

The University of Technology, Mauritius

Sustainable Development Goals



2022/2023 Report



Introduction

The ‘Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ is a plan of action for people, prosperity and the planet. At the core of the agenda are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which seek to tackle the world’s most pressing issues – eradicating poverty in all its forms, social inclusion, economic prosperity, environmental sustainability and peace to all countries by 2030.

Education plays a key role in creating a world that is more sustainable by equipping individuals and people with knowledge, values and skills to drive such change. Universities around the world occupy a key position within society and they have long been powerful drivers of local, national, regional and global economic development, innovation and societal well-being.

The University of Technology, Mauritius, acknowledges the profound obligation it has to play in sharing and creating knowledge on the challenges set out in Agenda 2030. As one of the leading universities in Mauritius in sustainable development, we are tackling the SDGs in four inter-related ways: through research, public engagement, learning and students and operations.

This report is aimed at sharing the actions, opportunities and partnerships that the UTM has been undertaking in the last four years, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 in a transparent reporting manner. We hope it stimulates further actions, ideas and collaboration opportunities with a wide range of local, national, regional and international audiences across the public and private sector so that together we can tackle the SGGs by 2030.

“Universities, with their broad remit around the creation and dissemination of knowledge and their unique position within society, have a critical role to play in the achievement of the SDGs.” SDSN Australia/Pacific (2017)



**End poverty in
all its forms
everywhere**



Research

Poverty alleviation through tourism

Tourism is one of the basic economic pillars of Mauritius. The [study](#) analyzed how tourism helped in alleviating poverty at Le Morne Village through the creation of employment, allowing direct sale of local products to tourists, increasing the number of small businesses, infrastructure development and raising the standard of living.

Public Engagement

Donations to shelters

Our student community works on a wide range of projects to tackle poverty. Students have organized donations of food, clothing and other necessities to shelters such as SOS Children's Village at Beau Bassin and La Creche Coeur Immaculee de Marie at Quatre Bornes.

Learning and Students

Poverty and Social Exclusion

Our university has an undergraduate programme in Applied Social Sciences that teaches on poverty and social exclusion. The module explores ways to define, measure, tackle poverty and social exclusion using local case studies.





End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Research

Securing the connection between IoT and smart agriculture

Shifting from traditional agriculture to smart agriculture requires the use of devices such as sensors, GPS, internet etc. which can be accessible to hackers. In this regard, our research team propose the [use of the Amazon IoT platform](#) module to ensure a safe transition and securing access to the module using an authentication mechanism.



Learning and Students

Food Science and Security

UTM offers a certificate programme in Food Science and Biosecurity as these are fundamentals tools for the development of sustainable agriculture and advancement of food production and services. Knowledge gained in this programme will help in meeting the needs of an expanding population in the coming years.





**Ensure healthy
lives and promote
well-being for all
at all ages**



Research

Burdens of family caregivers of schizophrenia

Schizophrenia is a severe mental illness that not only affects patients but families. The [study](#) analyzed the impact of caregiving on the emotional, physical, social and financial situations of family caregivers in Mauritius to better plan and develop health management programs of these family caregivers.

Public Engagement

Blood donation

Our university is committed to promoting health and wellbeing. UTM organized a blood donation activity in 2020 to help save more lives. Blood donation also enhances the lives of the blood givers as it lowers blood pressure and cardiovascular risk factors.

Learning and Students

School of Health Sciences

At UTM, we have a whole school dedicated to good health and wellbeing. Our School of Health Sciences caters to the educational and practical needs of the moment offering a wide discipline of programmes from certificate to post-doctoral plus a 5-year MBBS degree in affiliation with Anna Medical College.

Operations

UTM Wellness Center

Our vision at UTM is a healthy and supportive campus environment where all students are able to thrive to their fullest. The UTM Wellness Center is a campus-wide health promotion initiative aimed at supporting students and providing the systems and structures to promote health and wellbeing.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



Public Engagement

ADEA Triennale conference

UTM proudly participated in the Mauritian educational landscape exhibition during the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) Triennale 2022 conference. The themes covered during the conference were key to make progress towards SDG 4 and promote learning in the African region.



Learning and Students

Sustainable, inclusive and equitable education

We offer a wide range of course units including interdisciplinary units open to all students that ensure sustainable, inclusive and equitable education. Our Masters programme in Educational Administration and Technology specially caters to the present needs of tutors in the practical and theoretical issues of education and technologies in educational settings.

