



# MAURITIUS: BLACK RIVER URBAN PROFILE



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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

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## FOREWORDS



According to research published in UN-Habitat's<sup>1</sup> flagship report, *The State of the World's Cities 2010-2011*, all developing regions, including the African, Caribbean and Pacific states, will have more people living in urban than rural areas by the year 2030. With half the world's

population already living in urban areas, the challenges we face in the battle against urban poverty, our quest for cities without slums, for cities where women feel safer, for inclusive cities with power, water and sanitation, and affordable transport, for better planned cities, and for cleaner, greener cities is daunting.

But as this series shows, there are many interesting solutions and best practices to which we can turn. After all, the figures tell us that during the decade 2000 to 2010, a total of 227 million people in the developing countries moved out of slum conditions. In other words, governments, cities and partner institutions have collectively exceeded the slum target of the Millennium Development Goals twice over and ten years ahead of the agreed 2020 deadline.

Asia and the Pacific stood at the forefront of successful efforts to reach the slum target, with all governments in the region improving the lives of an estimated 172 million slum dwellers between 2000 and 2010.

In sub-Saharan Africa though, the total proportion of the urban population living in slums has decreased by only 5 per cent (or 17 million people). Ghana, Senegal, Uganda, and Rwanda were the most successful countries in the sub-region, reducing the proportions of slum dwellers by over one-fifth in the last decade.

Some 13 per cent of the progress made towards the global slum target occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean, where an estimated 30 million people have moved out of slum conditions since the year 2000.

Yet, UN-Habitat estimates confirm that the progress made on the slum target has not been sufficient to counter the demographic expansion in informal settlements in the developing world. In this sense, efforts to reduce the numbers of slum dwellers are neither satisfactory nor adequate.

As part of our drive to address this crisis, UN-Habitat is working with the European Commission and the Brussels-based Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group to support sustainable urban development. Given the urgent and diverse needs, we found it necessary to develop a tool for rapid assessment and strategic planning to guide immediate, mid and long-term interventions. And here we have it in the form of this series of publications.

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme is based on the policy dialogue between UN-Habitat, the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission which dates back to the year 2002. When the three parties met at UN-Habitat headquarters in June 2009, more than 200 delegates from over 50 countries approved a resounding call on the international community to pay greater attention to these urbanization matters, and to extend the slum upgrading programme to all countries in the ACP Group.

It is worth recalling here how grateful we are that the European Commission's 9th European Development Fund for ACP countries provided EUR 4 million (USD 5.7 million at June 2011 rates) to enable UN-Habitat to conduct the programme which now serves 59 cities in 23 African countries, and more than 20 cities in six Pacific, and four Caribbean countries.

Indeed, since its inception in 2008, the slum upgrading programme has achieved the confidence of partners at city and country level in Africa, the Caribbean and in the Pacific. It is making a major contribution aimed at helping in urban poverty reduction efforts, as each report in this series shows."

I wish to express my gratitude to the European Commission and the ACP Secretariat for their commitment to this slum upgrading programme. I have every confidence that the results outlined in this profile, and others, will serve to guide the development of responses for capacity building and investments in the urban sector.

Further, I would like to thank each Country Team for their continued support to this process which is essential for the successful implementation of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan Clos'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Dr. Joan Clos**  
Executive Director, UN-Habitat

<sup>1</sup> UN-Habitat - United Nations Human Settlements Programme



It is a real pleasure for the Black River District Council, which is the youngest of all local authorities in Mauritius, to be associated with this initiative by UN-Habitat to profile our council area. Black River has during recent years seen fast-growing urban migration, which is having a

significant impact on its socio-economic situation and development. However, it is acknowledged that Black River is still the least densely populated district of the country.

While the numerous Integrated Resort Scheme (a government initiative to promote investment in resorts and upmarket residential properties) projects in Black River are improving their immediate environment, they are also creating a tremendous rise in the price of private property in the district. During the same period, Black River has also witnessed the establishment of quite a number of squatter settlements, with all the accompanying environmental constraints and difficulties.

The ongoing urban growth will definitely present challenges related to sustainable governance and service delivery at the council and national level.

Given the situation, we believe that this urban profiling of Black River has come at the right moment. It will definitely enable both the national and local authorities to take stock of and develop the appropriate skills to set up the relevant frameworks to face these challenges.

We wish to thank the Minister of Housing and Lands, who took the brilliant initiative of including Black River District in this UN-Habitat project. We hope to gain valuable experience from the project in order to be able to deliver services that meet the highest expectations of our local citizens.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Krishna Rutnee', written over a faint circular stamp.

**Krishna Rutnee**

Chairman, Black River District Council

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## BACKGROUND

The Mauritius urban profiling consists of an accelerated, action-oriented assessment of urban conditions, focusing on priority needs, capacity gaps, and existing institutional responses at local and national levels. The purpose of the study is to develop urban poverty reduction policies at local, national, and regional levels, through an assessment of needs and response mechanisms, and as a contribution to a wider-ranging implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The study is based on analysis of existing data and a series of interviews with all relevant urban stakeholders, including local communities and institutions, civil society, the private sector, development partners, and others. The consultation typically results in a collective agreement on priorities and their development into proposed capacity-building and other projects, all aimed at urban poverty reduction. Urban profiling is being implemented in many African and Arab countries, offering an opportunity for comparative regional analysis.

In Mauritius, Black River is one of the districts selected as a pilot project under the urban profiling programme. For this purpose, an analysis of the following sectors has been undertaken: land tenure and management, governance and urban planning, infrastructure and basic urban services, municipal revenue collection, local economic development, housing and deprived and vulnerable areas, gender, security, and environment, climate change, and urban disaster risk reduction.

## LAND TENURE AND MANAGEMENT

Despite the dry climate of Black River District, Medine Sugar Estate has been an important sugar producer in the region for decades. Most of the land in Black River District is private (freehold and leasehold), and Medine Sugar Estate owns a large amount of land in the district. The state land in the district is solely managed by the Ministry of Housing and Lands, which also controls the squatter settlements through its Squatting Unit. The unit had surveyed 183 squatters in Black River as of September 2011 and intends to relocate most of them. Since the rapid development of Integrated Resort Scheme and new private commercial property projects in the district, the prices of properties in the region have skyrocketed. This situation is causing a lot of concern among the district councillors and other policymakers, as it makes it very difficult to identify land for social housing and recreational projects for the citizens.

These realities have forced the poor to squat on land in district villages; many of the squatters do not know that this land has been earmarked for purposes other than housing. An appropriate policy should be elaborated for the poorest in the society, allowing the setting up

of a cadastral system to facilitate state and private land identification and the introduction of a transparent system for the allocation of state land.

## GOVERNANCE AND URBAN PLANNING

The local authorities in Mauritius fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands. The provisions of the Local Government Act 1989 and 2007 (as amended) govern the existing councils of the local authorities. The Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands has control over certain key decisions such as the yearly approval of the budget of the district council. The Local Government Service Commission, which is an independent body, is responsible for the appointment of staff and for the efficient discharge of the functions of the local councils.

The district and village councils have very restricted decisional and financial autonomy, as the Mauritian administration is highly centralized. Regional planning and land allocation are all managed at the national level by the respective ministries and institutions.

There is a need for the setting up of a multi-sectoral committee comprising representatives of the Black River District Council, Ministry of Housing and Lands, corporate social responsibility foundations, police, National Empowerment Foundation, and civil society organizations. Also required is advocacy for more autonomy for the Black River District Council through a revision of the Local Government Act.

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASIC URBAN SERVICES

The mandate of the Black River District Council with regard to basic urban services does not include sanitation, water and electricity. These services are managed by the central government through the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities. The Central Water Authority, operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, manages the supply of water. There remain more than 100 households living in non-concrete houses who do not have access to piped water.

The Central Electricity Board is a parastatal body wholly owned by the Government of Mauritius under the aegis of the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities. The board is the sole organization in charge of the transmission, distribution and supply of electricity to the population. Through the National Empowerment Foundation, poor families receive assistance in getting connected to the electricity network.



The most important function of the district council is to offer services that promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of the inhabitants. It is, therefore, important for the district council to offer all inhabitants access to basic urban services.

## MUNICIPAL REVENUE COLLECTION

Municipal revenue is collected through business licenses and fees, building permits, and user charges. However, municipal revenue also depends on the economic activities in Black River District, such as tourism.

## LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In comparison to other districts, Black River has more employment in the service industry (specifically the hospitality industry, or hotels and tourism) and construction than in manufacturing and trade; employment in agriculture, meanwhile, is comparable with other districts. This pattern reflects the character of the district – it is largely rural, dominated by sugar cultivation, with some industrial ventures in the north and expanding tourism activities, mainly along the coast.

Despite three decades of “development” in the country, some areas of the district have not benefited from growth, and poverty has continued to increase in these localities. Black River is one of the districts which still do not have a regional market fair.

It is highly recommended that a campaign encouraging the small and medium enterprises of Black River District to seize opportunities be introduced into the national budget. In addition, more must be done to establish a regional market fair in Black River.

## HOUSING AND DEPRIVED AND VULNERABLE AREAS

Black River has experienced high population growth, resulting in uncontrolled squatter settlement development. The district council covers many of these poverty-stricken settlements, which are characterized by lack of planning, rapid urbanization, poor infrastructure, and a shortage of basic services such as water, sanitation, and electricity. Many squatters feel the brunt of the natural hazards that affect the country every year. However, the council has no special budget for the improvement of these illegal settlements. In collaboration with the National Empowerment Foundation, the Ministry of Housing and Lands is responsible for constructing low-cost housing for the poor.

