2,4</sup> &amp; MCCPs<sup>3,4</sup>) (<b>very High concern</b>, (Dceewgov.au, 2025), <b>Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)</b>)</p>	ABS, PU, PS, PP, PE, SAN, ASA, PVC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce flammability in plastic products</li> <li>They are used in foams, polystyrenes, and epoxy resins in electronics plastic casings, building materials, carpets textiles, children toys (Endocrine society, 2020)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children ingest bromine FRs from mouthing toys made from recycled plastics (endocrine society, 2020).</li> <li>Leach from products and are present in household dust (Endocrine society, 2020).</li> <li>Processing of plastic waste is a significant source of BFR (Endocrine society, 2020).</li> <li>Endocrine disruptors, neurotoxic, reproductive toxicants, carcinogenic; associated with reduced IQ in children (UNEP 2023 (Endocrine society, 2020).</li> <li>Persistent in the environment, bio-accumulate in food chain,</li> <li>And have the potential for long-range transportation (UNEP, 2025)</li> </ul>
<b>Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs)</b>	<p>Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)<sup>2</sup>, Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)<sup>2</sup>, Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)<sup>2</sup>, Perfluoroalkyl carboxylic acids (PFCAs)<sup>3</sup></p>	PTFE, HDPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-stick coatings, plastic containers use for cleaners, pesticides, cosmetics; food contact wrappers (Endocrine Society, 2020)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PFAS leaches into water systems from PFAS containing waste in landfills contaminating tap and ground water (Endocrine Society, 2020)</li> <li>Leaches from plastic wrappers and cookware into our food (Endocrine Society, 2020)</li> <li>Endocrine disruption, development toxicity, carcinogenic (UNEP, 2023)</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adsorbed on microplastics generated during recycling or disposal leading to ‘Forever Chemicals’ which are highly persistent (UNEP, 2023)</li> <li>• Reproductive toxicity, Carcinogenic (Endocrine Society, 2020)</li> </ul>
<b>Phthalates (Plasticizers)</b>	Benzylbutyl phthalate (BBP) <sup>1</sup> , Diisobutyl phthalate (DIP), Diethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP) <sup>1</sup> , Dibutyl phthalates (DBP) <sup>1</sup> , Diphenyl phthalates (DPP)	PVC, PET, PVA, PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemical additive promote flexibility and reduce brittleness in plastics (Endocrine society, 2020).</li> <li>• Use as plasticizers of fillers food, beverage packaging &amp; children toys, medical devices e.g DEHP use in medical plastic tubing (Endocrine Society, 2020)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Release in environment during plastic life cycle (UNEP, 2023), persistence in the environment (Hahladakis et al., 2018)</li> <li>• Migrate from packaging materials into food and water (Endocrine Society, 2020)</li> <li>• DEHP migrate from medical PVC tubing to patients (Endocrine Society, 2020)</li> <li>• Reproductive toxicity, carcinogenic, mutagenic, endocrine disruptors associated with diabetes, obesity (UNEP, 2023, Endocrine Society, 2020)</li> <li>• High aquatic toxicity (Dccee.gov.au, 2025)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Bisphenols</b> (very High concern (Dccee.gov.au, 2025))	Bisphenol A <sup>1,4</sup> Bisphenol S, Bisphenol F	PVC, PC, PET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used in polycarbonate plastics and epoxy resins (endocrine society, 2020)</li> <li>• Food &amp; beverage containers, water bottles, linings of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration from food containers into food, leaching into food and environment, landfills (UNEP 2023, Endocrine society, 2020)</li> <li>• Endocrine disruption, mutagenic, reproductive toxicity (UNEP, 2023)</li> <li>• High aquatic toxicity (Dccee.gov.au, 2025)</li> <li>• Hormone-related cancers Endocrine society, 2020)</li> </ul>