Operations

Blended learning

During the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing lockdowns, we shifted our educational facilities online to ensure that students didn't suffer the risk of falling behind in their education without regular teaching. The UTM proudly provides blended learning using a combination of face-to-face delivery of courses and learning and online delivery and learning.



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Research

Digital Education Platform for women entrepreneurs

Women entrepreneurs contribute significantly to the SME sector of Mauritius. This [project](#) was conducted to empower women through digital education and how to use e-banking tools as a service enabler and facilitator in their financial transactions by using a personalized and adaptive approach through an online platform.

Public Engagement

Workshop on Equal Opportunity Policy

At UTM, we believe in the fair treatment and respect of all employees regardless of gender. In this respect, a workshop on the importance of equal opportunities was organized for staff members to share information on equal opportunities for all and eliminate discrimination.

Learning and Students

Gender equality in study programmes

Gender equality is embedded across most of our programmes with several modules covering gender equality. For example, our undergraduate programme in Logistics and Transport Management teaches on gender, equality and diversity management to give equal opportunities and remove barriers of discrimination towards women and other marginalized groups.

Operations

Gender equality

We value domestic work and unpaid care that often befall on our women staff. Thus, we provide parental leave, maternity/paternity leaves and more recently hybrid working which allow women to work from home since the COVID-19 lockdowns. We also have our equal opportunity policy which prevents discrimination based on gender and/or sex.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Ensure availability
and sustainable
management of
water and
sanitation for all



Public Engagement

Water fountains on campus

UTM supports water as a human right with everyone entitled to have access to sufficient, acceptable, safe, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use. In light of this, several free water fountains have been installed across our campus for staff, students and visitors to refill their bottles and cups.



Learning and Students

Study programmes

As our Schools of Sustainable Development and Health Sciences focus on environment and health, most of our programmes include water and sanitation from different perspectives. For example, we have a module on water and wastewater management in our undergraduate programme in Environmental and Public Health.

Operations

Sustainable drainage

Our campus consists of numerous green spaces that allow the natural absorption of water. Our wide open spaces are natural water systems that minimize surface water runoff and flood risks in an environmentally friendly manner.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Public Engagement

Clean energy in Mauritius

Several undergraduate students of the UTM participated in an article writing competition with theme 'Challenges faced by the clean energy sector in Mauritius further to COVID-19 impacts' which was sponsored by the Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency.



Learning and Students

Study programmes

In our endeavor to become carbon neutral and use green energy as a small island nation, affordable and clean energy are embedded in most of our programmes in the School of Sustainable Development and Tourism. Our undergraduate programme in Sustainable planning and management for instance covers energy and the environment.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Research

Adopting green jobs in Mauritius

The concept of green jobs is in its early stages in Mauritius. As such, this [research](#) was conducted to investigate the drivers and challenges faced by Mauritian organizations in implementing green jobs with recommendations on how to expand the market.

Public engagement

Community Learning and Engagement

UTM has put in place a mandatory credit based component for all undergraduate students called Community Learning and Engagement. It is a field based initiative aimed at promoting civic engagement in community organizations with off campus experience. It is carried out in collaboration with the NGO MACOSS.

Learning and Students

Labour laws

Decent work and economic growth is embedded across a wide range of disciplines in the programmes of our School of Business, Management and Finance. Our MBA (General) for example has a module in business and labour laws while our undergraduate programme in Management (Law) covers several aspects of labour laws.

Operations

Training for unskilled jobs

We are working with several businesses, academia and local governance to train employees for unskilled jobs. Examples include climate change science, sustainable urban planning, innovation and pharmacology.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**Build resilient
infrastructure, promote
inclusive and sustainable
industrialization and
foster innovation**



Research

Mobile-Based Carbon Footprint Calculation

To decrease our carbon emissions and hence help mitigate the effects of climate change, it is critical to quantify these emissions. This innovative [research](#) investigates the usability of a proposed carbon footprint calculator called Mau Carbon Footprint and provides recommendations on improving this quality attribute of such tools.

Public Engagement

UNESCO India Africa Hackathon 2022 coding competition

Our students participated in the UNESCO India Africa Hackathon 2022 coding competition, a platform for young innovators to find solutions to real world environmental, social and technical problems. We are proud that two of our students came out as winners of the competition in their respective categories, education and health.

Learning and Students

School of Innovative Technologies and Engineering

One of Mauritius' objective is to develop a knowledge, innovation and technology-based nation. Our School of Innovative Technologies and Engineering offers education and training towards technological driven development to meet the needs of the industry.

Operations

MOU between UTM and Ceridian Mauritius Ltd.

