

Mauritius National Report

1.0 General

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

- 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 August 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 :-

| Date | Indian Navy Ship | Surveyed Areas |
|-------------------------|------------------|---|
| January – February 2006 | INS Sarvekshak | -Port Louis Harbour and Approach. -Agalega Island. |
| March – April 2007 | INS Sarvekshak | -Port Mathurin Harbour and Approach. -Bathymetric survey along East and West coast of Mauritius. |
| February – April 2008 | INS Investigator | -St Brandon Island (30% completed). |
| March – April 2009 | INS Niradeshak | -St Brandon Island (70% completed). -Survey of Passes in the lagoon of Mauritius |

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|--|--|---------|
| | | Island. |
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2.1 Equipment

The following equipment 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 equipment:

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

3.0 New Charts & Updates

The charts for all the surveys undertaken by the Indian Navy are produced by the latter. Protocol on the sale of these navigational charts has been signed between the Government of Mauritius and the Government of India on 02 April 2009.

4.0 Maritime Zone Delimitation according to UNCLOS

- Mauritius has finalized the establishment of its basepoints 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.
- A joint claim with the Seychelles for an extended continental shelf over the region of Saya de Malha Bank has been deposited with the Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelf, United Nation.

5.0 Capacity Building

Several land surveyors have undergone training in Cat 'B' Hydrographic course in India and Japan. However, due to lack of proper Hydrographic survey framework, the local staffs are unable to undertake hydrographic surveys on their own.

Request has been made to the Indian Authorities to assist Mauritius in the setting up of its hydrographic services and provide training to the local staff.

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

- Hydrographic Surveys
- Nautical cartography
- Hydrographic equipment maintenance.