

**Mauritius Country Report on Hydrography 2011**  
**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**

Six 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 - Rivière 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 Rivière Noire Bay (iii) Lagoon at Rivière 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.

#### **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 been trained in Cat B course and four of them have been at the National Hydrographic School at Goa.

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.