## GENDER

At the national level, the Government of Mauritius – through the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development, and Family Welfare – has committed itself to the principles of gender equality. Consequently, a National Gender Policy Framework has been developed and provides the broad operational strategies and institutional arrangements for achieving gender equality.

In spite of aggressive campaigns for gender equality over the years and some positive efforts, there is still room for lots of improvement. In the Black River District Council, for instance, there are only 2 women among the 16 councillors (who represent the 16 villages of the district).

The district council has not developed a specific gender framework and consequently does not have a gender unit per se, but gender issues are integrated to a certain extent throughout its policy formulation. It has a strong partnership with Gender Links, which is a regional network very active in the Southern African Development Community region.

The district council must support the involvement of women through various measures, including programmes for equal opportunity in employment for the growing number of executives and professional and specialized workers.

## SECURITY

The proliferation of squatter settlements in Black River District over the last ten years has resulted in more visible deprivation in the district area, which in turn has created insecurity and fear among the citizens. The police department, however, has put much effort into security through regular community policing campaigns.

The social disparities in areas such as Flic en Flac, which is a high touristic town, seem to have caused an increase in thefts and burglaries. However, since the installation of closed-circuit television cameras in April 2009, police have reported a reduction of more than 70 percent in the number of thefts in Flic en Flac.

There is a need to give more visibility to community policing through information and awareness-raising programmes, and partnership with the district council must be upgraded. Inhabitants also have a bad perception of the police force, believing it to be a repressive force and not a service. Efforts should be made to change this image, but also to develop trust between the community and the police.



## ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The environment and climate change are developmental issues that have an impact on the lives of people at all levels. Remedial measures cannot be confined to the national level, but must also be translated into rules and regulations at the district and local level.

Climate change and natural disasters (e.g. rising sea levels, storm surges and increasing dry spells) pose serious threats to urban infrastructure, settlements, and facilities, and thus to inhabitants and their livelihoods.

Black River District, being constituted mainly of coastal villages, is permanently exposed to the risk of floods caused by tidal surges. Currently, there

is no dedicated budget at the district level for natural disasters. Each stakeholder provides relevant technical support according to their expertise. As environmental issues become more complex, there is a need to impart knowledge on environmental concepts and a comprehensive understanding of the various international environmental agreements and conventions, as well as how to integrate the provisions of these conventions at the local level. In this context, capacity development programmes for various stakeholders, including the political class, should be implemented.

## BACKGROUND

### INTRODUCTION

The Mauritius urban profiling consists of an accelerated, action-oriented assessment of urban conditions, focusing on priority needs, capacity gaps, and existing institutional responses at local and national levels. The purpose of the study is to develop urban poverty reduction policies at local, national, and regional levels, through an assessment of needs and response mechanisms, and as a contribution to wider-ranging implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The study is based on analysis of existing data and a series of interviews with all relevant urban stakeholders, including local communities and institutions, civil society, the private sector, development partners, and others. The consultation typically results in a collective agreement on priorities and their development into proposed capacity-building and other projects, all aimed at urban poverty reduction.

Urban profiling is being implemented in many African and Arab countries, offering an opportunity for comparative regional analysis. In Mauritius, the urban centres of Port Louis, Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, and Black River have been selected as an urban profiling pilot project. Once completed, this series of studies will provide a framework for national and local authorities and urban actors, as well as donors and external support agencies.

### METHODOLOGY

Urban profiling consists of three phases:

**Phase one** consists of rapid profiling of urban conditions at national and local levels. The capital city, a medium-sized city, and a small town are selected and studied to provide a representative sample in each country. The analysis focuses on nine important themes: land and tenure management, governance and urban planning, infrastructure and basic urban services, municipal revenue collection, local economic development, housing and deprived and vulnerable areas, gender, security, and environment, climate change, and disaster risk reduction. Information is collected through standard interviews and discussions with institutions and key informants, in order to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOTs) of the national and local urban set-ups. The findings are presented and refined during city and national consultation workshops, and consensus is reached regarding priority interventions. National and city reports synthesize the information collected and outline ways forward to reduce urban poverty through holistic approaches.

**Phase two** builds on the priorities identified through pre-feasibility studies and develops detailed capacity-building and capital investment projects.

**Phase three** implements the projects developed during the two earlier phases, with an emphasis on skills development, institutional strengthening, and replication. This report presents the outcomes of Phase One of the urban profiling in Black River.

### URBAN PROFILING IN BLACK RIVER

Urban profiling in Black River is one of four similar exercises, the other three conducted in Port Louis, Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, and nationally. Each urban profile is published as a separate report.

Black River representatives participated in the national and district council consultation processes, a partnership platform co-developed with the Ministry of Housing and Lands and national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The aim is to develop options for formal inter-agency collaboration in order to create a coordination body integrating a wide range of urban stakeholders in a single response mechanism.

### STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This report consists of:

1. a general background of the urban sector in Black River, based on the findings of the Black River assessment report, a desk study, and interviews. The background includes data on administration, urban planning, economy, the informal and private sectors, urban poverty, infrastructure, water, sanitation, public transport, energy, health, and education.
2. a synthetic assessment of six main areas – governance, urban security, slums and shelter, gender and HIV/AIDS, environment, and land – in terms of the institutional set-up, regulatory framework, resource mobilization, and performance.
3. a SWOT analysis and an outline of priority project proposals.

### THE BLACK RIVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Black River District is the longest and third-largest district in the Republic of Mauritius. Located in the western part of the island, it spreads over an area of 346 square kilometres. It has a population of about 74,572. The Black River District Council was set up on 1 October 1989 and is the youngest of all the local authorities of the country. Prior to its creation, Black River District was under the jurisdiction and administration of the Moka/Flacq and Grand Port/Savanne District Councils. The Black River District area extends from Pailles village (south of Port Louis) down to Bel Ombre village (near the southern tip of the

island). The district comprises of 16 village councils, most of which are located at the foot of the Black River mountain range or along the south-western coast of Mauritius.

Due to its poor, rocky soil, little importance was given to this part of the country when sugar plantations constituted the basis of the Mauritian economy. However, the touristic value of this coastal region has since been fully recognized. Besides high- and middle-class hotels, some Integrated Resort Scheme projects have been initiated in the area. The Integrated Resort Scheme is an initiative of the Government of Mauritius and the sugar industry to promote investment in resorts and upmarket residential properties. The scheme's projects include high-standard resorts and spacious gated communities for non-citizens. This recent development, combined with the multiplication of new residential areas for the Mauritian upper class, profoundly changes the social and economic structure of the region. Black River had been a relatively deprived area until recently, with a low rank in the government's

Relative Development Index. The Village Council Areas of Le Morne and Baie du Cap in Black River District were among those with the lowest Relative Development Index scores in the 2000 Housing and Population Census of the Central Statistics Office. The recent arrival of high-income households risks fostering social polarization.

The Ministry of Education and Human Resources solely manages free primary and secondary education in Mauritius. There are 18 primary schools, four secondary schools and one pre-vocational school in Black River District. The district council is not at all involved in the implementation of education policies in its jurisdiction. Out of the 30 Zone d'Education Prioritaire primary schools in the country, five are in Black River District. These are primary schools classified as priority schools by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources due to their low level of success (less than 40 percent) in the Certificate of Primary Education examinations, which are conducted at the end of six years of primary education.

## LAND TENURE AND MANAGEMENT



Land has always been a very sensitive issue in Mauritius, since most land is owned by the descendants of slave owners, who until recently were running most of the sugarcane farms and factories in Mauritius. Sugar cane has long been the main export product of Mauritius, but the dry climate of Black River District caused it to play a less significant role in the sugar industry. However, Medine Sugar Estate has been an important sugar producer in the region for decades. Most of the land in Black River District is private (freehold and leasehold), and Medine Sugar Estate owns a large amount of land in the district.

The state land in the district area is solely managed by the Ministry of Housing and Lands, which also controls squatter settlements through its Squatting Unit. This unit had surveyed 183 squatters in Black River as of September 2011 and intends to relocate most of them. With the rapid development of Integrated Resort Scheme and private commercial property projects in the district, there has been a vertiginous rise in the price of properties. This situation is causing a lot of concern among the district councillors and other policymakers, as it makes it very difficult to identify land for social housing and recreational projects for the citizens.

### INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The National Development Strategy provides a strategic framework for national land use planning under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

- The Outline Planning Schemes are regional plans for district councils, providing a framework for local authorities to plan, shape, and control the use of land within their area; the municipality translates the national strategy to the local level.
- The district council issues Building and Land Use Permits for any project relating to infrastructure in the district area.

### REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The state has put in place a regulatory framework at the national level for land use and development in order to ensure that development priorities are taken into consideration. In 1994, the National Development Strategy came into force, valid up to 2020. One of the main objectives of the plan was “to provide a national framework for the formulation of local council’s Outline Schemes and development and environmental control criteria for the effective monitoring of physical development and environmental management at local level” (“National Development Strategy”, Vol 1, *Development Strategy and Policies*).

Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1954 and Local Government Act 2003 (as amended), any landowner requires a Building and Land Use Permit for development of their land. The intention is to create better places for people to live, work and enjoy themselves. In fact, the permit helps ensure that development will comply with the provisions of the Building Act, Town and Country Planning Act 1954

(Outline Schemes), and Planning Development Act 2004 (planning policy guidance).

Any party that feels aggrieved with regard to a decision of a local authority may appeal to the Town and Country Planning Board. Subject to the minister's approval, the board may confirm, vary, or revise the local authority's decision.

### PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- The Black River District Council has no control over projects earmarked by the Ministry of Housing and Lands in its jurisdiction. An example is the relocation of squatters.
- The expansion of private commercial and recreational property projects in the district area is worsening access to land for social housing.
- In the absence of an operational national information system relating to land, it is difficult for the poor to seek support for access to land for housing purposes. There is no transparent criteria for poor land seekers. There is still no proper cadastral land record in the Black River District area, and this affects future planning for optimal land use.
- Most of the time, the poor are forced to squat on land in district villages. Very often, they do not know that this land has been earmarked for purposes other than housing. Up to now, government policy has been to undertake a social survey prior to any legalization related to the situation of the landless. As Mauritius is a small island, land is limited and very often the landless are delocalized to other regions. Appropriate policies must still be elaborated for the poorest in the society.
- The district council should not be confined to a regulatory role in the district area but should be consulted as a stakeholder when land is allocated within the district boundary. Any land development will have an impact on the existing infrastructure of the district. Councillors, civil society organizations, and other inhabitants should have the opportunity to express their opinions about these developments, irrespective of their nature. This approach will assist the district council in coping with the new developments and servicing newcomers.

### RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The Building and Land Use Permit and trade fees remain the main source of revenue for the municipality. With the implementation of new policies relating to land management and the setting up of the Land Administration Valuation Information Management System, the municipality requires additional financial

and human resources, as well as capacity-building programmes for its staff by both Mauritian and foreign institutions. The National Empowerment Foundation is working closely with corporate social responsibility foundations to motivate these private companies to provide land and assist in the funding of social housing projects.

#### AGREED PRIORITIES

- Setting up of a cadastral system to facilitate state and private land identification
- Introduction of a transparent system for allocation of state land

<b>LAND TENURE AND MANAGEMENT NO.1</b>	<b>Project proposal</b>	<b>Page 33</b>
	Strengthen and improve the city council's financial management	



## GOVERNANCE AND URBAN PLANNING



The local authorities in Mauritius fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands. The provisions of the Local Government Act 1989 and 2003 (as amended) govern the existing councils of the local authorities. However, Mauritius, being a Small Island Developing State moving towards a modern state, has adopted a centralized system of government, hoping for efficiency and efficacy. In the process, the local authorities have been granted less autonomy in managing their affairs. Instead, the Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands exercises control over certain key decisions: yearly approval of the budget of the district council, funds for capital projects and an annual grant (which must meet certain conditions) to complement the revenue of the council.

The district council and other local authorities are not allowed to receive grants from foreign sources without the approval of the responsible minister. Mauritius has witnessed over the past two decades the creation of certain government departments and parastatal bodies with the relevant financial resources to either provide services or address social problems within the district council area – activities that could have been entrusted to local authorities. The National Development Unit's role in the construction of certain rural infrastructure is a case in point.

In addition, the district council has no power to hire, fire or promote its staff. This is the prerogative of the Local Government Service Commission, which is an independent body responsible for the appointment of staff and the efficient discharge of the functions of local councils. The administrative head of the council, the

chief executive, works for two institutions: the Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands, to whom s/he is accountable and the district council where s/he operates.

The duties and responsibilities of the Black River District Council are nevertheless wide-ranging:

- Making regulations under the Local Government Act for the proper functioning of the district, such as Black River District Council (Collection and Disposal of Refuse) and Amendment Regulations of 2008
- Ensuring that laws are being abided by in the district area
- Development and maintenance of basic infrastructure (cleaning of roads and drains; street lighting; children's park)
- Provision and maintenance of community-based infrastructure and amenities (reducing flooding areas; ensuring the proper drainage of water through the construction and maintenance of drains; provision of traffic signs and proper road marking; maintenance of rivers, squares, and open spaces)
- Maintaining healthy conditions in the council area (control of pollution in all its forms; solid waste collection; creation of a salubrious environment)
- Development and management of public commercial and social infrastructures (management of public kindergatens; provision of recreational



- facilities; organization of sports activities)
- Determining physical planning activities
- Allocation of Land Development Permits and other permits
- Determining revenue-raising schemes

It is within this policy framework that the Black River District Council operates and fulfils its duties. Under the Representation of the People Act, 16 councillors are elected through the first-past-the-post system for a term of 5 years. Each village elects 12 councillors and the election is conducted by the Electoral Commission based on an electors list. In turn, the elected village councillors nominate one councillor to be their representative at the district council level. The village council nominees elect a president and vice-president of the district council for a period of one year. The execution of the district duties (as indicated above) is carried out under the supervision of a chief executive who is responsible for the management and administration of the day-to-day affairs of the council. The administration is divided into different departments.

### INSITUTIONAL SET-UP

The district and village councils have very restricted decisional and financial autonomy, as Mauritian administration is highly centralized. Regional planning and land allocations are managed at the national level by the respective ministries and institutions. The district and village councils have the right and obligation to formulate, approve, and execute their budget, subject to the approval of the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands (Local Government Act 1989).

The district council holds meetings under the chairmanship of the president on a quarterly basis, after the meetings of various committees. The councillors have four standing committees: Finance, Works and Planning, Public Health, and Welfare. The committees ensure that key issues are considered in sufficient depth before decisions are taken. Standing orders govern the committee meetings, which are chaired by a chairperson duly appointed by the council.

The Chief Executive's Department is responsible for the management and administration of the day-to-day affairs of the district council. The administration has six departments with the relevant staff. The council collaborates with various stakeholders in the implementation of its projects and in the supply of services: the National Development Unit, which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land, Transport, and Shipping; the corporate social responsibility foundations and community organizations in the district area; and national organizations. The Permit and Business

Monitoring Committee of the council set up under Section 97 of the Local Government Act of 2003 holds regular hearings to consider applications for development.

## REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1989 AND 2003 (AMENDED)

The Local Government Act 1989 provides a wide scope of development and service related action for the district council to engage in. Under this Act, the minister may intervene if the council fails to carry out any of its duties, by entrusting the responsibility to another party. However, the council has to bear the costs. As indicated above, some of the key decisions of the district council are subject to the approval of the Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands.

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1954

Under this Act, the Black River District Council is the planning authority for the district as covered by the Outline Scheme 1985 (prepared under this Act). No person within the district can carry out development on land without prior approval of the District Council.

### BUSINESS FACILITATION (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 2006

Under this Act, the ways, methods, and timing by which the planning systems operate have undergone several changes. These changes include, among others:

- Transforming the development and building permits into a single Building and Land Use Permit
- Introducing economic activity clusters: residential, commercial, industrial, services, installation of motors, excision and subdivision of land
- Reducing delays in the permit approval process and abolishing the Trade Licence
- Implementing provisions of the Planning Policy Guidance 2006

### THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 2002

This act is the main legislation for the protection and management of the environmental assets of Mauritius.

These acts and regulations define the duties and powers of village and district councillors. However, there is a need for a revision of the legal framework in which the council operates. The council requires more autonomy, in terms of both human and financial resources.

**PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

The district councillors enjoy considerable autonomy and have the legitimacy to fully play their role as the elected representatives of their constituents. During regular council meetings, councillors can question the chairman on the council’s decisions and progress in implementing policies, and developing activities in the council area. Performance can only be measured against compliance and time frames. Up to now, the district council has not set performance targets and indicators.

The Local Government Act 1989 and 2003 (as amended) makes provision for any member of the public in the district council area to attend the local council meetings and raise questions about any matter of public interest. The same law allows the inhabitants of the villages to question the validity of the district accounts. The accounts of the district council are subject to an internal audit, while an external audit is conducted by the National Audit Bureau, an independent body. A copy of the accounts can be accessed at the district council offices. Unfortunately, the inhabitants do not exercise this right very often, perhaps because they are not aware of their rights, or because they lack confidence.

Many NGOs and community-based organizations are very active in Black River. CARITAS, a Catholic organization, supports people in extreme poverty through basic food and clothes supplies. Fond d’Aide au Logement is an NGO helping the inhabitants of Black River secure decent housing through microcredit. Many firms operating in the region have set up corporate social responsibility foundations to support social empowerment projects that target people living in extreme poverty. But there is need for a strong partnership between the non-state actors and the Black River District Council.

**RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

To achieve the objectives it has set and to respond adequately to the needs of Black River inhabitants, the district council should have adequate financial resources. It depends too much on revenue from the central government, which comes in the form of a grant from the Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands and represents 77 percent of the council’s total revenue. The remaining revenue comes from levies, licences and other fees such as those related to scavenging and advertising (*District Council Magazine*, 6th Edition, 2010).

More than 70 percent of the total expenditure of the council is dedicated to staff costs, thus limiting the possibility of independently implementing relevant projects that respond to the needs of the district population. The National Development Unit – a department of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport, and Shipping – carries out almost all the infrastructural projects of the district.