The UTM signed a signature of Memorandum with Ceridian Mauritius Ltd in 2022 for the Immersive Media Lab, a high tech lab focused on immersive experience and Artificial Intelligence. This lab will help the university carry research in technology and provide diverse opportunities for collaborative development.



**Reduce
inequality within
and among
countries**



Research

Online learning during COVID-19 pandemic

The global pandemic caused learning to shift from classroom to online teaching within short notice. This [research work](#) was conducted to analyse the impacts of online learning on social sciences students to understand the realities and difficulties students might face during this transition.

Public Engagement

Human rights workshop

At the UTM, we believe in empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all. In this respect, our School of Business, Management and Finance organized a workshop on Human Rights to sensitize students and staff on the history and issues regarding human rights in the context of Mauritius.

Learning and Students

Study programmes

Inequalities are addressed in a wide range of our modules ranging from undergraduate social sciences, counselling, gerontology, logistics and transport management programmes right through to MBA programmes.

Operations

Equity policies

We have several policies related to equity to make it clear that we take a zero tolerance approach towards all sorts of discrimination, sexual harassment, victimization and bullying by any member of our community.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Research

Citizen empowerment in smart cities

The government of Mauritius is currently looking for investors for developing smart cities across the island. Our research team embarked on a [project](#) to assess the behavioral intention of citizens to use these technologies so that they are empowered and their quality of life is improved.



Learning and Students

Sustainable Urban Planning

As tomorrow's professionals in building safe, resilient and sustainable cities, UTM has an undergraduate programme in Sustainable Urban Planning. Students explore the multiple facets of sustainable planning, building inclusive cities and explore the challenges in creating infrastructure that is resilient to climate change.

Operations

Fluid campus boundaries

At UTM, we are committed to the development of safe and sustainable community areas. We maintain fluid campus boundaries to encourage the use of green space by our local communities as a public amenity.



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Research

Carbon footprints of hotels

Tourism is one of the basic economic pillars of Mauritius and contribute significantly to GHG emissions. This [research work](#) identified the main contributing areas responsible for GHG emissions for the hotel industry in Mauritius using data such as water/energy consumption, land use etc. so as to find means to tackle these issues.

Public Engagement

Business solutions and intelligent decision making

Ecovadis, one of the world's most trusted provider of business sustainability rating companies, held a seminar at UTM to showcase how sustainability intelligence influences every business decision from production to consumption.

Learning and Students

Sustainable consumption and production

Our students learn about sustainable consumption and production through a wide range of programmes. For instance, our undergraduate programme in Procurement and Supply Management emphasizes the need for sustainable public procurement across all sectors.

Operations

Digital transformation

We have changed our operations from paper to digital to decrease our use of paper and subsequent amount of paper waste. Information that was on paper is now being digitized and managed through e-platforms including student assignments, theses, communication and teaching materials.



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Research

Climate change science

We are proud that our university is a vital hub for conducting research on climate change. We have published materials on [climate change and transportation](#), climate change adaptation strategies, decreasing and tracking GHG emissions to name a few.

Public Engagement

Road to Net Zero Mauritius

In collaboration with the University of Birmingham, UTM organized a workshop 'Road to Net Zero Mauritius Driving Innovation and Sustainability through ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) Disclosure and Performance'. The workshop provided a platform for thinking and debates on how to accelerate the transformation of Mauritius to achieve a socially just net zero future.

Learning and Students

Study programmes

We take climate change as a very important topic at UTM. Most of our programmes include a module in climate change, its effects and how to deal with it. We also provide a Master's degree in Climate Change, Health and Disaster Management which explores the science of climate change and analyses challenges and solutions to mitigate subsequent impacts.

Operations

Sustainable practices

Our university fully supports sustainable practices to decrease our carbon emissions in all its forms. We encourage staff and students to switch off all electrical devices when not in use, use hybrid and electric vehicles, go paperless and opt for low-carbon operational practices.



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Research

Coastal tourism and marine life

While Mauritius benefits immensely from the tourism sector, coastal tourism often has adverse impacts on the coastal and marine environment. This [study](#) investigates how leisure operators and tourists affect the coastal environment of Mauritius and proposes a framework to engage leisure operators in sustainable practices.

