



Transport Access Challenges and Special Needs of SIDS

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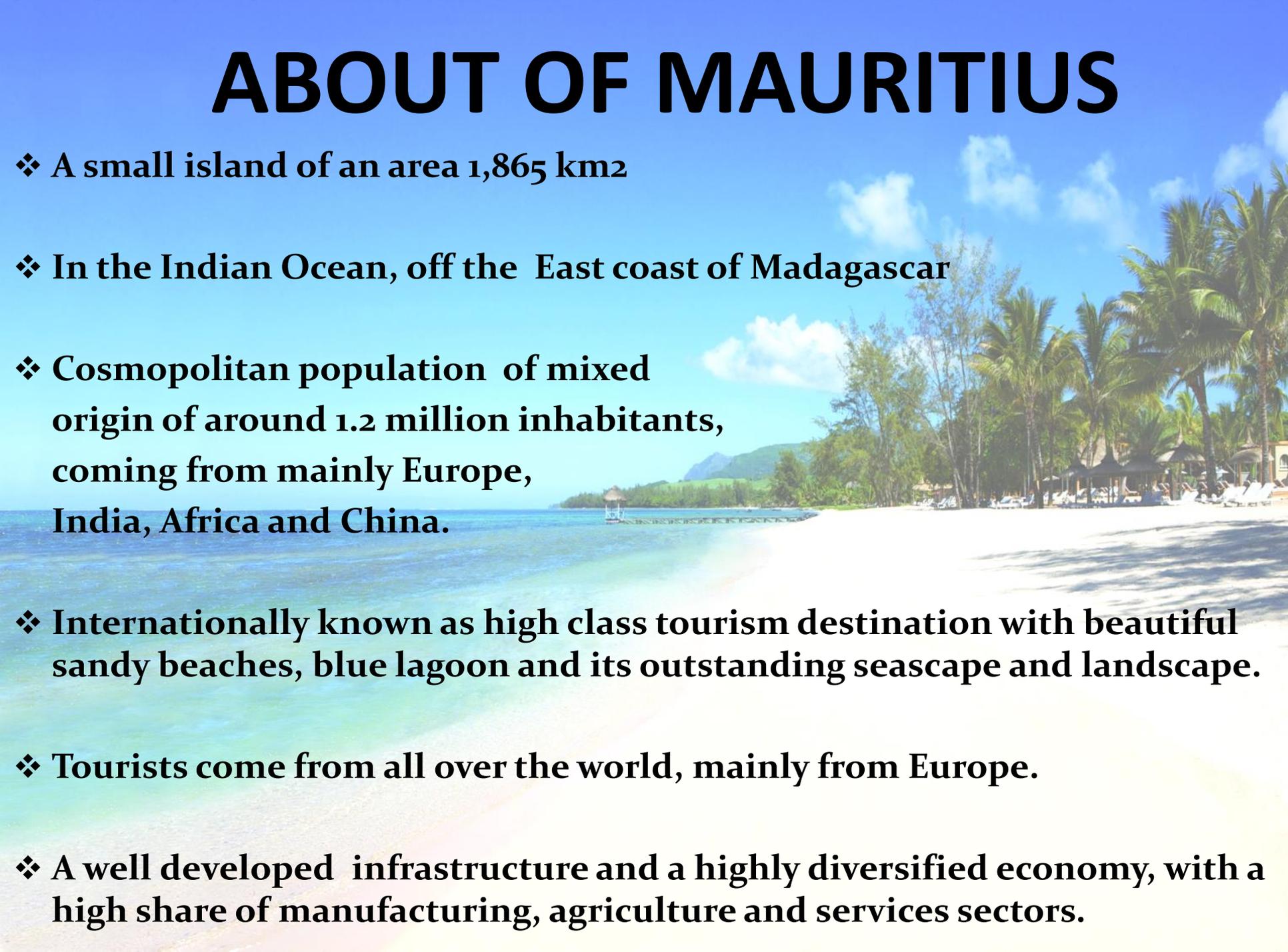
**Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land
Transport**

Republic of Mauritius

Geographic Location of Mauritius



ABOUT OF MAURITIUS

- ❖ A small island of an area 1,865 km²
 - ❖ In the Indian Ocean, off the East coast of Madagascar
 - ❖ Cosmopolitan population of mixed origin of around 1.2 million inhabitants, coming from mainly Europe, India, Africa and China.
 - ❖ Internationally known as high class tourism destination with beautiful sandy beaches, blue lagoon and its outstanding seascape and landscape.
 - ❖ Tourists come from all over the world, mainly from Europe.
 - ❖ A well developed infrastructure and a highly diversified economy, with a high share of manufacturing, agriculture and services sectors.
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- A tropical beach scene with white sand, turquoise water, and palm trees under a blue sky. The background shows a resort area with lounge chairs and umbrellas. The water is clear and blue, with a small structure in the distance. The sky is bright blue with some clouds.