The government grant for 2010 was USD 4.8 million, while the total district council budget was almost USD 6.2 million. The council’s budgeted own revenue (trade fees, permits, advertising, etc.) for 2010 amounted to just over USD 1 million. Meanwhile, some corporate social responsibility foundations are developing sustainable partnerships with NGOs and community-based organizations for the implementation of poverty reduction projects in the region. Indeed, the Government of Mauritius has established a policy with the overall objective of mandating registered companies to pay 2 percent of their book profit to programmes that contribute to the social and environmental development of the country.

AGREED PRIORITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting up of a multi-sectoral committee comprising representatives of the Black River District Council, Ministry of Housing and Lands, corporate social responsibility foundations, police, National Empowerment Foundation, and civil society organizations</li> <li>Advocacy for more autonomy for the Black River District Council through revision of the Local Government Act</li> </ul>

<b>GOVERNANCE AND URBAN PLANNING</b> NO. 1	<b>Project proposal</b>	<b>Page 34</b>
	Street lighting for blind spots in Black River District	

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASIC URBAN SERVICES



The mandate of the Black River District Council with regard to basic urban services does not include sanitation, water and electricity supplies. These are managed by the central government through the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities. The council does, however, provide scavenging services, a major statutory duty of all local authorities in Mauritius.

### WATER SUPPLY

The Central Water Authority, operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, manages the water supply in Black River District. Within the district, more than 100 households living in non-concrete houses do not have access to piped water. La Ferme, one of the country's six main reservoirs, is situated in Black River District.

### INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

The Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities is the parent body for the management of water resources. The Water Resources Unit is responsible for the assessment, management, development, and conservation of water resources.

The Central Water Authority is a subsidiary body responsible for potable water distribution. Its main function is to control water resources. Section 20 of the Central Water Authority Act of 1971 makes the authority the sole supplier of water for domestic, commercial, and industrial purposes in Mauritius.

### REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The Central Water Authority Act of 1971 provides for the creation of the authority and its duties and powers regarding the supply of potable water for different purposes and the development, management and conservation of water resources.
- The Groundwater Act 1970 details how aquifers are to be managed.
- The Environment Protection Act 2002 provides for the protection of water resources (including standards for water).

### PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Mauritius has reached a stage where almost the whole population now has access to piped potable water. According to the 2000 Housing and Population Census Survey, 99.6 percent of the population have access to piped potable water within their premises. But climate change has created water stress. The current drought in the country illustrates the situation quite well. Despite this, water is sold to Mauritian consumers at a reasonably cheap rate. Mauritius is also facing a water management challenge, as about 50 percent of its water distribution network is obsolete. According to recent figures from the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, about 50 percent of water is wasted due to leakage in the distribution network. Consequently, the Central Water Authority cannot ensure 24-hour water service everywhere in the country.



## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The Central Water Authority, under the aegis of the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, gets all the relevant resources from the central government to develop the water supply network around the country, including in the Black River District area.

## ELECTRICITY

The Central Electricity Board is a parastatal body wholly owned by the Government of Mauritius under the aegis of the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities. The board is the sole organization in charge of the transmission, distribution, and supply of electricity to the population. Through the National Empowerment Foundation, poor families receive assistance to get connected to the electricity network. In the context of the Maurice Ile Durable strategy, the government has also embarked on a new initiative to provide each family benefiting from a social housing programme with a solar water heater, so as to reduce the dependency on traditional electricity sources.

Around 80 households still do not have electricity in the Black River District area. Most of them are squatters who do not have a proper title deed that would allow them to apply for an electricity supply connection from the Central Electricity Board. They thus use candles for lighting at night.

## THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

As a parastatal body, the Central Electricity Board's business is to "prepare and carry out development schemes with the general object of promoting, coordinating and improving the generation and transmission, distribution and sale of electricity" in Mauritius.

## REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The Electricity Act of 1939 (amended 1991)
- The Electricity Regulations of 1939
- The Central Electricity Board Act 1964

## PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Electricity consumption in Mauritius has risen sharply in recent years. Between 1991 and 2000, the annual increases in electricity consumption reached about 9 percent. The country's economic growth and improved standard of living have necessitated massive investments in the energy infrastructure. Mauritius still depends heavily on oil, coal and bagasse. However,

there is a need to shift more to renewable energy, and the Central Electricity Board is currently trying to diversify in that direction by encouraging small power producers to sell any surplus energy they have to the board. Having a mixed source of energy is part of the Maurice Ile Durable vision. Though a great majority of the population of Black River District is connected to the Central Electricity Board network, there are still some households that live without electricity supply. These are mainly squatters who are either waiting for the Ministry of Housing and Lands to regularize their housing situation or simply awaiting eviction because they are considered illegal.

## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Up to now, consumers have been paying for the electricity service provided by the Central Electricity Board while the government has shouldered the capital investment required to respond to the growing power needs of Mauritian society.

New investments are required in the green energy sector. Public-private partnerships must be encouraged in order to mobilize additional investment. In this context, the Maurice Ile Durable Fund, which was set up to support new projects in renewable energy and energy efficiency, can be useful.

Encouraging the Black River District Council to use the rooftops of its buildings to install solar panels for electricity production is in line with the Maurice Ile Durable vision. This will contribute to reducing the electricity bill of the district council.

## SANITATION AND REFUSE COLLECTION

Provision of scavenging services is a major statutory duty of the council. The scavenging services include:

- Refuse collection
- Cleaning of drains
- Mowing
- Spraying of herbicides and weeding
- Sweeping of roads
- Cleaning of rivers, rivulets, and canals

The scavenging services of the Black River District Council are fully contracted out. A monthly scavenging fee is claimed from all businesses and other economic operators, but the service is free for residential premises.

The Wastewater Management Authority is the sole provider of sanitation services. However, only a few

localities are connected to the sewerage network in Black River District. Most of them use individual septic tanks, which are regularly emptied by the wastewater lorries of the Wastewater Management Authority and other private wastewater carriers.

These lorries in turn empty their contents at the sewage treatment stations. The government is planning to extend the network to other unconnected areas shortly. The Health Department of the Black River District Council monitors the scavenging services in the district area.

### THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

The Wastewater Management Authority, operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, is entitled to develop and manage the entire national sewerage network.

### REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- Wastewater Management Act 2000
- Black River District Council (Collection and Disposal of Refuse) Regulations

### PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

There are only a few localities covered by the Wastewater Management Authority's network, and there is a need for greater investment by the central government in the fast-developing Black River District.

### RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- The Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities
- The National Development Unit

### OTHER BASIC URBAN SERVICES

The most important function of the district council is to offer services that promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of the inhabitants of the district. This is one of the main justifications for the existence of local authorities.

### THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

The Black River District Council is structured into six departments that cover the various services offered to citizens, and each department is headed by a chief officer.

The council is made up of nine committees, which

ensure that key issues are considered in sufficient depth before formal council decisions are made. Deliberations during committee meetings are governed by standing orders and are overseen by a chairman duly appointed for that purpose.

### REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The responsibilities and duties of the district council are organized according to the provisions of the Local Government Act of 1989 and 2003 (as amended). The council holds meetings on a regular basis, and the act establishes a statutory quarterly meeting.

### PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The district council provides a variety of services to inhabitants:

- Abatement of nuisance
- Drains
- Fairs and markets
- Green spaces
- Library
- Refuse collection
- Street lighting
- Permits and licences

These services are administered by professional staff of each department concerned. The elected councillors usually hear grievances from their constituents and pass them on to the relevant department. More formally, councillors and the general public can raise questions on the efficiency of the various services at council meetings.

Despite the professionalism of the council, service delivery in certain cases is not effective due to a shortage of staff and a lack of discipline on the part of the inhabitants. Littering in public places is an example.

Each village has a certain amount of infrastructure for meetings and cultural and sports activities. Unfortunately, the district council is not responsible for all of this infrastructure, as other bodies such as the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund, and village councils have their own. There is no coordination and each institution operates its infrastructure on its own. This situation leads to the duplication of activities and underutilization of facilities. There is a need to consider the co-management of these facilities with the local inhabitants and to develop more synergies and complementarities in the programming of activities.

## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The financial affairs of the district council are conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 and 2003 (amended).

The main sources of income are:

- Grants
- Trade fees
- Permits and rentals

### AGREED PRIORITIES

- Identification of district zone boundaries and provision of name plates for streets
- Survey of road access in the district area
- Improvement of street lighting in the district area
- Upgrading of some of the district villages (e.g. Flic en Flac and Tamarin) to the status of towns

**INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND BASIC URBAN  
SERVICES**  
NO. 1

**Project proposal**

**Page 35**

Identification of village zone boundaries and streets in Black River District



# MUNICIPAL REVENUE COLLECTION



The main revenue of the Black River District Council is the central government grant, which amounted to USD 4.8 million in 2010, representing more than 75 percent of the 2010 budget of USD 6.2 million. The amount of this grant is subject to the approval of the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands. The Local Government Act of 1989 and 2003 stipulates that “in each financial year there may be paid to a local authority a grant of an amount calculated according to such formula as may be prescribed by the Minister”. In 2010, the remaining USD 1.4 million was collected from trade fees, Building and Land Use Permits, advertising fees, and other sources.

It is quite unfortunate that, unlike towns, a district council cannot apply tenant tax. With the fast-growing number of Integrated Resort Scheme projects, commercial centres, and luxurious private properties in the district area, there would have been very substantial revenue that the council could have collected through tenant tax. This would definitely improve its financial situation and help the council to initiate by itself more infrastructural projects that could develop the area and benefit inhabitants.

