



Sustainability and
Climate Change
Programme

Future by Design

A series of Information Bulletins, Policy Briefs and Working Papers on Sustainability and Climate Change for Evidence-based Public Policy

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UNIVERSITÉ DES
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Future by Design

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1 Introduction

Small island states face special disadvantages associated with small size, insularity, remoteness and inherent vulnerabilities linked with sensitive natural environments and vulnerabilities to climate change - these factors render these countries very vulnerable to forces outside their control, threatening the well-being of their people and overall economic viability.

Notwithstanding these threats, there is also a tendency to carry out development with short-term economic gains at the expense of long-term social wellbeing and a healthy environment. There are signs that the combined effects of an eroding social fabric and increased inability of nature to provide ecosystem services will undermine economic development.

Long-term public policy planning is essential for addressing issues related to ecological sustainability, including climate change. In order to support evidence-based public policy planning, the Sustainability and Climate Change Programme (SCCP) at Université des Mascareignes has produced Future by Design comprising Information Bulletins, Policy Briefs and Working Papers. These documents will be produced in line with the three underlying principles of the SCCP, namely adopting:

1. a systemic approach
2. transdisciplinarity, and
3. an inclusive and participatory approach.

This document spells out the orientations of Future by Design.

2 Future by Design (FbyD)

Future by Design (FbyD) is a product of the Sustainability and Climate Change Programme (SCCP) for the purpose of informing public policy from the perspective of sustainable development. FbyD is comprised of three types of outputs – Information Bulletins, Working Papers and Policy Briefs.

Figure 1: Outputs from FbyD



INFORMATION BULLETINS

Concise summary of major reports and studies destined to inform decision-makers on topical issues related to sustainable development and climate change, with special relevance to the context of an island state



WORKING PAPERS

Position papers developed with SCCP collaborators on current and emerging sustainability and climate issues from the perspectives of three public governance pillars (see Figure 2 below)



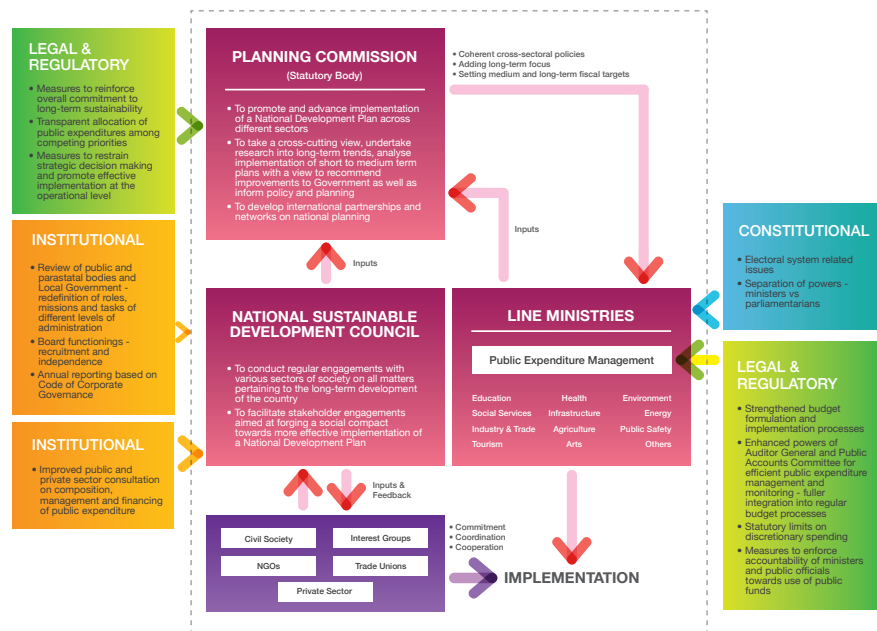
POLICY BRIEFS

Articulation of evidence-based policy orientations using facts (e.g. Information Bulletins) and results of research (e.g. Working Papers and academic articles)

3 Overarching Framework for Sustainability

In order to provide the long-term framing needed for addressing sustainability and climate change issues, FbyD is guided by Vision 2070¹ that is found in **Annex 1**. The work programme of FbyD is articulated to enhance public governance for sustainable development around three pillars, namely: (1) institutional arrangements; (2) coherent cross-sectoral policy planning; and (3) regulatory frameworks. The governance framework underlying the public policy work of FbyD is shown in **Figure 2**.