Public Engagement

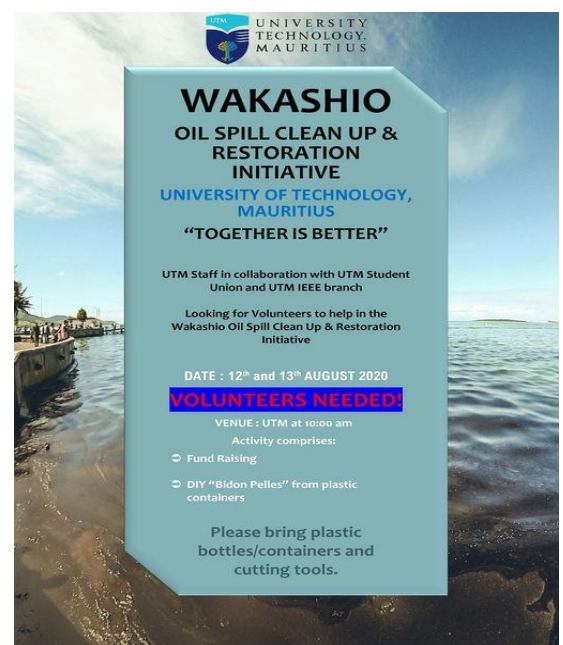
Women in WOMESA

UTM held a workshop on women in leadership in the maritime sector as a celebration of the world maritime day 2021. WOMESA (Women in the Maritime Sector in East and Southern Africa) enables women to train with men and acquire high level competence in the maritime industry.

Learning and Students

Study programmes

As Mauritius is an island nation, we fully encourage our students to study marine science. We currently have several post graduate students carrying out research work on coastal ecology, coastal tourism, oil spill monitoring amongst others. We also offer a Diploma in Fisheries Enabled Services to train officials in the maritime sector.





Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Learning and Students

Study programmes

Natural resources management and conservation is embedded across most of our programmes. For example, our Masters in Climate Change, Health and Disaster Management has a module on natural resource management, while our undergraduate programme in Sustainable Environmental Planning and Management focuses specifically on sustainable environmental planning in the Mauritian context.

Operations

Planting native species

We highly encourage the planting of native plants and trees across our campus to help our local wildlife and to raise awareness on our ecological richness. Bois chandelle is a native tree to Mauritius growing mainly on the offshore islets. We have planted several of these plants across our campus to increase native tree cover, push back deserts and reconnect our campus community to the unique biodiversity of Mauritius.



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Research

Significance of competition law

Antitrust laws are quite common in developed countries but their implementation is rare in developing countries. This [research work](#) assessed the enforcement features of the Mauritius Competition Act in relation to international standards and its relationship with Competition Intensity.

Public Engagement

Independent students' union

Our independent student union at UTM is very active and engages students in various activities from sports, musical festivals, excursions to donations. The student union helps students in a lot of ways bringing new ideas and improvements to the campus community.

Learning and Students

Study programmes

We are committed to promoting peaceful societies through our courses. Our Department of Business Management and Law in our School of Business Management and Finance offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Law that include modules in human rights.

Operations

Anti-corruption policy

Our Anti-Corruption Policy, available through our website, takes a zero tolerance approach to corruption and bribery in all our operations. We also ensure that recruitment of our staff is conducted in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



Research

ESD to face the post COVID-19 challenges

Our researchers are currently [investigating the role of UTM](#) in promoting ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) to face the global post COVID-19 challenges to enhance sustainability consciousness, attitude, behavior and knowledge among learners.

Public Engagement

Public engagement partnerships

We partner with several organizations to carry out meaningful public engagement with diverse audiences to share ideas, research and inspiring informed discussions and debates. Examples include partnerships with government organizations such as the Land Drainage Authority, Wastewater Management Authority etc.

Learning and Students

Learning partnerships

At UTM, we are committed to empowering our students with the knowledge and skills required to address all of the SDGs through partnerships with public, private and civil society organizations such as charity organizations where students can volunteer and external organizations that benefit from student intervention.

Operations

University partnerships

We have civic partnerships with other universities across the world to share ideas and enhance the knowledge of our students. Examples include the Institution of Occupational Safety & Health, UK, the Business Graduates Association, Anna Medical College etc.

Methodology

This report communicated the myriad of ways the University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM) is addressing the UN SDGs. This is the first SDG reporting of the UTM aimed at mapping our current practices in addressing the SDGs through four main areas: research, public engagement, learning and students and operations.

Case studies and data

We selected case studies to illustrate our contributions to the SDGs through a comprehensive analysis of UTM's website, Facebook page, Google Scholar, grey literature on Google search engine and staff advice. Only case studies which were publicly available were used for transparency purposes. We have no conflict of interest in the data presented. All images used in this report are licensed under Creative Commons Zero (CCO Public Domain).

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