## THE INSITUTIONAL SET-UP

The Finance Department of the Black River District Council, headed by the principal accountant, is responsible for the financial administration of the council, and thus the collection of all receivables and the accounting thereof.

## REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Local Government Act 1989 and 2003

## PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The direct revenue collection of the Black River District represents less than 25 percent of its budget. This situation does not allow the council to engage in high-level infrastructural projects in its area. According to the Local Government Act 1989 and 2003, the district council is required to prepare yearly accounts at the end of the financial year to be submitted to the Director of Audit.

## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The main source of revenue for the Black River District Council remains the central government grant. Application of the tenant tax would allow the council to improve its revenue.

### AGREED PRIORITIES

- Upgrading of some of the district villages such as Flic en Flac, Bambous Village and Tamarin to the status of towns

**MUNICIPAL REVENUE  
COLLECTION  
NO. 1**

**Project proposal Page 35**

Revenue generation and  
collection programme

## LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



In comparison to other districts, Black River has more employment in the service industry (specifically the hospitality industry, hotels and tourism) and construction than in manufacturing and trade. Employment in agriculture, meanwhile, is comparable with other districts. This pattern reflects the character of the district – it is largely rural, dominated by sugar cultivation, with some industrial ventures in the north and expanding tourism activities, mainly along the coast.

It has a very long coastline, a dry climate, vast expanses of undeveloped land that are still wild in character, and some areas of outstanding natural beauty. Because of its scenic attributes, the district has attracted keen interest from real estate promoters looking for prime sites for Integrated Resort Scheme and Real Estate Scheme developments. The region is experiencing the highest increase in property development projects in Mauritius, with Integrated Resort Scheme projects and numerous residential developments attracting an important upper-middle class population.

Despite three decades of “development” in the country, some areas of the district have not benefited from growth, and poverty has continued to increase in these localities.

As employment in the sugar industry and with export-oriented manufacturers is decreasing, due to both the mechanization and decline of these activities, the population have got more jobs in the service sector. However, the new employment opportunities created directly or indirectly by the tourism industry and Integrated Resort Scheme projects are mostly for

unskilled labour, e.g. servants, cleaners, guards, and gardeners. These jobs are not well paid and are often unstable, as they are more prevalent during the tourism season and are dependent on the number of tourists that visit. Whereas the job creation in the region could be interpreted as positive, it presents the risk of mostly adding to the poor working class.

Existing development approaches at the national level may not be appropriate for these regions, and alternative paths must be envisaged for a large part of Black River District. The concepts of sustainable development and sustainable livelihoods are being promoted to respond to the development challenges and issues in these regions in particular.

### INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) is responsible at the national level for the promotion and development of small enterprises in Mauritius, under the aegis of the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives.

The National Empowerment Foundation is responsible at the national level for promoting and assisting in the development of small businesses and micro-enterprises through an empowering process and accompaniment of poor and vulnerable groups.

At the district level, there is no local institution to facilitate such processes. The district council has a mandate to collect trade fees and regulate informal businesses and hawkers within the boundary of the district.

## REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

### THE SMALL ENTERPRISES AND HANDICRAFT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ACT 2005

The district council is responsible under the Local Government Act 2003 (as amended) and through the Small Enterprises and Handicraft Development Authority Act to deal with the allocation of permits through a special mechanism known as the Permits and Business Monitoring Committee.

### BUILDING AND LAND USE PERMIT

The Building and Land Use Permit helps to ensure that development in Black River District complies with the provision of the Building Act, the Town and Country Planning Act 1954 (Outline Planning Schemes), and the Planning Development Act 2004.

### BUSINESS FACILITATION ACT 2006

The Business Facilitation Act mainly targets investors in Integrated Resort Scheme projects and the offshore sector. It aims at providing a new legal framework that would allow businesses to start operations on the basis of self-adherence to comprehensive and clear guidelines. The authorities would facilitate business activities and the acquisition of properties by foreigners, enable small enterprises to start their businesses within three working days and check for compliance by exercising ex post control.

### PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

The Permits and Business Monitoring Committee shall have regard to the Planning and Policy Guidance to determine an application from a small enterprise. As per provisions of the Business Facilitation Act, applications from a small and medium enterprise/handicraft business should be processed within three working days.

## PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Black River District Council has been very much involved with the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund and other community organizations in order to enhance living standards in the village of Le Morne with the project entitled Improving the Livelihood and Welfare of Artisanal Fishermen and Other Coastal Communities in Le Morne Village.

## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The Decentralized Cooperation Programme supported by the European Union has been very supportive to economic empowerment initiatives in Black River.

It is necessary to have an effective coordinating mechanism among the Small Enterprises and Handicraft Development Authority, National Empowerment Foundation, Black River District business community, and local NGOs in order to accompany the poor who want to be involved in microenterprises.

### AGREED PRIORITIES

- Campaign to encourage the small and medium-sized enterprises of Black River District to seize opportunities introduced in the national budget to improve the sector
- Construction of regional market fair in Black River

**LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
NO. 1

**Project proposal**

**Page 37**

Construction of a regional market fair in Black River



## HOUSING AND DEPRIVED AND VULNERABLE AREAS



There are several squatter settlements in Black River, spread throughout the district from Bambous in the north to Le Morne in the south. Most of these settlements are found on state land and are mainly occupied by very low-income households. A field survey during a site visit indicated that there are around 270 squatters in Black River District.

The Squatting Unit of the Ministry of Housing and Lands plans to relocate most of them; some are considered to be illegal squatters and will simply be evicted. A survey in 2005 identified a number of squatters in the region. The then government agreed to either regularize their tenure situation or relocate them to an alternative site if need be. However, all other squatters identified after July 2005 are considered illegal and are under threat of eviction. Most do not possess a proper title deed that would allow them to securely occupy their living place.

There is also a housing estate in Grande Rivière Noire where about 100 houses built in the early 1960s are dilapidated, with the occupiers living in extreme poor conditions. Some of these houses even have asbestos panels, which are a real threat to the health of the inhabitants. The philosophy behind the Ministry of Housing and Lands' housing projects has been "a roof for all". But the poor and the vulnerable require more than a roof. There is a need for social accompaniment, through the assistance of community workers and civil society organizations, which would allow for effective integration.

The district council does not have any mandate for the upgrading of houses. Its mandate is confined to the maintenance of certain infrastructure such as roads and green spaces; the provision of scavenging services; putting in place sanitary measures against the proliferation of rodents; and the provision of street lighting.

The responsibility for improving living conditions in slums rests with the Ministry of Housing and Lands through the National Housing Development Company and the National Empowerment Foundation through its Community Empowerment Programme.

### THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The National Empowerment Foundation is responsible for providing socio-economic empowerment programmes that target the poor and engaging in certain types of social housing programmes through its Community Empowerment Programme.
- Many civil society organizations and corporate social responsibility foundations provide support to the people in Black River living in poor conditions.
- There is a need to clarify the institutional set-up in terms of responsibilities and duties relating to social housing programmes in order to give more coherence to the human settlement policy.

## REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

As the beneficiaries have to make monthly contributions to the National Empowerment Foundation and National Housing Development Company, who act in their respective sectors as the regulatory body for social housing programmes, the beneficiaries have to make some legal commitments for the repayments.

## PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The repayment of loans remains a major problem for certain poor families. Up to now, the National Empowerment Foundation has been flexible in dealing with bad payers. There have not been any drastic measures such as penalty fees or eviction; instead, the beneficiaries have been given time to pay back the loan.

The Black River District Council, as the local authority of the area and as a stakeholder, should be associated with any new social housing project in the district area. As manager of the district's infrastructure and amenities, the district council should have additional resources to help it cope with the needs of newcomers. As no advance provision is made, the arrival of new inhabitants very often exerts additional pressure on district infrastructure such as recreational facilities, kindergartens, and meeting places. If not enough attention is paid to these issues, it can create tension between the newcomers and those who have been in the area for a long time.

## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

There are some corporate social responsibility foundations in Black River that support the district council to uplift and improve the socio-economic situation of the inhabitants through various empowerment projects.

The government, through agencies such as the National Empowerment Foundation and the National Housing Development Company, is facing serious challenges as it responds to the housing needs of the very poor. As the

latter very often have unstable jobs and, consequently, irregular income, this category of people cannot benefit from the existing housing schemes. Such situations very often lead to squatting or sharing of houses, and overcrowding is often the result. Indeed, overcrowding is a critical issue in certain housing estates and squatting areas of Black River District.

Business foundations in the private sector now have the opportunity to engage in national housing programmes for the poor in order to address the housing needs of poor and vulnerable groups. However, the private sector and their civil society partners should have more autonomy in developing the housing programmes.

### AGREED PRIORITIES

- Avoid relocating squatters living in low-risk zones
- Avoid allocating land to squatters in marshy zones

**HOUSING AND DEPRIVED AND VULNERABLE AREAS**  
NO. 1

**Project proposal** | **Page 38**

Improving living conditions of inhabitants of Cité EDC, Grande Rivière Noire



## GENDER



At the national level, the Government of Mauritius, through the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development, and Family Welfare, has committed itself to the principles of gender equality. A National Gender Policy Framework has been developed, providing the broad operational strategies and institutional arrangements for achieving gender equality. Each sector, including the local authorities, has to be responsible for the development of their own policy. Indeed, the domestication of the framework at all levels is a challenge in itself.

