

Mauritius submissions for COP30 Presidency Roadmap on halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030

- Forest conservation, sustainable management, and restoration must be tailored to reflect each country's development stage, forest cover, and social realities by adopting flexible and inclusive approaches.
- Reforestation and forest conservation should hinge on a multi-faceted strategy that integrates ecological research, robust institutional frameworks, and active community engagement.
- Best practices in Mauritius include intensive invasive species management, mass propagation of endemic plants in forest nurseries, and long-term monitoring to ensure survival.
- Community engagement, education/awareness raising, and NGO partnership are vital for building ownership, and mobilizing volunteers for forest restoration and advocating for stronger policies. For instance, women are playing a pivotal role in forest conservation by leading efforts to remove invasive species and restore native biodiversity in Mauritius, thereby directly supporting SDGs 13 (climate action) and 15 (Life on land). Beyond ecological restoration, this initiative also serves as a powerful engine for gender empowerment (SDG 5), and provision of decent work (SDG 8).
- The lessons learned at national and regional levels include enhancing engagement of NGOs and local communities in restoration, aligning conservation with eco-tourism and livelihoods, and securing sustainable financing through climate funds and carbon credits. These initiatives demonstrate that in small island contexts, where land is scarce and pressures are high, restoration must be both technically rigorous and socially inclusive to be resilient and effective.