NATIONAL OCEAN SCIENCE FORUM

2027

Our Ocean, Our Future: Connecting Ocean, Science and People

- FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE & MARINE LIVING RESOURCES
- CLIMATE CHANGE, OCEAN WARMING & SEA LEVEL RISE
- MARINE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, OCEAN ACIDIFICATION & ECOSYSTEM HEALTH
- MARINE POLLUTION, WASTE MANAGEMENT & MICROPLASTICS
- MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGY
- OCEAN LITERACY, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & OCEAN GUARDIANSHIP
- OCEAN GOVERNANCE, MARITIME SECURITY & THE LAW OF THE SEA
- BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE INDUSTRY INNOVATION & ECO TOURISM
- BLUE FINANCE, BLUE CARBON & SUSTAINABLE OCEAN INVESTMENT

28 & 29 January 2027

Concept Note

KNOWLEDGE SHARING | RESEARCH COORDINATION | POLICY SUPPORT | INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION | PROMOTING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING | YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

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A. The Forum

Jointly organised by the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) and the University of Mauritius (UoM), the National Ocean Science Forum (NOSF) 2027 **will be held on 28 and 29 January 2027 at the Paul Octave Wiéhé Auditorium (POWA), University of Mauritius (UoM)**, Réduit. The forum will serve as a premier national platform to demonstrate and communicate research findings to the scientific community and the general public, highlighting the vital role of oceanography and marine sciences in the conservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems. Anchored in the long-term strategic orientations of Vision 2050, the Government Programme and National Budget Speech directives on expanding Mauritius' ocean economy, this platform will align the national blue economy agenda and support evidence-based action. Furthermore, NOSF 2027 builds upon the consultative momentum of Les Assises de l'Océan, operationalising its strategic recommendations by channelling interdisciplinary research, multi-stakeholder dialogues and technological innovation into concrete roadmaps for sustainable ocean-based growth and coastal resilience.

B. Host Organisations

1. The Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI)

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) serves as the country's primary governmental research body mandated to coordinate, conduct and rationalise applied oceanographic research across Mauritius's vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Its focus lies heavily in applied ocean/marine science, operational oceanography, marine biotechnology and ecosystem monitoring (such as coral reef dynamics, bathymetry and satellite ocean remote sensing). In connection with the NOSF, the MOI will bridge national development priorities and government policy with scientific application as well as foster cross-sectoral collaboration among public agencies, regional and international partners, industry stakeholders, academia, the youth and the community to drive sustainable blue economy objectives.

2. The University of Mauritius (UoM)

The University of Mauritius (UoM), through entities like its Faculty of Science and the Department of Biosciences and Ocean Studies, serves as the premier academic and capacity-building institution for ocean and marine sciences in Mauritius. Its focus centres on foundational and experimental scientific inquiry, higher education, long-term marine biological and ecological research and the training of future ocean scientists. In the context of the NOSF, UoM will operate primarily as an academic pillar and intellectual contributor.

C. The National Ocean Science Forum Series

Since its inception in 2005 and the last edition in 2011, the NOSF has established itself as the country's premier multi-stakeholder platform dedicated to synthesising marine research, advancing ocean governance and aligning science with national sustainable development agendas. Conceived to bridge the traditional silos separating academia, state research bodies, policymaking institutions, private industry, the youth as well as the community, the forum series serves as a critical national vehicle for sharing peer-reviewed breakthroughs across all spheres of oceanography and ocean / marine science. Over the course of its evolution, it has expanded its thematic scope from foundational biological, chemical, physical oceanography and marine geosciences to cutting-edge frontiers—including marine biotechnology, ocean remote sensing, climate-resilient coral restoration and blue economy valorisation. By convening various stakeholders, the series continue to translate empirical data into evidence-

based marine spatial planning and policy, solidifying Mauritius's regional leadership in sustainable ocean stewardship and the development of the Blue Economy.

D. Theme

Under the theme ***"Our Ocean, Our Future: Connecting Ocean, Science and People,"*** NOSF 2027 highlights the vital link between marine ecosystems, scientific innovation and society. By uniting researchers, policymakers, industry and communities, it translates evidence-based science into actionable solutions for climate resilience, marine conservation and a sustainable blue economy that secures Mauritius' prosperous future.