### GENDER EQUALITY AT THE DISTRICT COUNCIL LEVEL

In spite of aggressive campaigns for gender equality over the years and some positive results, there is still room for improvement. In the Black River District Council, for instance, there are only two women among the sixteen councillors representing the sixteen villages of the district.

Gender Links, an international NGO involved in various women's empowerment initiatives, collaborates closely with the district council, with a particular emphasis on women's leadership and representation in

politics and decision making. The organization has been very active in the setting up of Women in Networking, which has developed a dual-gender network in Mauritius on gender issues. Women in Networking has also set up Women in Politics, which is providing training to female members of national political parties in Mauritius on leadership and political issues.

### THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development, and Family Welfare is the lead ministry on gender issues, with specialized departments such as the Child Development Unit and the National Women's Council; a new integrated strategy for gender, child development, and family welfare is under preparation
- The National Women's Council, set up by an Act of Parliament in November 1985, ensures that government policy and action meet the needs of women at the grass-roots level
- The National Women Entrepreneur Council was set up in 1999 to promote women's entrepreneurship
- Strengthening Values for Family Life, October 2010



## REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

### NATIONAL GENDER POLICY FRAMEWORK

The National Gender Policy Framework's goals are gender equality and women's empowerment. It has been designed as an overarching framework that provides the guiding principles, broad operational strategies, and institutional arrangements for achieving gender equality at the national level.

### PROTECTION FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT 1997

The Protection from Domestic Violence Act was enacted in May 1997 to protect spouses against domestic violence. It aims at reducing and preventing domestic violence and at ensuring that where such violence occurs, there is effective legal protection.

### SEX DISCRIMINATION ACT 2002

This Sex Discrimination Act promotes equal opportunity despite sex, race, marital status, religion, origin, or disability and prohibits discrimination on those grounds, particularly in employment, education, admission to private clubs, and provision of accommodation, goods, services, and facilities.

### NATIONAL PENSIONS ACT 1987

The National Pensions Act was amended in 1987 to remove the discrepancy between men and women concerning the payment of a lump sum to the surviving spouse should the insured person die before 60, the official retirement age.

### JURY ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)

The Jury Act was amended in 1990 to enable women to sit as jurors.

## PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Black River District Council has not yet developed a specific gender framework and consequently does not have a gender unit per se, but gender issues are integrated to a certain extent into its policy formulation. It has a strong partnership with Gender Links, which is a regional network very active in the Southern African

Development Community region. Regular workshops on gender issues are organized at the district council, in collaboration with Gender Links and with the participation of various stakeholders. The Gender Links national campaign against domestic violence, for instance, was also carried out in Black River in 2011.

The district council celebrates International Women's Day each year, with the participation of civil society organizations and the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. For better participation in planning activities and council management, women must also get involved in the district council, where they are confined to menial jobs. The district council can support the involvement of women in the administration through various measures, including programmes for equal opportunity in employment for the growing number of executives and professional and specialized workers.

## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development, and Family Welfare provides financial and technical support for relevant gender equality promotion activities, with the participation of Gender Links and various local NGOs.

The NGOs, in partnership with the district council, can be called upon to contribute to data collection at the local level and to develop new outreach programmes.

### AGREED PRIORITIES

- Involvement of men in the campaign against domestic violence
- Sensitization of parents on subtle discrimination against girls in the family
- Advocacy to have women in decision-making positions

**GENDER**  
NO. 1

**Project proposal** | **Page 39**

White Ribbon Project – campaign against domestic violence, targeting men

## SECURITY



The proliferation of squatter settlements in Black River District over the last ten years has resulted in more visible deprivation in the district area, which has created insecurity and fear among residents. Though the district council has no real mandate on the issue, it has always heeded social demands for better and safer living conditions. Moreover, the police department, which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence and Home Affairs managed by the Prime Minister's Office, has increased its community policing efforts. Security services are also provided by private security firms. The social disparities in areas such as Flic en Flac, which is a highly touristic area, may have caused a proliferation of thefts and burglaries. However, since the installation of closed-circuit television cameras in Flic en Flac in April 2009, police have reported a more than 70 percent reduction in the number of thefts in the town.

The high number of road accidents in Black River District has also raised much concern. The improvement of the main roads and the development of Integrated Resort Scheme projects and resort hotels have increased the flow of vehicles through the region over the past ten years. In 2009, the Plaine Wilhems/Black River region recorded nine fatal pedestrian and nine fatal rider accidents (*Digest of Road Traffic and Road Accidents Statistics of 2009*, Central Statistics Office). This placed the region first in rider fatalities and second in

pedestrian fatalities among all the districts of Mauritius. In comparison, Port Louis, the political and economic capital of Mauritius, recorded 11 fatal pedestrian accidents. In addition, the juvenile delinquency rate in Mauritius, though it dropped slightly to 5 percent in 2010 from 6 percent in 2009, is still on the high side. The rate was 3.2 percent in 2006.

### THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

The Mauritius Police Force has developed the Mauritius Intelligence Model, an intelligence framework based on a scientific and a proactive approach to policing. It is a decision-making model that describes the requirements for the successful management of crimes and other law enforcement problems.

Community policing is one of the pillars of the National Policing Strategic Framework. A permanent platform for regular meetings and consultation has been set-up with members of the district council, which is one of the community policing stakeholders.

The Crime Prevention Unit of the Mauritius Police Force, which has a mission statement geared towards sensitizing the public on crime prevention issues and promoting a sense of awareness, is very active in Black River District.

## REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Police Act, which was passed in 1974, has been amended several times to include solutions to new policing and security challenges. It defines the duties and powers of the police force and Commissioner of Police, as well those of the National Security Service. It also regulates security and property protection services. The Prime Minister's Office oversees the functions of the Mauritius Police Force.

## PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Community policing has become a core aspect of modern policing. The process is meant to transform the police force into a "service-led organization". In this context, the police force encourages local residents to nominate community representatives to act as coordinators and liaisons between the police and the community. However, community policing in Mauritius is still in its infancy.

There is need to give more visibility to community policing through information and awareness-raising programmes. Partnerships with districts and municipalities must be upgraded. Some mayors have initiated a regular consultation on security and safety issues.

In addition, inhabitants have a bad perception of the police force, viewing it as a repressive force and not a service. Efforts should be made to change the image, and also to develop trust between the community and the police. This process, which should be a multi-stakeholder one, must have a focus on dialogue, image building, and development of trust, without excluding information dissemination.

## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The Mauritius Police Force is well supported and has a decent budget for the human and technical resources needed for proper service delivery. Approximately USD 700 million was allocated to the Mauritius Police Force in the 2011 national budget for the following three years.

### AGREED PRIORITIES

- Sensitization campaign on crime prevention
- Installation of security lights in high-risk and remote zones
- Proper maintenance of infrastructure such as roads and metal gratings
- Reconciling partnerships with the police while guaranteeing respect for the private life of inhabitants

**SECURITY**  
NO. 1

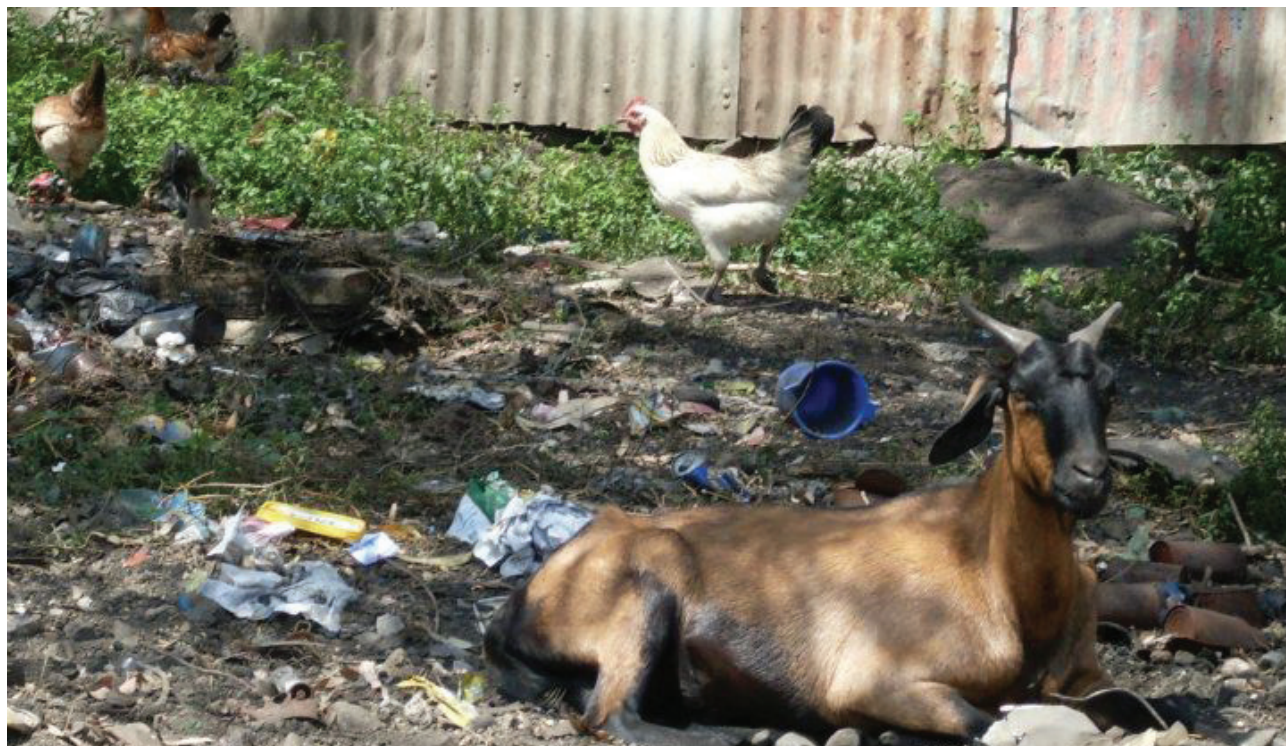
**Project proposal**

**Page 40**

Community policing in primary and secondary schools in Black River



## ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



Environmental health and climate change are developmental issues that have an impact on the lives of all people. Remedial measures cannot be confined to the national level but must also be translated into rules and regulations at the district level and in local areas. In this context, the Environment Protection Act 2007 (as amended) is the reference framework for environmental protection and management. The objective of the act is “to achieve built environment through smart growth characterized, among others, by quality architecture designs, aesthetically pleasant surroundings with green spaces and recreational facilities for all inhabitants”.

