



REPORT OF
THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS
REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

14TH NORTH INDIAN OCEAN
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

Bangkok, Thailand
26 to 28 February 2014

NATIONAL REPORT TO REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (NIOHC)
REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

1. Introduction

Mauritius has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 2.3 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 area of jurisdiction.

2. Hydrographic Office and Services

(a) The Hydrographic Unit has been established at the Ministry of Housing and Lands. The Indian National Hydrographic Office have deputed a Hydrographer and two Surveying Recorders on 01 November 2013 for capacity building and to assist in the initial set up of the Hydrographic infrastructure. The objectives set for the hydrographic unit are as follows:-

- (i) Setting up of hydrographic infrastructure.
- (ii) To carryout hydrographic survey of ports and passes.
- (iii) To provide quality training in the field of hydrography.
- (iv) To develop and strengthen hydrographic research.
- (v) Provide nautical information to the international marine community for safe navigation.
- (vi) Provide hydrographic and geodetic data for the delimitation of maritime zones.

(b) 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.
- (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.

(iv) The Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) advises Government on the formulation and implementation of policies and programs in respect to oceanography and marine resources.

3. Surveys

Cooperation between India and Mauritius

(a) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of India in the field of hydrography was signed on 24 Oct 05. The MoU provides for the promotion of development and cooperation in the field of hydrography between the two countries and provides for the assistance in the production of navigational charts, training of staff and expertise for setting up of a hydrographic infrastructure and office in Mauritius. There is also a provision for assistance by the Indian Hydrographic office for the hydrographic surveys in our EEZ, ports and lagoons.

(b) 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. The Ninth Joint Indo- Mauritian Committees is scheduled in the month of May at Mauritius.

4. Surveys by Hydrographic Unit. The newly established Hydrographic Unit has started hydrographic surveys of Lagoon and coastal areas. The Inshore Survey Vessel donated by Government of India is being utilised for this task. The collected data shall be forwarded to concerned charting agencies for updating nautical charts and products on completion of work.

5. The resources available with the Hydrographic unit to carry out these tasks are as follows:-

- (a) Inshore Survey Vessel.
- (b) Atlas Deso-30 Echo sounder with 210 KHz and 33 KHz transducers.
- (c) Hemisphere R-131 Satellite DGPS.
- (d) TSS Dynamic Motion Sensor 25.
- (e) Automated Data Logging System with HYPACK software
- (f) Side Scan Sonar 4200 FS with Discover and Sonar wiz softwares
- (g) CTD 48M Sound Velocity Profiler
- (h) Precision depth recorders – PDR 601
- (i) Differential GPS – Aquarius 5000 Series (Dassault Sercel)

6. Indian Naval Ships visited on eight different occasions and have carried out 26 Hydrographic surveys of Mauritian waters. Fair sheets of these areas have been

submitted by the Indian Authorities. A Summary of surveys undertaken for the period 2006-2014 are as follows:-

| SL. | SHIP | PERIOD | SURVEY |
|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| (a) | INS Sarvekshak | 12 Jan 06 to 25 Feb 06 | (a) Port Louis Harbour (b) Approaches to Port Louis Harbour (c) Proposed fishing port at Bain des Dames (d) Agalega & Surrounding waters (e) Deep sea water sampling |
| (b) | INS Sarvekshak | 10 Mar 07 to 09 Apr 07 | (a) Port Mathurin Harbour (b) Approaches to Port Mathurin Harbour (c) Bathymetric survey for LBOI at: - Troud'EauDouce - Riviere Noire |
| (c) | INS Investigator | 29 Feb 08 to 09 Apr 08 | (a) St Brandon Shoals (30%) (b) Profile for MOI –CLCS Survey |
| (d) | INS Nirdeshak | 10 Mar 09 to 06 Apr 09 | (a) St Brandon Shoals (up to 70%) (b) Survey of Passes: - Grand Bay - Tamarin Bay - Grande Riviere Noire Bay (c) Lagoon at Riviere des Galets |
| (e) | INS Nirdeshak | 26 Mar 10 to 26 Apr 10 | (a) St Brandon Shoals (100%) (b) Flic en Flac (c) Grand Port – Southern Entrance |
| (f) | INS Sarvekshak | 23 Feb 11 to 23 Mar 11 | (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 |
| (g) | INS Darshak | 24 Apr 12 to 15 May 12 | (a) Survey of off lagoon from Bel Ombre to Le Chaland (b) Survey off Albion coast |
| (h) | INS Sarvekshak | 02 Feb 13 to 13 Mar 13 | (a) Survey of Poudre D'or region (b) Survey of Off GRSE region. |

7. 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. These charts are also kept up-to-date incorporating all correction as promulgated by NTM's.

| 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 Grand Riviere Noire Bay |

8. Capacity Building

Capacity Building Programme

In the context of MoU the government of India has deputed One Commander Hydrographer and Two Petty Officer Survey Recorders to set up a Hydrographic Unit. The functions of this unit are as follows:-

- (a) Prepare and regulate long-term program of Hydrographic surveying and charting of Mauritian Water.
- (b) Carry out specialized survey with other government departments such as Oceanographic, Fisheries, Meteorological and Port authorities. Supervise and provide advice for any hydrographic survey work carried out by a private contractor.
- (c) To represent Government of Mauritius at International and regional level on Hydrographic matters.
- (d) To act as focal point and repository for hydrographic and nautical information.
- (e) To coordinate training facilities at national and international level for hydrographic surveying and technicians
- (f) To recommend national policy and take steps for improvement of Hydrographic survey services.

Training received

Opportunity was given to our staff for onboard training on the Indian Navy hydrographic survey ships during their mission in our waters. Twelve officers have followed Cat B Hydrographic course from India, Holland, and Japan and few officers have also followed the Multibeam sonar course. One officer is undergoing CAT 'A' course at USM, Mississippi.

Three officers have undergone training in Marine Cartography and ENC 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.

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

The newly established Hydrographic unit is also carrying out on job training during conduct of surveys in Lagoon for surveyors of various stakeholders at Mauritius.

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 'A' and Category 'B' Courses.

9. Other Activities

(a) Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC). During the 10th SAIHC meeting held on 17 - 18 September 2013 at IHPT Lisbon, Portugal, Mr. Abdool Nooranee Oozeer of Mauritius has been re-elected as Vice-Chairman of SAIHC. Discussions were held during previous meetings concerning the producer nation for charts for Mauritian waters. Mauritius had stated that India be recognised as the INT producer nation and publisher of navigational charts of Mauritian waters. The Indian Authorities have made a bilateral agreement with UKHO and have submitted its proposal to SAIHC chairman. The INT Chart producer Nation Status is likely to be taken over by

India in near future.

(b) The 9th Indo-Mauritian Joint Hydrographic Committee. The 9th Indo-Mauritian Joint Hydrographic Committee is scheduled in the month of May 2014 at Mauritius in continuation of the bilateral cooperation between both Governments.

10. Mauritius Port and Shipping Statistics

According to the port trade statistics, the overall traffic for year 2013 is as follows:

- (a) Vessel Traffic 2418
- (b) Import- 5686342 Tonnes
- (c) Export-1252878 Tonnes