			food cans, medical & sports equipment (endocrine society, 2020)	
<b>Alkylphenols &amp; Alkylphenol Ethoxylates (very High concern)</b> (Dceewgov.au, 2025)	Nonylphenol <sup>1,4</sup> , Nonylphenol ethoxylates	PS, PVC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use as UV stabilizers in plastics, heat stabilizers in PVC water pipes (Endocrine society, 2020)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leach from plastics bottle into water (UNEP 2023)</li> <li>Endocrine disruption in human and aquatic organisms UNEP 2023, Dceewgov.au, 2025)</li> <li>Fertility reduction, carcinogenic, mutagenic (Endocrine society, 2020)</li> </ul>
<b>Biocides</b>	Organotin compounds, Arsenic compounds, triclosan, Quarternary ammonium compounds (QACs)	PC, PVC, PU foams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Functional additives Used as disinfectants, insecticides, preservatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential skin/eye irritation, Endocrine-disruption (UNEP 2023)</li> <li>Toxic, carcinogenic, environmental hazards (Hahladakis et al., 2018)</li> </ul>
<b>UV Stabilizers</b>	UV-328 <sup>1,3,4</sup> , Benzophenones (BPs), Benzotriazoles (BzTs)	PVC, PU, ABS, SAN, ASA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevent degradation from sunlight in packaging, plastic building materials &amp; automotive parts (Endocrine society, 2020)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leach from food packaging materials into our food; Allergenic (UNEP 2023).</li> <li>Toxic to aquatic organisms (UNEP 2023).</li> <li>Highly persistent, bio-accumulative</li> <li>Endocrine disruption (Endocrine society, 2020)</li> </ul>
<b>Toxic Heavy Metals</b>	Lead (Pb), Tetralead sulphate (TTS) <sup>1,4</sup> , Arsenic (As), Cadmium (Cd), Tin (Sn), Zinc (Zn), Antimony Trioxide (Sb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> )	PVC, PET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stabilizers, pigments, catalysts; found in toys, electronics, bottles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toxic to humans and aquatic</li> <li>Carcinogenic, mutagenic, reprotoxic (UNEP 2023)</li> <li>Environmental release of Hg &amp; Cd from toys (UNEP 2023)</li> <li>Occupational exposure during production and recycling (UNEP 2023)</li> <li>Linked to organ damage</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaching from packaging</li> <li>Sb leach from PET bottles into water and other beverages (Xu et al. 2021)</li> </ul>
<b>Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)</b>	Carbon black, extender oils, benzo[a]pyrene, naphthalene Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	PVC, HDPE, PE, PP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added as additives during the production and manufacturing stages of plastics (Alassali et al. 2020).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carcinogenic and mutagenic characteristics, reproductive toxicity (UNEP 2023).</li> <li>Higher level in recycled plastics waste rather than primary plastics (Alassali et al. 2020).</li> <li>Toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic, Persistent, bio-accumulative and environmentally hazardous (Alassali et al. 2020).</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Intentionally Added Substances (NIAS)</b>	Volatile Organic compounds (VOCs), Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins, Polybrominated and dibenzofurans (PCDD/Fs) <sup>2</sup> , Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) <sup>2</sup> , Polybrominated dibenzo-p-dioxins and furans (PBDD/Fs)	HDPE, LDPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dioxins are released during the production of plastic products with BFRs and or when these plastics are incinerated or heated in a recycling process to be re-molded into new products, Children mouthing toys made from recycled plastics (Endocrine Society, 2020. )</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dioxins, are toxic, fat soluble &amp; accumulate in animal and human fatty tissues (Endocrine Society, 2020)</li> <li>migrate into food and drink, particularly during microwave heating (UNEP, 2023)</li> <li>Dioxin exposures affect brain development, immune system functions, Carcinogenic (Endocrine Society, 2020).</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Substitute It Now (SIN) List

<sup>2</sup> Chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention

<sup>3</sup> Chemicals to be listed under the Stockholm Convention or under other list

<sup>4</sup> Chemicals of highly concern

### 7.3 RECYCLING PLASTIC-COATED PAPER: CHALLENGES AND POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

Paper containers are typically made from paperboard, a material derived from cellulose, which is recyclable. These paper containers, such as cups, bowls, boxes, and food takeout packaging, often require linings to provide moisture, grease, and heat resistance, or to make them suitable for food contact. The type of lining affects how the container performs, how it's disposed of, and whether it can be recycled or composted. To make them resistant to moisture and leakage—especially for food and beverage use—these containers are often coated with a thin layer of plastic or wax. This coating complicates the recycling process, as it must be separated from the paperboard through specialized procedures. It is only once the coating is removed that the remaining paperboard can be recycled into new products such as cardboard boxes, paper towels, or newsprint.

Here are the most common types of linings/coatings (plastic or wax or aluminium) in paper containers:

#### 1. Polyethylene (PE) Lining

- **Material:** Plastic (usually low-density polyethylene)
- **Use:** Hot and cold drink cups, food containers
- **Pros:** Good moisture and heat resistance
- **Cons:** Difficult to recycle (PE-coated paper often goes to landfill), not compostable

#### 2. Polylactic Acid (PLA) Lining

- **Material:** Bioplastic made from renewable resources like corn starch
- **Use:** Compostable cups and food containers
- **Pros:** Compostable in industrial facilities, plant-based
- **Cons:** Requires specific conditions for composting (not home-compostable), limited recycling options

#### 3. Aqueous (Water-Based) Coating

- **Material:** Water-based polymer or resin
- **Use:** Cups and containers marketed as eco-friendly

- **Pros:** Recyclable and compostable (under right conditions), less plastic
- **Cons:** Still evolving; not always universally accepted in recycling streams

#### 4. Wax Coating (EPA, 2020, CalRecycle ((2021)

- **Material:** Paraffin or Natural or Vegetable-Based Waxes e.g soy-based wax ( more environmentally friendly
- **Use:** Ice cream cartons, food trays, butcher paper.
- **Pros:** Moisture and grease resistance
- **Cons:** Some are compostable in industrial composting facilities, often not recyclable, can clog recycling machinery; can contaminate recycling streams due to its resistance to water in pulping processes.

