

Mauritius Country Report on Hydrography 2013

Ministry of Housing and Lands

Survey Division

1. Hydrographic Office and Services

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.

Other Government Agencies dealing with related hydrographic activities are:-

- (i) The Mauritius Ports Authority (MPA) which is responsible for the dredging of the port area and for the provision of navigational aids;
- (ii) The Mauritius Meteorological Service which is responsible for the maintenance of tide gauges and production of tide tables; and
- (iii) The Shipping Division of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, land Transport and Shipping is the maritime administrator responsible for the development of maritime activities such as registration of ships and implementation of the Merchant Shipping Act.

2. Surveys

Cooperation between India and Mauritius

In October 2005, Mauritius and India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of hydrography. The MoU provides for the promotion of development and cooperation in hydrography between the two countries and 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 setting up of a hydrographic infrastructure and office in Mauritius.

Eight Joint Indo- Mauritian Committees have been held since 2006 to discuss and finalise hydrographic tasks. So far under the provisions of the MoU, the Indian Authorities have deployed 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.

A summary of the surveys undertaken for the period 2006 – 2012 are as follows:

Tasks undertaken:-

	Indian Navy Ship	Period	Survey Task
1	INS Sarvekshak	12 Jan 2006 -25 Feb 2006	Port Louis Harbour Approaches to Port Louis Harbour Proposed fishing port at Bain des Dames Agalega & Surrounding waters Deep sea water sampling
2	INS Sarvekshak	10 Mar 2007 - 09 Apr 2007	Port Mathurin Harbour Approaches to Port Mathurin Harbour Bathymetric survey for LBOI at: - Trou d'Eau Douce - Riviere Noire
3	INS Investigator	29 Feb 2008 - 09 Apr 2008	St Brandon Shoals (30%) Profile for MOI -CLCS Survey
4	INS Nirdeshak	10 Mar 2009 -16 Apr 2009	St Brandon Shoals (up to 70%) Survey of Passes: - Grand Bay - Tamarin Bay - Grande Riviere Noire Bay Lagoon at Riviere des Galets
5	INS Nirdeshak	26 Mar 2010 -26 Apr 2010	St Brandon Shoals (100%) Flic en Flac Grand Port - Southern Entrance
6	INS Sarvekshak	23 Feb 2011 - 23 Mar 2011	Survey in the East of Rodrigues Survey of Eastern flank of Mauritius Survey of Navigational Channel to SSR Terminal and Quays A/D up to the Fishing Port Rodrigues Island Transects Survey of Passes - Cap Malheureux- Albion
7	INS Darshak	24 Apr 2012 - 15 May 2012	Survey of lagoon from Bel Ombre to Le Chaland Survey off Albion coast

Multibeam surveys have been carried out by INS Darshak for off coast waters and small boats were used for shallow waters.

Fair sheets of these areas have been submitted by the Indian Authorities.

3. New Charts & Updates

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

The survey of the St Brandon Shoals was completed during the survey carried out by INS Nirdeshak in March- April 2010 and a new chart of the area will be produced.

4. Capacity Building

IHO Capacity Building Programme

Captain Abri KAMPFER SAN from the South African Navy Hydrographic Office (SANHO) and Chairman of Southern Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission and Mr Bob WILSON, seconded from the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) carried out a hydrographic awareness and technical assessment visit to Mauritius between 12 and 15 September 2012. The draft report is under consideration.

Assistance for reinforcement of the Hydrographic Unit.

The Indian Authorities have agreed to depute a Hydrographic Officer and two Surveying Recorders to assist in the initial reinforcement and capacity building of the Hydrographic Unit, so that minor survey requirements of various stakeholders can be effectively undertaken.

Training received

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.

One officer followed a regional training course in Basic Electronic Navigational Charting (ENC) and ENC production at the School of Ports in Durban, South Africa.

One officer followed a Hydrographic Survey Cat B course at Skilltrade BV in Rotterdam, Holland in 2012.

On the job training has been provided onboard Indian Navy ships during each survey mission.

Training Needed

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.
- Hydrographic Surveying Category 'B' Course.

6. Other Activities

Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)

Mauritius was re-elected as Vice-chair of SAIHC at the 9th SAIHC Conference held in Mauritius from 18 to 19 September 2012. Discussions were held concerning the producer nation for charts for Mauritian waters. Mauritius stated that India be recognised as the INT producer nation and publisher of navigational charts of Mauritian waters.

It was also agreed that this would require a transition period of a minimum of one year according to experts. It was therefore agreed that a transition monitoring panel be set up comprising Mauritius, INHO, UKHO, IHB and SAIHC to that effect to ensure that the transition is effected in a smooth manner and within the least delay. Mauritius would also hold a meeting to look into the issue.

The 8th Indo-Mauritian Joint Hydrographic Committee

The 8th Indo-Mauritian Joint Hydrographic Committee Meeting was held in Dehradun, India from 05 November to 08 November 2012 in continuation of the bilateral cooperation between the Governments of the Republic of India and Republic of Mauritius.

The Indian Navy ship scheduled to reach Mauritius in February 2013, will undertake further bathymetric survey in our waters.

10 January 2013