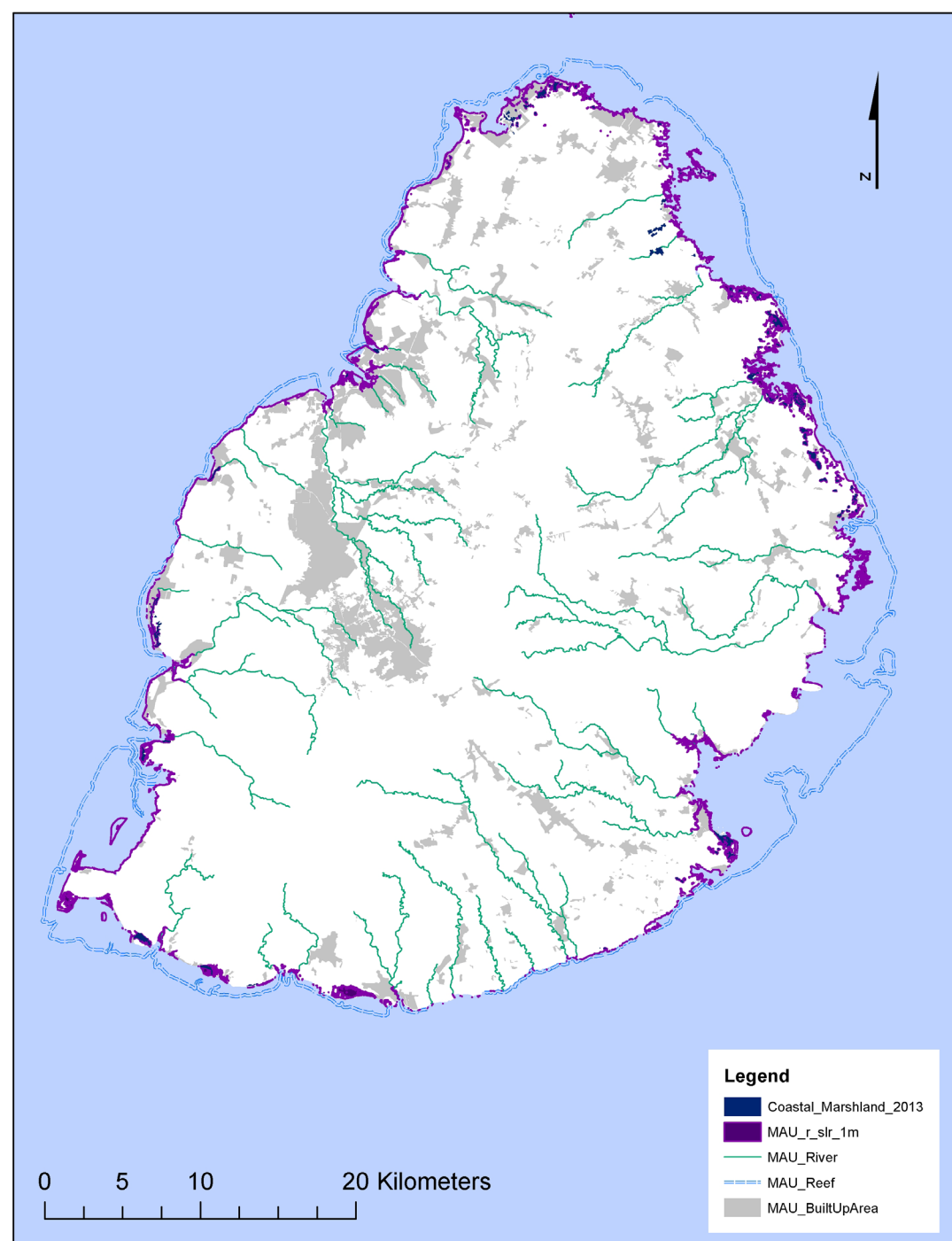


Coastal Zone

Climate change threatens coastlines ecosystems, infrastructures and people living in the coastal areas



Map representing areas that will be affected if SLR by 1m

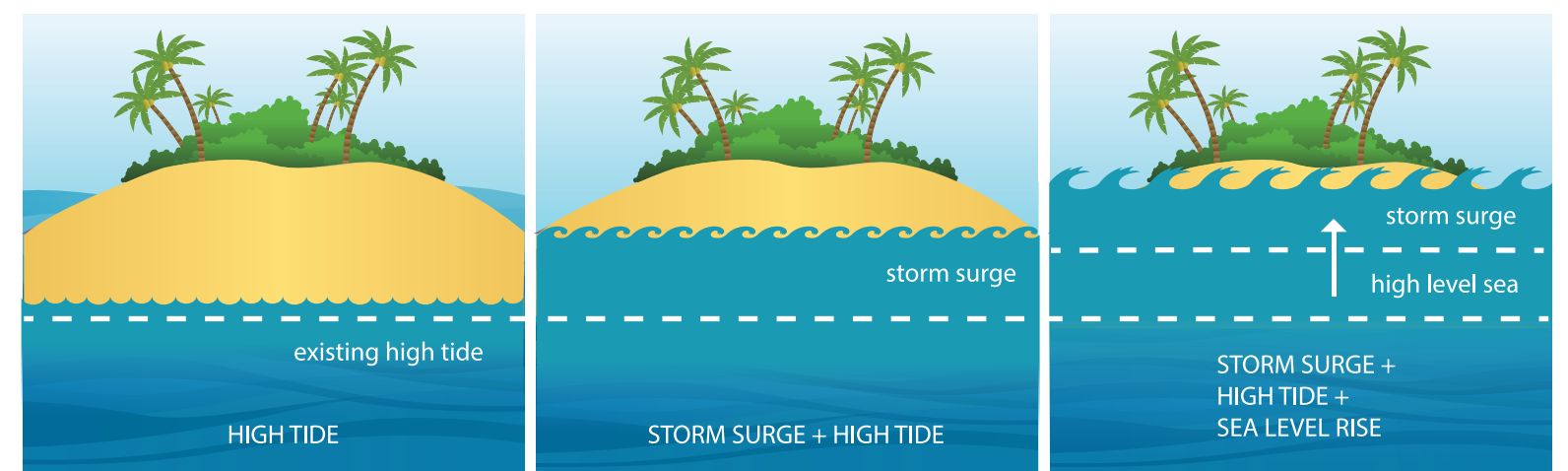
- Sea level rise (SLR) is considered as one of the main impacts of climate change in the coastal zone and is happening due to thermal expansion of water and increased melting of glaciers and ice sheets.
- Sea Level Rise has been observed to be accelerating in Mauritius at a rate of 5.6mm per year, much more than the global average which is 3.2 mm per year.
- Global sea level is projected to rise by at least 1m by the year 2100.

Major potential consequences related to sea level rise include the following:

- Aggravated floods on low-lying coasts
- Accelerated erosion of cliffs and beaches
- Increased salinization in estuaries
- Reduction in the amount of fresh water aquifers



An increase in intense events associated with climate change (such as sea level rise and storm surge) will have direct physical impacts on the coast, exacerbating coastal erosion. Extreme weather events will damage many vital ecosystem services provided by coastal ecosystems.



Coral bleaching

Climate change is causing abnormally high sea-surface temperatures. When water is too warm, corals will expel the algae (zooxanthellae) living in their tissues causing the coral to turn completely white. This is called coral bleaching. The intensity of coral bleaching increases as temperature rises.

Adaptation Policies

- Coastal adaptation works (hard and soft measures)
- Restoration of coastal vegetation and coral vegetation
- Coral rehabilitation and mangrove plantation
- Promote Eco-tourism