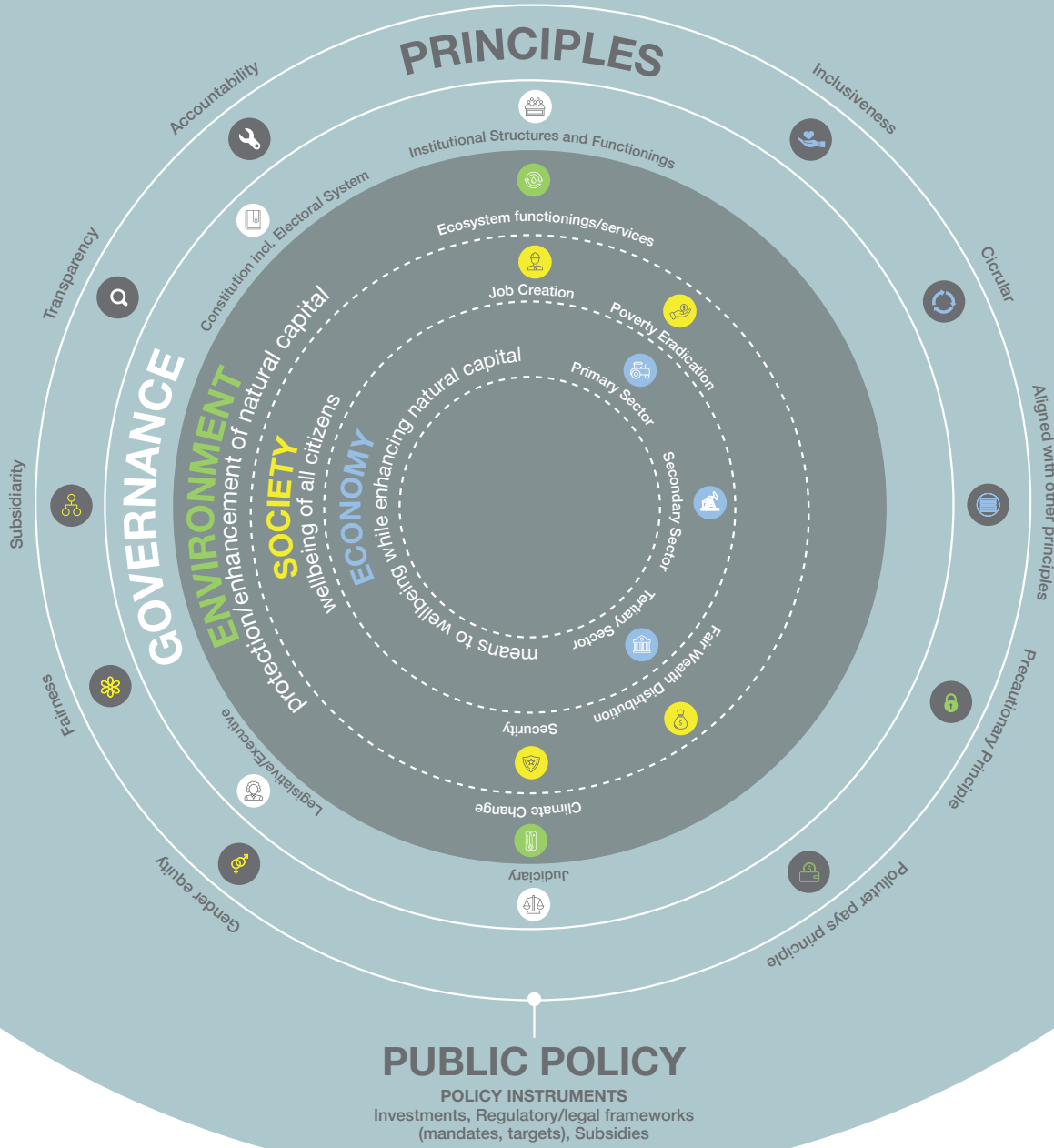
Figure 2: Governance framework underpinning FbyD



From an applied perspective, **Figure 3** shows the range of issues (non-exhaustive) that will be treated and the Principles that will be applied and promoted in translating Vision 2070 into policy actions.

¹ Vision 2070 was drafted in 2019 and it has benefitted from reviews and views from around 25 persons. It will be updated on a needs basis to follow the evolution of the SCCP resulting from interactions with collaborators and partners through the Principle of Subsidiarity.

