

# Mauritius Country Report on Hydrography 2012

## Ministry of Housing and Lands

### Survey Division

#### Introduction

Mauritius has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 2 Million Sq Km and being signatory to International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Convention of Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), it has national and international responsibilities to provide safety of navigation in its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

#### 1. Cooperation between India and Mauritius

An MOU was signed with India in **October 2005** to promote cooperation in the field of hydrography between the two countries. The Memorandum of Understanding provides for assistance by the Indian Hydrographic Office for hydrographic surveys in our EEZ, ports and lagoons.

There is also provision for assistance in the production of navigational charts, training of staff and expertise for the setting up of a hydrographic service in Mauritius.

#### 2. Achievements since signature of MOU

Seven Joint Indo-Mauritian committees have been held since 2006 to discuss and finalise hydrographic tasks. The first one was held in Mauritius and the others have been held alternatively in India and Mauritius.

So far under the provisions of the MOU, the Indian Authorities have deployed Indian Naval Survey Vessels each year since 2006 to undertake the agreed survey tasks. Each ship has been deployed in our waters for an average duration of 30 days.

#### 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 Mar 2011	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

### 3. Sale of Nautical Charts

A protocol on the sale of navigational charts was signed on 02 April 2009 between India and Mauritius. This provides for the production, marketing, printing by the National Hydrographic Office and also the criteria for the payment of royalties and commissions.

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

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

Consultations are ongoing with the Indian Authorities for the deputation of an appropriate 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. Training**

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

Ten officers have followed Cat B Hydrographic course from India and Japan and 3 officers have also followed the Multibeam sonar course.

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.

#### **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 selected and agreed 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 Oozeer of Mauritius has been re-elected as Vice-Chairman of SAIHC.

Mauritius has indicated that it would be prepared to host the 9<sup>th</sup> SAIHC Conference in September 2012.

#### **8. The 7th Indo-Mauritian Joint Hydrographic Committee**

The 7th Indo-Mauritian Joint Hydrographic Committee Meeting was held in Mauritius from 22 February to 24 February 2012 in continuation of the bilateral cooperation between the Governments of the Republic of India and Republic of Mauritius.

Two tasks have been identified for Bathymetric Survey to be undertaken by the Indian Navy ship scheduled to arrive Mauritius by the end of April for about 3 weeks. The tasks to be carried out are the Bathymetric Survey off the Southern Coast of Mauritius from Le Morne to Le Chaland and off the coast of Le Morne to meet the requirements of various stakeholders.

## 9. Mauritius Port and Shipping Statistics

According to the port trade statistics, the overall traffic for year 2011 is as follows:

(i) Cargo Traffic (Import/Export)	6447220 Tonnes
(ii) Container Traffic (Total containers)	350624 TEUs
(iii) Vessel Traffic	2654