

# Mauritius National Report

## 1.0 General

The Hydrographic Unit is set up at the Ministry of Housing and Lands since March 2002 and its main functions are to:-

- Carry out hydrographic surveys of harbours and lagoon entrances,
- Produce up-to-date Nautical Charts,
- Provide hydrographic data and nautical information to the international marine community for safe navigation and
- Provide hydrographic and geodetic data for the delimitation of maritime zones.

In October 2005, Mauritius and India signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of hydrography. The MoU provided for the promotion of development and cooperation in hydrography between the two countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. Potential areas of cooperation identified comprise, among others, hydrographic survey of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Mauritius; hydrographic surveys of important ports and harbours and designated sea areas around Mauritius and outer islands; exchange of hydrographic data for updating of EEZ Charts and the provision of hydrographic expertise for the setting up of a Hydrographic Infrastructure and Hydrographic Office in Mauritius.

## 2.0 Surveys

With the assistance of Indian Navy Hydrographic services under the MoU, the following surveys of Mauritian waters have been carried out :-

### Tasks undertaken:-

	<b>Indian Navy Ship</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Survey Task</b>
1	INS Sarvekshak	12 Jan 2006 - 25 Feb 2006	(i) Port Louis Harbour (ii) Approaches to Port Louis Harbour (iii) Proposed fishing port at Bain des Dames (iv) Agalega & Surrounding waters (v) Deep sea water sampling

2	INS Sarvekshak	10 Mar 2007 - 09 Apr 2007	(i) Port Mathurin Harbour  (ii) Approaches to Port Mathurin Harbour  (iii) Bathymetric survey for LBOI at:  - Trou d'Eau Douce  - Riviere Noire
3	INS Investigator	29 Feb 2008 - 09 Apr 2008	(i) St Brandon Shoals (30%)  02 Mar 08- 18 Mar 08  19 Mar 08-09 Apr 08  (ii) Profile for MOI -CLCS Survey
4	INS Nirdeshak	10 Mar 2009 - 16 Apr 2009	(i) St Brandon Shoals (up to 70%)  (ii) Survey of Passes:  - Grand Bay - Tamarin Bay - Grande Riviere Noire Bay  (iii) Lagoon at Riviere des Galets
5	INS Nirdeshak	26 Mar 2010 - 26 Apr 2010	(i) St Brandon Shoals (100%)  (ii) Flic en Flac  (iii) Grand Port - Southern Entrance
6	INS Sarvekshak	23 Feb 2011 - 23 Mar2011	a. Survey in the East of Rodrigues  b. Survey of Eastern flank of Mauritius  c. Survey of Navigational Channel to SSR Terminal and Quays A/D up to the Fishing Port  d. Rodrigues Island Transects  e. Survey of Passes - Cap Malheureux- Albion

7	INS Darshak	24 April 2012 – 15 May 2012	a. Survey of off lagoon from Bel Ombre to Le Chaland b. Survey off Albion coast
8	INS Sarvekshak	02 February - 13 Mar 2013	a. Survey of off Poudre D’Or region b. Survey of off GRSE region.

## 2.1 Equipment

The following equipments were donated by the Japanese through JICA assistance. They have been used on a few occasions by local technicians with the assistance of JICA and Indian Experts.

List of hydrographic surveying equipments:

1. Precision depth recorders – PDR 601
2. 4 transducers and accessories
3. Differential GPS – Aquarius 5000 Series (Dassault Sercel)
4. Engine Generator (230V)
5. Barcheck with 5 reflectors
6. Hand winch
7. Battery chargers
8. Cylindrical dredge
9. Hypack Software (software is not working)
10. One Personal computer

In February 2013, the Indian Government has donated a survey boat, “Pathfinder”. It is equipped with single beam echo sounder, GPS. The survey boat will be used for lagoon hydrographic survey around Mauritius and Rodrigues Island.

## 3.0 New Charts & Updates

The charts for all the surveys undertaken by the Indian Navy are produced by the latter.

The following charts have been produced and are on sale.

Sheet No	Name
2503	Approaches to Cargados Carajos Shoals
2084	Agalega Island
2086	Port Louis and Approaches to Port Louis
2504	Mathurin Harbour
2505	Approaches to Mathurin Harbour
2506	Grand Bay and Grande Riviere Noire Bay

#### **4. Assistance for reinforcement of Hydrographic Unit.**

The Indian Authorities have agreed to depute a Hydrographic Officer and two sailors to assist in the initial reinforcement and capacity building of the Hydrographic Unit, so that minor survey requirements of various stake holders can be effectively undertaken along with on job training.

#### **5. Capacity Building**

Opportunity was given to our staff for onboard training on the Indian Navy hydrographic survey ships during their mission in our waters.

Eleven officers have followed Cat B Hydrographic course from India, Japan and Holland. 3 officers have followed the Multibeam sonar course. Presently one officer is undergoing Cat A Hydrographic Surveying program course at the University of Southern Mississippi, USA.

Three officers have undergone training in Marine Cartography and ENC. Two of them have been at the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, Kenya and one at United Kingdom Hydrographic Office.

Capacity building and training are required in the following areas:-

- Hydrographic Surveys
- Nautical Cartography
- Hydrographic equipment maintenance
- On the job training for hydrographic surveys and chart production.

#### **6. North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC)**

Mauritius was admitted as member of NIOHC at its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting held in February 2009 in Seychelles and participates regularly in the NIOHC meetings.

#### **7. Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)**

During the 7<sup>th</sup> SAIHC meeting held on 16 and 17 September 2009 at La Reunion, St. Denis, Mauritius was elected to hold the position as Vice-Chairman of SAIHC.

During the 8<sup>th</sup> SAIHC meeting held on 6 and 7 September 2011 at Walvis Bay, Namibia, Mr. Abdool Nooraneer Oozeer of Mauritius was re-elected as Vice-Chairman of SAIHC.

The 9<sup>th</sup> SAIHC Conference held in Mauritius from 18 to 19 September 2012, Mauritius was again re-elected as Vice-chair of SAIHC.

## **8. Mauritius Port and Shipping Statistics**

According to the Port trade statistics, the overall traffic for year 2012 is as follows:

(i) Cargo Traffic (Import/Export)	7075186 Tonnes
(ii) Container Traffic (Total containers)	417467
(iii) Vessel Traffic	3476

## **9. Maritime Zone Delimitation according to UNCLOS**

- Mauritius has finalised the establishment of its base points and data have already been submitted to the Secretary General, United Nation.

- Mauritius has delimited its EEZ limit with the Seychelles. The agreement has been submitted to the Secretary General, United Nation.

- The United Nation Commission on Limits of Continental Shelf has endorsed the joint submission by Mauritius and Seychelles for 396,000 square kilometers of additional sea bed in the Mascarene region which will be managed jointly by the two countries.

- A cordial working relationship exists between Seychelles and Mauritius regarding the joint management of the 396,000 sq kms.

12.09.2013