E. Objectives

The forum is designed to inform about the latest research trends in marine science and oceanography at national, regional and international level through the following objectives:

1. **Knowledge Sharing:** This platform enables scientists, academics, and researchers to disseminate new marine findings and technological advancements while bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, NGOs, and the public to foster multidisciplinary dialogue, bridge research gaps, and build collaborative partnerships for ocean development.
2. **Research Coordination: S**treamlining and aligning marine research efforts across Mauritius to eliminate duplication and maximise scientific impact, while directly targeting critical challenges such as climate change, sea level rise, ocean acidification, marine pollution, overfishing, coastal ecosystem degradation, among others.
3. **Policy Support:** Providing comprehensive scientific insights on the ocean's health, dynamics and future trajectory for the formulation of evidence-based policies for conservation and sustainable use of the ocean geared towards development of the blue economy.
4. **Investment and Innovation:** Encourage sustainable investment and innovation in long-term health and prosperity of oceans and economies.
5. **Promoting public awareness and understanding:** Raising public awareness about the vital role of the ocean in regulating climate, supporting livelihoods and providing essential ecosystem services. This can involve several outreach activities such as providing platforms to the youth/future generation of ocean guardians as well as educational initiatives in making marine science/oceanography more accessible to a broader audience.
6. **Youth Engagement:** Youth engagement will constitute a central pillar of the Forum. A dedicated platform will provide secondary and tertiary students with opportunities to participate in the forum.

F. Committees

1. Organising Committee

An Organising Committee has been set up comprising of members from the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI), University of Mauritius (UoM), the Albion Fisheries Research Centre (AFRC), the Department of Continental Shelf, Maritime Zones Administration and Exploration (CSMZAE), the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Climate Change Division), the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC), the Mauritius Meteorological Services (MMS), the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre (RGSC), the Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology (MAST), the Open University of Mauritius (OUM), the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE), the Université des Mascareignes (UDM) and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) Country Coordinator for Mauritius.

The composition of the Organising Committee is as follows:

Members	Designation	Organisation
Dr. Daniel Marie - Chairperson	Director	MOI
Dr. Manvendra Singh	Deputy Director	
Miss. Ranjeeta Boyjoonauth - Secretary	Public Relations Officer	
Dr. Ranjeet Bhagooli	Professor	UoM
Dr. Deepeeka Kaullysing	Associate Professor	UoM / MAST
Dr. (Mrs.) Poonam Veer Ramjeawon	Research Coordinator	MRIC
Dr. Arshad Rawat	Director (Physical Oceanography/Marine Geoscience Unit)	CSMZAE
Mr. Akhilesh Ramkalawon	Environment Officer/Senior Environment Officer	Min. of Environment
Mrs. Sandhya Dindyal	Divisional Meteorologist	MMS
Mr. Vimal Mungul	Meteorologist/ Senior Meteorologist	
Dr. Vikash Munbodhe	Acting Assistant Director (Fisheries)	AFRC
Mr. Désiré Gaël Henriette-Bolli	Senior Lecturer	OUM
Dr. Shakeel Atchia	Lecturer	MIE
Mr. Shakeel Yavan Jogee	Country Coordinator for Mauritius	WIOMSA
Mr. Sookdeo Rungoo	Manager / Curator(Education)	RGSC
Dr. Jay Rovisham Doorga	Lecturer	UDM
Mr. Mohammad Shoaib Ibne Saleem Casseem (Alternate)	Research Assistant	

2. Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee is established under the authority of the NOSF 2027 Organising Committee to provide scientific oversight and ensure the academic integrity, quality and credibility of all scientific content presented during the Forum. The Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and evaluating scientific submissions, guiding the development of the scientific programme and ensuring that all presentations, publications and technical outputs meet acceptable scientific standards and contribute meaningfully to the objectives of the Forum.

The composition of the Scientific Committee is as follows:

Members	Designation	Organisation
Dr. Ranjeet Bhagooli - Chairperson	Professor	UoM
Miss. Ranjeeta Boyjoonauth - Secretary	Public Relations Officer	MOI
Dr. Deepeeka Kaullysing	Associate Professor	UoM / MAST
Dr. Prakash Mussai	Principal Research Scientist	MOI

Dr. Oocheetsing Sadasing	Principal Research Scientist	
Dr. Avin Ramanjooloo	Principal Research Scientist	MOI
Mr. Sarvanen Curpen	Principal Research Scientist	
Mrs. Sandhya Dindyal	Divisional Meteorologist	MMS
Mr. Vimal Mungul	Meteorologist/ Senior Meteorologist	
Dr. Vikash Munbodhe	Acting Assistant Director (Fisheries)	AFRC
Dr. Rahvee Bholah	Associate Professor	MIE
Mr. Shakeel Yavan Jogee	Country Coordinator for Mauritius	WIOMSA
Dr. Jay Rovisham Doorga	Lecturer	UDM
Mr. Mohammad Shoaib Ibne Saleem Casseem (Alternate)	Research Assistant	

3. Communication, Outreach and Media Committee

The Communication, Outreach and Media Committee is established under the authority of the NOSF 2027 Organising Committee to coordinate all communication, publicity, marketing, stakeholder engagement, outreach and media-related activities associated with the Forum. The Committee shall support the visibility and public profile of the Forum, promote participation across all stakeholder groups and ensure effective dissemination of scientific information and outcomes to national, regional and international audiences.