Figure 3: Policy framework of FbyD



-  RESOURCES
-  ACTION PLAN
-  STRATEGY
-  POLICY

Annex 1 **Vision 2070**

The Challenge

1. The Republic of Mauritius has made significant strides since its independence in terms of socio-economic development. Alas, this development has been accompanied by cleavages in society, degradation of the social fabric, the depletion and pollution of ecosystems that are the foundation of life on our unique and only mother Earth, demographic changes, and unplanned urbanisation that has led to significant changes in the lay of the land, among others. Further, lack of sustainability is the direct consequence of the lack of systemic or integrated analyses and planning.
2. Unfortunately, sustainable solutions to this conundrum cannot be found by projecting from the past, precisely because the past has led us to this juncture. We sincerely believe the future to be the attractor for the creation of a prosperous and flourishing society; the building of a harmonious nation living in harmony with nature. It is without doubt that each one of us – current and future generations - will be confronted by a reality that will be increasingly constrained by the limited availability of natural resources; the need for large scale decarbonisation; and the need to achieve waste generation levels compatible with nature's assimilative capacity, while at the same time redressing social fractures. While these challenges will be disproportionate compared to all that we have witnessed in the past, we trust that there are

innovative ways to move forward together by igniting and capitalising on the creativity and ingenuity of each and every Mauritian.

3. Looking to the future does not mean forgetting our past. We will take forward all its positives, and, more importantly, learn from past mistakes so that the ills of the past are not compounded. Our conviction is that expecting sustainable outcomes by replicating more of the same unsustainable patterns of behaviour – i.e. the past – is sheer madness and defies human intelligence.

Vision 2070

4. In 2070, the Republic of Mauritius will be a place where its peoples will live long and prosperous lives, and in peace and harmony with each other and with nature. While celebrating each one's uniqueness and diversity, we will accept each other's differences, and see each other as foremost daughters and sons of the land, and, hence, simply Mauritians bound by a common vision of wellbeing for all within the boundaries of Earth's regenerative capacities. The land and seas will provide for each one of us in equitable measure; the sun will continue shining on each one of us in equitable measure; and we will relate with each other and with our broader environment, including all biotic and abiotic surroundings, in equitable measure. This Vision will be achieved without compromise to the territorial integrity of the Republic.

The Way Forward

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5. To achieve this Vision will require a different system of governing and governance. The path forward will be challenging but not insurmountable. We would be deluding ourselves by thinking that the creative solutions to the current and future challenges can be had within the short political cycles of up to 5 years. This delusion would be magnified if we thought that the same institutional structures, lack of medium-to-long term planning, nepotism and clientelism will be part of the solution.
 6. The citizens of Mauritius have had their fair share of mediocrity and they deserve much better. Now is the time for boldness and to be honest with the citizens of Mauritius regarding the challenges that lay ahead, and to be honest about the way forward. It is time to stop assuming that our citizens have no higher aspirations for participating in an equitable and inclusive way in the crafting of Vision 2070.
 7. The way forward to achieving Vision 2070 places the citizens of Mauritius at the centre of development in all its forms. This will imply adopting a balanced combination of bottom-up and top-down approaches to decision-making.
 8. The proximate objective of the economy will be to support the achievement of overall wellbeing for all the citizens of Mauritius. In this economy, as opposed to be just a passive consumer, the citizen will be an active and equal participant in value creation and reaping in its prosperity. We envision an economy that will be regenerative and symbiotic with nature, and which will be subordinate to achieving ecological sustainability in the long term, and the Sustainable Development Goals in the medium term.
 9. Job creation in this economy both in quantity and quality will be a vector for overcoming income inequalities and to eliminate absolute poverty and to minimise relative poverty. An immediate action will be the introduction of natural capital accounting in the national accounts as per Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 under the Convention of Biological Diversity that the Republic of Mauritius has ratified.
 10. We believe that any development that is respectful of people and planet should be underpinned by the Principles laid down under the Human Rights Charter of the United Nations; the 27 Rio Principles of sustainable development; and the Principles of the Earth Charter. Adoption of these Principles will become critical as we take decisive steps to develop the Blue Economy, and they will prevent us falling into the trap of seeing the oceans as the next frontier to be conquered.
 11. Socio-economic development will be aligned and coherent with all the conditions contained in UN Conventions and Protocols that the Republic has signed or ratified.
 12. Climate change stands as the biggest challenge to human development, and this challenge is foreseen to increase in both magnitude and scope. While the climate challenge will be daunting and requiring multi-stakeholder collaborations, we have a window of opportunity to use the climate challenge as a lever to achieving Vision 2070. In particular, we have an unprecedented opportunity to rethink our dependence on importations, especially regarding fossil fuels and food.
 13. In line with the latest scientific evidence, we will strive to make the Republic of Mauritius a net zero carbon emitter by 2070. This will be achieved by scaling up investments in energy efficiency, renewable energies, sustainable transportation, sound waste management and better land use planning, among others.
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14. We recognise that the impacts of climate change are real, and that the likelihood and severity of climate events will most probably increase in the future. Further, we acknowledge that the most vulnerable communities are (will be) more exposed to these events. Also, built infrastructure, especially those found on the coastal zones, are also exposed to climate hazards. By taking a medium-to-long term planning perspective, we will ensure adequate cross-sectoral policies, strategies and action plans are implemented in order to enhance the climate resilience of all communities and infrastructure.
15. We will support local entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector by supporting moves to a far more localized and ecologically-based agricultural system. While increasing the food security of the Republic, investments in an ecologically-based agricultural system would reduce reliance on fossil fuels, capture carbon in the soil, and absorb sudden shocks in the global supplies – as well as produce healthier and more affordable food for everyone.
16. Shifting to an economy in balance with the Earth's limits also means expanding the sectors of our economy that are already low carbon: caregiving, teaching, social work, the arts and public-interest media, among others.
17. While acknowledging that the challenges ahead will impact the citizens of Mauritius to different degrees and in different ways, we will ensure that the costs of transition and benefits are fairly distributed.