#### 5. Aluminum Foil Lining

- **Material:** Thin aluminum layer
- **Use:** Specialty food containers needing high barrier (e.g., ovenable trays)
- **Pros:** Excellent barrier against moisture, oxygen, and light
- **Cons:** Not recyclable with regular paper; separation needed

#### 6. Grease-Resistant (Fluorochemical or PFAS) Coating

- **Material:** Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) or alternatives
- **Use:** Fast food wrappers, burger boxes
- **Pros:** Strong oil/grease resistance
- **Cons:** Environmental and health concerns with PFAS; increasingly being phased out

### Recycling Challenges of Coated Paper Containers

- **Separation Complexity:** Plastic-coated paper requires specialized processing (e.g., hydro pulping which uses water and agitation to break down paper fibres and isolate contaminants like plastic or wax to separate the plastic from the cellulose fibres (EPA, 2021). Where facilities do exist, the recovered fibres can be repurposed into new products such as **cardboard boxes, paper towels, or newsprint** (Waste Management, 2023).
- **Inadequate Infrastructure:** These processes are not universally available, limiting the recyclability of coated paper products in many municipal systems [Recycling Partnership (2023)]. Many municipalities lack the infrastructure or funding to recycle these materials, leading to their disposal in landfills or incinerators.

- **Inadequate labelling and guidance:** Inconsistent labelling and local rules lead to improper disposal, contamination of recycling streams, and reduced material recovery.

### **General Guidelines for Plastic Content in Paper Packaging**

- **European Union (UK context):** The On-Pack Recycling Label (OPRL) indicates that paperboard packaging can contain up to **15% plastic** and still be considered recyclable. However, as of January 2023, this limit is set to decrease to **10%** plastic content, (Packaging News, 2020).
- **Confederation of Paper Industries (UK):** Recommends that components such as laminates, coatings, inks, varnishes, and adhesives should be limited to a maximum of **10%** of the packaging's weight. An aspirational goal is to reduce this to **5%** (Parkinson (2022)).
- **German Packaging Regulations:** In Germany, packaging with up to **20% plastic content** is still considered part of the paper recycling stream, depending on the specific materials and local recycling capabilities (Pacoon. (n.d.)).

## **7.4 LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS**

### **Public Institutions and Government Agencies**

- Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (MOESWMCC)
  - Environment Division
  - Plastic Division
  - Plastic Management Committee
  - Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD)
- Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA)
- Statistics Mauritius
- Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology
- Ministry of Health and Wellness
- State Law Office (SLO)
- Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (MOFED)
- Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives
- Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection
- Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries

### **Academic and Research Institutions**

- University of Mauritius (UoM)

- Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC)
- Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC)
- Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI)
- Agricultural and Food Research Council (AFRC)
- Mauritius Sugarcane Industry Research Institute (MSIRI)
- Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)
- Centre International de Développement Pharmaceutique (CIDP)
- La Turbine

#### **Specialised and Technical Agencies**

- Mautopia

#### **Plastic Recycling & Recovery Operators**

- We-Recycle
- PIM Recycling
- DKD Plastics
- GnG Plastic Ltd
- EN Recycler
- Surfrider

#### **Plastic-Producing or Plastic-Using Industries**

- Maurilait
- PIM Limited
- Archemics
- CERNOL
- SOFAP
- ECLOSIA Group
- ROGERS Group

#### **Professional Chambers & Sectoral Associations**

- Business Mauritius
- Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI)
- Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM)
- Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture (MCA)
- Association des Hôteliers et Restaurateurs de L'Ile Maurice (AHRIM)
- Building and Civil Engineering Contractors Association (BACECA)

- Broadband Multimedia Marketing Association (BMMA)
- Mauritius Export Association (MEXA)

### **Civil Society and NGOs**

- Zero Waste Mauritius
- Eco-Sud
- Mission Verte
- We-Recycle
- Plastic Odyssey (Mauritius hub)
- Reef Conservation
- Odysseo Foundation
- Phoenix Earth Initiative
- Precious Plastic Mauritius
- Green Rangers
- Yes No Solutions

### **International Partners**

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- European Union Delegation (EUD)
- Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- Agence de la transition écologique (ADEME)
- Programme des Nations unies pour le développement (PNUD)
- Global Environment Facility Small Grants Program (SGP-GEF)
- Commission de l'Océan Indien (COI)
- Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)