The composition of the Communication, Outreach and Media Committee is as follows:

Members	Designation	Organisation
Dr. (Mrs.) Poonam Veer Ramjeawon - Chairperson	Research Coordinator	MRIC
Miss. Ranjeeta Boyjoonauth - Secretary	Public Relations Officer	MOI
Dr. (Ms.) Fawzia Bibi Narod	Associate Professor	MIE
Mr. Koushul Narrain	Acting Research Officer	MRIC
Miss. Siddhee Bhojoo	Research Assistant	
Mr. Désiré Gaël Henriette-Bolli	Senior Lecturer	OUM

G. Benefits

1. **Benefits to MOI:** Showcases scientific excellence, secures regional leadership across the Indian Ocean, supports funding avenues, and attracts future scientific talent.
2. **Benefits to Partner Institutions:** Breaks down institutional silos, encourages co-authored research, synchronises data collection, and exposes academia to private sector and international framework requirements.
3. **Benefits to the Country:** Translates regional and international expertise into sustainable ocean investments, supporting resilient livelihoods for coastal and fishing communities.

H. Forum Activities

The forum will feature a range of competitive and promotional events, including oral and poster presentations tailored for both students and professionals. Alongside these sessions, the programme will encompass an official Call for Abstracts and Papers, the publication of a digital Book of Abstracts, a multi-stakeholder exhibition hosted across the POWA lobby and the Raised Plaza, an Awards ceremony, high-level keynote addresses and extensive media and public engagement initiatives. In the lead-up to the event, planned outreach activities may include a pre-forum public lecture or workshop, as well as creative competitions—such as a short video challenge—specifically designed for secondary school students.

I. Target Audience

The forum aims to convene a comprehensive spectrum of marine-related stakeholders, bringing together government ministries, departments and parastatal bodies; diplomatic missions and embassies; and regional and international collaborating partners. It will also engage academic institutions—encompassing researchers, lecturers and students at both secondary and tertiary levels—alongside private sector leaders, non-governmental organisations and local fishing communities. To ensure broad societal outreach and informed public discourse, the event will welcome the general public and actively involve members of the media, particularly specialised environmental, climate and marine journalists.

J. Expected Outcomes

The forum is anticipated to deliver key outcomes, including enhanced visibility for local marine and ocean science research; stronger cross-sector collaboration among government bodies, academia, NGOs and the private sector; and heightened public awareness of ocean-related challenges and opportunities. Additionally, it aims to advance nationwide ocean literacy and effective science communication, foster active youth engagement in ocean stewardship and scientific innovation, unlock new avenues for collaborative research and funding and reinforce Mauritius' standing as a regional leader in ocean governance and sustainable blue economy development.

K. Contact Person

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Annex A – Tentative Programme

Time	Tentative Programme – Day 1 – Thursday 28 January 2027
	Opening Ceremony
08:30	Registration of Participants
09:15	***Arrival of Chief Guests***
	CHIEF GUESTS TO BE CONFIRMED
09:30	Opening Remarks by Dr. Daniel Marie, Director, MOI
09:35	Speech by Dr. Mitrasen Bhikajee, Chairman of MOI Board
09:40	Speech by Professor (Dr.) Kavi Kumar Khedo, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius
09:45	**SPEECH BY DIGNITARIES TO BE CONFORMED**
09:55	
10:05	
10:30	Visit of Exhibition Corner
11:00	***Group Photo/ Media Intervention/ Tea Break***
11:30	Keynote Speaker Address 1
12:00 – 13:00	***Lunch Break & Networking***
	Session I: Presentations **Moderator and Rapporteur: To be Determined**
13:00	Sub - Thematic 1: Fisheries, Aquaculture & Marine Living Resources
14:00	Sub - Thematic 2: Climate Change, Ocean Warming & Sea Level Rise
15:00	Sub - Thematic 3: Marine Biodiversity Conservation, Ocean Acidification & Ecosystem Health
16:00	Wrap Up by Dr. Manvendra Singh, Deputy Director, MOI
	End of Day 1