Climate change and natural disasters (e.g. rising sea levels, storm surges and increasing dry spells) pose serious threats to urban infrastructure, settlements and facilities, and thus to inhabitants and their livelihoods. Black River District, being constituted mainly of coastal villages, is permanently exposed to the risk of floods caused by tidal surges.

The following is a selection of national targets relevant to local authorities:

- Local authorities will provide free advisory services on design and architecture in accordance with the Planning Policy Guidance.
- Develop and implement a community beautification programme in all districts of the republic, in partnership with the private sector, community organizations and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and local authorities.

- Rationalize urban practices to enhance the environment (including better drainage systems and refuse collection, as well as greening of the environment and the creation of more parks and gardens as vital temperature-regulating factors).

### THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

#### ENVIRONMENT COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The Environment Coordination Committee was established under Section 14 of the Environment Protection Act of 2007.

The committee’s responsibilities include the following:

- Ensuring that information is shared among the enforcing agencies (including local authorities), the Department of Environment, and other public departments so as to develop a better understanding of environmental issues and problems relating to enforcement of environmental laws
- Ensuring compliance with and implementation and enforcement of any directive given by the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development in relation to coordinating the administration and enforcement of environmental law among the various enforcing agencies

The Government of Mauritius has set up a Climate Change Division in the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. The division has been operational since 1 March 2010, with the following core duties:

- Developing a climate change mitigation and adaptation framework
- Coordinating national, regional and international projects relating to climate change and sea level rise
- Conducting and reporting greenhouse gas emission inventories
- Devising and coordinating the implementation of an intersectoral climate change monitoring programme
- Identifying and coordinating research and development priorities associated with climate change and sea level rise
- Following up on matters pertaining to climate change in national, regional and international forums
- Contributing to the public outreach programme

It is also necessary to integrate climate change adaptation into the institutional framework and core development policy framework at the municipal level.

### OTHER NATIONAL COMMITTEES

- The Environment Coordinating Committee has established the Environment Liaison Officers Committee as a subcommittee that meets regularly. It is attended by designated Environment Liaison Officers of enforcing agencies, including the district council.
- For natural disasters, a Natural Disaster Committee at the Prime Minister's Office is responsible for hazard mapping and risk assessment; information management; forecasting, early warning, and information dissemination; and disaster-preparedness.
- There is also a Central Cyclone and Other Natural Disasters Committee, which supervises, monitors, and coordinates the activities of the other authorities and takes critical decisions as appropriate.
- The Works Department of the District Council is responsible for the construction, care, maintenance, improvement, and lighting of all public roads (except classified roads, which fall under the responsibility of the Road Development Authority) and the management and improvement of public places and buildings and district council assets. It also ensures the construction and maintenance of

road drains, including the unblocking of drains in flood-prone areas.

### REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- Local Government Act 1989 and 2003
- Environment Protection Act 1991 (later amended multiple times)
- All public health laws and the Environment Protection Act 2007 (to be enforced by the Black River District Council's Department of Health)

Under the Local Government Act 1989 and 2003 and the Environment Protection Act 2007, the Black River District Council, through its Department of Health, has to ensure a safe and hygienic environment. The council is also responsible for the construction, care, and maintenance of roadside drains and has to unblock obstructed drains in flood-prone areas. Climate change and natural disasters are having a serious impact on district infrastructure, especially with the increased frequency of extreme weather events such as heavy rains and storms. An adaptation strategy and new regulations relating to norms and standards for new district infrastructures has thus become necessary.

However, enforcement responsibilities for the protection and management of the environment are spread under different statutes since environment is cross-cutting and multidisciplinary. As a result, the Environment Protection (Declaration of Environmental Laws) Regulations were promulgated in May 2005. The regulation entitled Black River District Council Collection and Disposal of Refuse 2008 pertains to the district council and has been declared an environmental law.

### PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The enforcement power of local authorities has been extended to the enforcement of environmental laws by designating the district council an enforcing agency. The Black River District Council is empowered to make use of the more stringent enforcement mechanisms provided under the Environment Protection Act), in addition to the Black River District Council Collection and Disposal of Refuse 2008.

Based on complaints received, cases experienced and studies carried out at the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, environmental issues are taken up with the Ministry of Housing and Lands during the modification of Outline Planning Schemes. Leadership capacities and institutional frameworks to manage natural disasters, climate change risks and



opportunities in an integrated manner at the local level must be strengthened.

## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The district council budget provides the main financial resources while line ministries such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands provide technical expertise.

Currently, there is no dedicated budget at the district level for natural disasters. Each stakeholder provides relevant technical support based on their expertise. In the case of climate change, financing options to meet national adaptation costs are being investigated in the context of the African Adaptation Programme funded by the Government of Japan, in order to extend the facilities at the local level.

For education and awareness-raising programmes, the collaboration of local NGOs in the council area is sought for community mobilization. It is vital to share knowledge on adjusting local development processes to fully prepare for climate change risks and incorporate opportunities and share this knowledge with district and village council staff and stakeholders.

However, as environmental issues become more complex, it is felt that there is a need to impart knowledge on environmental concepts and a comprehensive understanding of the various international environmental agreements and conventions, particularly regarding how to integrate the provisions of these conventions at the local level. In this context, capacity development programmes for various stakeholders should be implemented and should target the local political class.

### AGREED PRIORITIES

- A survey (with recommendations) on the residential zones most at risk from floods and tidal surges
- Improvement of storm drains before the next rainy season
- Advocacy to the Squatting Unit of the Ministry of Housing and Lands not to allocate leaseholds to squatters in high-risk tidal surge zones

**INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND BASIC URBAN  
SERVICES**  
NO. 1

**Project proposal | Page 41**

Identification of village zone boundaries and streets in Black River District

## LAND TENURE AND MANAGEMENT

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>Support from the National Empowerment Foundation for the social empowerment programme in the region.</p> <p>Powers of the district council to issue permits for the development of land in its jurisdiction.</p>	<p>The council has no say on land management in the district area.</p>	<p>Support expressed by the Medine Foundation to provide land and collaborate on the construction of social housing.</p>	<p>Administrative procedures with too much red tape.</p> <p>Consensus with beneficiaries to accept relocation where necessary.</p>

<b>LAND TENURE AND MANAGEMENT</b> NO. 1	<b>Project proposal</b>
	Land regularization in the squatter settlements of Black River

**ESTIMATED COST:** USD 500,000

**BACKGROUND:** Almost all the families of the squatter settlements of Black River District lack security of tenure and are thus exposed to eviction.

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide security of tenure to the squatters of Black River District.

**OUTPUT:** Lease agreement issued.

**LOCATION:** Black River District

**DURATION:** Two years

**BENEFICIARIES:** Squatter population of Black River District

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:** Ministry of Housing and Lands, Black River District Council, UN-Habitat, National Empowerment Foundation, corporate social responsibility foundations, NGOs, and community-based organizations

## GOVERNANCE AND URBAN PLANNING

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>The district council has a full team of representatives from all 16 district villages.</p> <p>Existence of Community Development Committees, NGOs and non-state actors.</p>	<p>The council is too dependent on the central government.</p> <p>Lack of human and financial resources.</p>	<p>The new Local Government Bill to be introduced in Parliament.</p> <p>Setting up of the participatory working committee under the initiative of the UN-Habitat Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.</p>	<p>Political intervention in the internal management of the council.</p> <p>Excessive rise in property prices.</p>

### GOVERNANCE AND URBAN PLANNING NO. 1

#### Project proposal

Street lighting for blind spots in Black River District

**LOCATION:** Black River District

**DURATION:** 24 months

**BENEFICIARIES:** Black River residents and visitors to the district

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:** Black River District Council, Police Road Safety Unit, National Development Unit, Road Development Authority, and residents of Black River

**ESTIMATED COST:** USD 750,000

**BACKGROUND:** The large increase in road traffic in Black River has had the effect of increasing the number of fatal accidents, particularly at blind spots at night.

**OBJECTIVE:** Improve urban safety in Black River District.

**OUTPUT:** Reduction of road accidents.

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASIC URBAN SERVICES

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
Effective scavenging services exist in the district area, ensuring cleanliness and minimizing exposure to health hazards.	The council has no control over electricity supply.  The council has no control over water supply.	Improvement of basic infrastructure with the arrival of new economic operators (Integrated Resort Scheme projects and hotels) in the district area.	Water supply shortage caused by limited rainfall and high water supply demand from new Integrated Resort Scheme projects and hotels.