Enabling Conditions

18. We endeavor to act on several cross-cutting issues and to create the enabling conditions for achieving Vision 2070.
19. First and foremost, and given the fact that we all live on a small island state albeit with a large

Exclusive Economic Zone, we are adamant that Vision 2070 can only be achieved through adequate and sound territorial or physical planning, covering both land and oceans. We will adopt processes, tools and methodologies that will support inclusive geospatial territorial planning. Importantly, appropriate tools will be adopted to support systemic or integrated analyses and planning.

20. Education will be a key enabler in achieving Vision 2070. While it is undeniable that vocational education (i.e. learning to know and learning to do) is necessary to support the economy, it will not be sufficient to achieving Vision 2070. We will develop a normative approach to education, which will be a primary vector for human flourishing through learning to be (i.e. le savoir être) and learning to live together (i.e. le savoir vivre). Such education will be the cornerstone of civic life, as well as creating human dispositions rooted in the values and principles underlying Vision 2070. Ecological literacy will be the primary avenue for inculcating systems thinking at all levels in the education system.
21. Human health is a significant contributor to wellbeing. Supported by appropriate education and awareness, each citizen will be able to engage in healthier lifestyles, including active participation in sports, and to take charge of their own health. In parallel, the health system will be redesigned to meet the expectations of informed citizens in line with Vision 2070.
22. The arts will play a significant role in supporting a culture of acceptance and peace through the celebration of our diversity and unique history. To us achieving Vision 2070 is inimical to achieving greatness in the arts in all its forms.
23. In line with the Principle of Subsidiarity, sub-national levels of government (e.g. municipalities, District and Village Councils) will be empowered to better take decisions and support all citizens deal with their needs and

aspirations at the local level.

24. The appropriate institutional structures will be put in place in order to support implementation of Vision 2070 through appropriate Policies, Strategies and Action Plans. Foremost, we plan the setting up of a Planning Commission (or similar); a Statutory Body tasked with the seeding and nurturing of a culture of planning that will provide steadfast navigation through the challenges that lay ahead.
25. One of the key weaknesses of democracy is that the citizen is largely a passive by-stander of public events between two election cycles. This is contrary to our belief of active public participation in the affairs of the State. We will enhance the democratic process by providing an opportunity to all citizens and institutional actors to contribute to public policy planning in an iterative manner through the setting up of a National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) under the aegis of the Planning Commission.
26. We endeavor to set the highest standards of governance in all public institutions in order to improve efficiency, effectiveness and accountability.
27. Finally, being bold also means being fearless in proposing Constitutional reforms that will serve the achievement of Vision 2070 through the building of a Nation by Mauritians and for Mauritians by taking into account the distinct history of the Republic. Of critical importance are reforms to promote the separation of powers between the Legislative, Judicial and Executive arms of Government.
28. In order to promote sustainable development in pursuit of Vision 2070, Constitutional amendments beyond reforming the Electoral System will be required.



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