Time	Tentative Programme – Day 2 – Friday 29 January 2027	
08:30	**Registration of Participants**	
Session II: Parallel Presentations **Moderator and Rapporteur: To be Determined**		
09:00	Sub - Thematic 4: Marine Pollution, Waste Management & Microplastics	Sub - Thematic 7: Ocean Governance, Maritime Security & the Law of the Sea
10:00	Sub - Thematic 5: Marine Renewable Energy	Sub - Thematic 8: Blue Economy, Marine Industry Innovation & Eco Tourism
11:00	Sub - Thematic 6: Ocean Literacy, Community Engagement & Ocean Guardianship	Sub - Thematic 9: Blue Finance, Blue Carbon & Sustainable Ocean Investment
12:00 – 13:00	***Lunch Break & Networking***	
Session III: Open Dialogue / Roundtable Discussions, Award Ceremony		
13:00	Open Dialogue / Roundtable Discussions (Panellists to be identified)	
14:00	Consolidating Insights and Future Directions: Presentation of Rapporteurs' Key Findings by Professor (Dr.) Ranjeet Bhagooli, University of Mauritius	
14:30	Award Ceremony	
Closing Speeches		
15:00	Dr. Daniel Marie, Director, Mauritius Oceanography Institute	
15:05	Professor (Dr.) Kavi Kumar Khedo, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius	
15:10		
15:20	**DIGNITARIES TO BE CONFIRMED**	
15:25		
15:40	Group Photo and Wrap Up / Note of Thanks by Master of Ceremony	
15:45	***Refreshments and End of Day 2***	

Annex B – Stakeholder / Participants Directory

Proposed Participants
Participation to the forum may be extended to a broad range of stakeholders involved directly or indirectly in ocean-related activities.

1. **Public Sector Organisations**
   i. Department for Continental Shelf, Maritime Zones Administration and Exploration (CSMZAE)
   ii. Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries
   iii. Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
   iv. Ministry of Tourism
   v. Mauritius Meteorological Services (MMS)
   vi. National Coast Guard (NCG)
   vii. Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA)
   viii. Economic Development Board (EDB)
   ix. Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre (RGSC)
   x. National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS)
   xi. Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology (MiBL)
   xii. Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency (MARENA)
   xiii. Mauritius Ports Authority (MPA)
   xiv. Tourism Authority (TA)
   xv. Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA)

2. **Academic and Research Institutions**
   i. Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI)
   ii. University of Mauritius (UoM)
   iii. University of Technology Mauritius (UTM)
   iv. Université des Mascareignes (UdM)
   v. Open University of Mauritius (OUM)
   vi. Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC)
   vii. Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre (RGSC)
   viii. Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE)
   ix. Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology (MAST)
   x. Curtin University

3. **Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society**
   i. Mauritius Marine Conservation Society
   ii. Reef Conservation
   iii. Eco-Sud
   iv. Mission Verte
   v. Odysseo Foundation
   vi. Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF)
   vii. Youth-led environmental organisations and community groups
   viii. #Savetheblu Foundation
   ix. Réseau Terre Vivante
   x. Coral Garden Conservation

4. **Private Sector Organisations**
   i. Fisheries and seafood/aquaculture companies

- IBL Seafood Group
- Ferme Marine de Mahebourg
- Fresh Water Prawn Mauritius (FWPM Ltd)
- Fishwise Mauritius

ii. Port, Maritime transport, shipping and logistics operators
- Velogic
- Mauritius Shipping Corporation Ltd. (MSCL)

iii. Renewable energy companies involved in ocean-based solutions
- Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL) – [OTEC]
- Obluxe
- Seaturns - Taylor Smith Group (TSG)

iv. Marine Electronics and Navigational Technology providers
- Chantier Naval de l'Océan Indien (CNOI)

v. Ocean observation and monitoring companies
- Société Général de Surveillance (SGS) Mauritius
- Eco Marine Consultants Ltd
- OceanVolts (Mauritius) Co Ltd

vi. Leisure, Tourism and Hospitality
- Coquille Bonheur
- AHRIM
- Medine Group

5. Regional and International Partners

i. European Union (EU)
ii. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
iii. Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
iv. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
v. Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)
vi. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
vii. Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)
viii. Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

6. Exhibition Format

The exhibition will comprise a combination of:

i. Institutional display booths
ii. Research and innovation showcases
iii. Scientific posters
iv. Picture and photographic presentations
v. Demonstrations of equipment and technologies
vi. Student project displays
vii. Interactive awareness and outreach activities
viii. Business-to-business and business-to-government (B2G) networking opportunities
ix. Youth engagement and career guidance corners