<b>INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASIC URBAN SERVICES</b> NO. 1	<b>Project proposal</b>
	Identification of village zone limits and streets in Black River District

**LOCATION:** Black River District

**DURATION:** 12 months

**BENEFICIARIES:** Black River residents and visitors

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:** Black River District Council, National Development Unit, Ministry of Tourism and Leisure, and Black River residents

**ESTIMATED COST:** USD 500,000

**BACKGROUND:** Zone limits of villages and street names are not easily identifiable in many areas of Black River District.

**OBJECTIVE:** Fixing zone limits and street name plates where necessary in Black River District.

**OUTPUT:** Easy identification of zone limits and streets in Black River.



## MUNICIPAL REVENUE COLLECTION

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
The Local Government Act assures the district council of a yearly grant from the central government.	The council is too dependent on the central government's funding.	The government intends to increase the number of towns in the country.	The minister may, according to the Local Government Act, reduce any grant payable to a local authority.

### MUNICIPAL REVENUE COLLECTION NO. 1

#### Project proposal

Revenue generation and collection programme

**LOCATION:** Black River

**DURATION:** Three years

**BENEFICIARIES:** Black River District Council, Black River residents and economic operators

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:** Black River District Council, Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, and economic actors in Black River

**ESTIMATED COST:** USD 100,000

**BACKGROUND:** More than 77 percent of Black River District's revenue comes from the central government's annual grant. This makes the council very vulnerable: it is dependent on the decision of the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands for its annual budget. There is a need to review the revenue sources and develop a tax collection mechanism, given the growing number of economic operators (Integrated Resort Schemes, hotels, etc.) in the district area.

**OBJECTIVE:** Improve the council's financial resources.

**OUTPUT:** Improve the financial independence of the council.

## LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>Close collaboration of the district council with corporate social responsibility foundations based in Black River.</p> <p>Effective procedures for building and development permits.</p>	<p>The council is not directly involved with the Integrated Resort Scheme projects and hotels in the district area.</p> <p>Lack of effective cadastral data and a property taxation policy.</p>	<p>Rapid development of Integrated Resort Scheme projects and hotels in the district area.</p>	<p>Excessive rise in property prices.</p>

<b>LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b> NO. 1	<b>Project proposal</b>
	Construction of a regional market fair in Black River

**LOCATION:** Black River

**DURATION:** Three years

**BENEFICIARIES:** Black River residents

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:** Black River District Council, National Development Unit, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport, and Shipping, corporate social responsibility foundations, National Empowerment Foundation, Small Enterprises and Handicraft Development Authority, and residents of Black River

**ESTIMATED COST:** USD 4 million

**BACKGROUND:** Black River is among the rare local government areas in Mauritius that do not have a market fair.

**OBJECTIVES:** Facilitating access by small-scale entrepreneurs and vegetable planters to public buyers and giving Black River residents access to low-cost products.

**OUTPUT:** Increase entrepreneurship development within the Black River population.

## HOUSING AND DEPRIVED AND VULNERABLE AREAS

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>Existence of Community Development Committees, NGOs, and non-state actors.</p> <p>Collaboration with the National Empowerment Foundation.</p>	<p>Lack of human and financial resources.</p> <p>Not enough interaction among all stakeholders involved in the field.</p>	<p>Setting up of the participatory working committee under the initiative of the UN-Habitat Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.</p>	<p>Not enough available land for social housing and free leisure activities.</p> <p>Excessive expectations from the squatters.</p> <p>Too many poverty situation surveys in the area, which frustrate those residents living in poverty.</p>

### HOUSING AND DEPRIVED AND VULNERABLE AREAS NO. 1

#### Project proposal

Improving living conditions of inhabitants of Cité EDC, Grande Rivière Noire

**LOCATION:** Cité EDC, Grande Rivière Noire

**DURATION:** 24 months

**BENEFICIARIES:** Inhabitants of Cité EDC, Grande Rivière Noire

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:** Ministry of Housing and Lands, National Empowerment Foundation, Black River District Council, corporate social responsibility foundations, NGOs, and community-based organizations.

**ESTIMATED COST:** USD 4 million

**BACKGROUND:** Cité EDC of Grande Rivière Noire was built after the 1960s Carole cyclone, which destroyed all existing houses in the area. The Central Housing Authority, under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Lands, built 52 new houses. These houses were leased to 52 families for several years until they were offered the opportunity to purchase them. All the families, some with the help of peers, were then able to own their own home. These first families are still living there today with their extended families, representing up to 3 generations on one plot (one plot of 7 perches, or almost 200 square meters, is actually hosting up to 35 persons). The total number of houses today remains 52, out of which 15 have been upgraded, some up to 2 storeys.

**OBJECTIVE:** Improve the living conditions of the inhabitants by developing a new type of dwelling that will respond to the challenges of overcrowding, promiscuity, and poor social and public health.

**OUTPUT:** Quality of life of 124 families, constituting of 750 citizens of the Republic of Mauritius, improved through a new housing model.

## GENDER

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>Close collaboration of the district council with Gender Links.</p> <p>Full support of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development, and Family Welfare.</p>	<p>Lack of financial resources to carry out independent, effective campaigns at the grassroots level.</p>	<p>Access to Global Fund financial support through the National AIDS Secretariat.</p>	<p>Inaccessibility to the high-risk areas of the squatter settlements.</p> <p>Spread of HIV in the district area.</p>

	Project proposal
GENDER NO. 1	White Ribbon Project – campaign against domestic violence, targeting men

**ESTIMATED COST:** USD 50,000

**BACKGROUND:** Domestic violence is regularly reported, in spite of aggressive campaigns by NGOs and the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development, and Family Welfare.

**OBJECTIVE:** Sensitizing the male residents of Black River about the ills of domestic violence.

**OUTPUT:** Reduction of domestic violence.

**LOCATION:** Black River

**DURATION:** 12 months

**BENEFICIARIES:** Black River residents

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:** Black River District Council, Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development, and Family Welfare, National Women's Council, Gender Links, and residents of Black River



## SECURITY

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>Effective community policing campaigns by the Police Crime Prevention Unit.</p> <p>Existence of Community Development Committees, NGOs, and non-state actors.</p>	<p>Not enough interaction among all stakeholders involved in the field.</p> <p>The squatter settlements have a very poor security environment.</p>	<p>Rapid expansion of property development projects in the district area.</p> <p>Setting up of the participatory working committee under the initiative of the UN-Habitat Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.</p>	<p>The rapid expansion of social problems in the squatter settlements.</p>

<b>SECURITY</b> NO. 1	<b>Project proposal</b>
	Community policing in primary and secondary schools of Black River

**ESTIMATED COST:** USD 20,000

**BACKGROUND:** Indiscipline on the streets is among the main causes of accidents. Moreover, according to the Central Statistics Office, the juvenile delinquency rate has been rising since 2006. Targeting children and youth in a crime prevention campaign is an investment in future security. Moreover, children can have a good influence on their parents regarding these issues. This project aims at reducing the juvenile delinquency rate while at the same time targeting adults through their children, with the aim of also improving their civic behaviour.

**OBJECTIVE:** Inculcating good citizenship and law-abiding principles to children and youth in school.

**OUTPUT:** Children in primary and secondary schools in Black River are sensitized.

**LOCATION:** Black River District

**DURATION:** 12 months

**BENEFICIARIES:** Students of primary and secondary schools in Black River

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:** Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Police Crime Prevention Unit, Black River District Council, corporate social responsibility foundations, NGOs, community-based organizations, and Parent Teacher Associations

# ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
An effective National Disaster Committee.	The district council is not directly involved in the natural disaster monitoring process.	Logistical support from the new Integrated Resort Schemes and hotels in the district area.	Allocation of land to squatters in coastline areas by the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION NO. 1	<b>Project proposal</b>
	Study and recommendations on high-risk areas in Black River

**ESTIMATED COST:** USD 75,000

**BACKGROUND:** The coastal position of the Black River District villages causes them to be exposed to tidal surges and possible tsunamis.

**OBJECTIVES:** Identify the high-risk zones and prepare a disaster risk prevention programme.

**OUTPUT:** Reduction of urban disaster risk.

**LOCATION:** Black River District

**DURATION:** 12 months

**BENEFICIARIES:** Black River residents

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:** Black River District Council, Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, corporate social responsibility foundations, NGOs, and Black River residents

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## **BLACK RIVER URBAN PROFILE**

The Black River Urban Profiling consists of an accelerated, action-oriented assessment of urban conditions, focusing on priority needs, capacity gaps, and existing institutional responses at local and national levels. The purpose of the study is to develop urban poverty reduction policies at local, national, and regional levels, through an assessment of needs and response mechanisms, and as a contribution to the wider-ranging implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The study is based on analysis of existing data and a series of interviews with all relevant urban stakeholders, including local communities and institutions, civil society, the private sector, development partners, academics, and others. The consultation typically results in a collective agreement on priorities and their development into proposed capacity-building and other projects that are all aimed at urban poverty reduction. The urban profiling is being implemented in 30 ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) countries, offering an opportunity for comparative regional analysis. Once completed, this series of studies will provide a framework for central and local authorities and urban actors, as well as donors and external support agencies.

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