SIDS:

Characteristics and Constraints

- Small size, remoteness & Insularity
- Located far from sea routes
- Small Internal Markets
- Poor transportation infrastructure - Port & Airport
- Lack of inter island transportation network
- SIDS – vulnerable to climate change
- Air & Sea Transportation Access – major issues.



Transport Access Challenges

- Do not Benefit from Economies of Scale
- Cost of Freight Higher
- High Transportation Costs
- Discouraging Private Investment
- Provision of Transport Services
- Not attractive for large ships/airlines
- Challenges in transport & trade logistics



Addressing Air Transport Access Problems: Case of Mauritius

- Link between South East Asia & Eastern Africa
- Creation of Air Corridor to link East Africa and Asia via Mauritius and Singapore
- National Airline Company: Air Mauritius Ltd
- No. of Airplanes :**12**
- Destination Served: **57**
- Bilateral Air Service Agreement Signed with **52 Countries**
- Liberalization of sky – Air Access Policy
- Setting up of a Modern Airport



Sea Transportation Access

- High potential for additional shipping activities
- Needs to modernize port activities
- Increase handling capacity
- Creation of an oil refinery
- Transshipment Hub
- Mauritius Shipping Corporation: **2 Vessels**
- Creation of regional Shipping Company and Air line
- Cruise promotion
- Creation of a dedicated and modern cruise terminal
- Promoting collaborative approaches between public & private investment partners
- Initiatives to increase critical mass of goods and people using ports & airports.



Land Transport Access

- Definition: Ability to use transport system to reach a destination
- Transport accessibility measures
 - Affordability
 - Physical Effort to obtain a transportation service
- Transport service far from Residential Zone
- Disabled persons unable to get into buses



Statistics on the Land Transport Sector in Mauritius

- **No. of Vehicles: 492,000**
- **No. of two-wheelers: 200,000**
- **No. of Buses: 2,000** Private Operators: 1,500
National Transport Corporation: 500
No. of Routes Served: 300
- **Length of Main Roads 2,356 km**
- **No. of vehicles per km of roads: 197**



Challenges for a Typical SIDS

- High cost of transportation components
- Poor Public Transport System
- Inadequate Infrastructure
- Marginalization of disabled people
- Poor land use planning
- Land constraints



Special Needs for a Typical SIDS

- A robust Public Transport System
- Affordable transport system to the whole population
- A Non-motorised transportation (especially cycling)
- Public Transport system which requires limited subsidy
- Disabled-friendly Transport System and Infrastructure
- Integrated Land Use and Transport Planning – to reduce the need to travel long distances to reach desired services



Challenges Faced by Mauritius

- Deteriorating Public Transport System and increasing cost of Public Transport Operation – which either leads to higher cost of transport services or increased subsidy
- Poor state of Buses and Public Transport vehicles
- Illegal informal transportation has entered the market and eat in the revenue of public transport operators, which results in lower
- Road infrastructure not adequate to cater for the transport needs of the whole population (Bus Stops not properly linked to major crowd generators by footpath or safe and quality pedestrian facilities)
- Limited land to continue to build more road related infrastructure
- Increased urban sprawl, which makes provision of transport services to these areas difficult



Facilitation of Land

Transport Access – Case of Mauritius

- Improving its public transport system
- Free Transport to all students and elderly – affordable to the poor
- Highly subsidised fare
- Replacing old buses with semi-low floor buses (Easier for handicapped people)
- Integrating new major developments with Public Transport
- Relooking at its land use to reduce sprawl (Note: Not sure if it is being done right now)
- Bus Modernisation Scheme
- Introduction of Smart Lines
- Setting up of Modern Traffic Centres and Bus Shelters
- Bus Companies recovery Account

