



Annual Report

2000 - 2001



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Chairman's letter

In accordance with the provision of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute Act, I am hereby submitting the Annual Report of activities and accounts of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute for the Financial Year which ended on 30 June 2001.

Yours sincerely

Mr. H. Ganoo

Chairman

Vision and Mission statement

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute was established under the Mauritius Oceanography Institute Act (Act No. 24 of 1999) proclaimed on 20th August 1999.

The objectives of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute as spelt out in the Act are:

- To foster interest in research and development in relation to oceanography;
- To advise Government on the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes in respect to oceanography and related aspects;
- To coordinate, collaborate and co-operate with other institutions, agencies and persons on national, regional and global issues within its field of interest, and to assist any organisation, body or person in creating sustainable research and development programmes in areas of interest and activity relating to oceanography;
- To demonstrate and communicate to the scientific community and the public at large the results of research and the importance of oceanography in the conservation, maintenance, management, utilisation and development of resources based on marine and coastal ecosystems;

Our Vision

The intelligent management of our ocean resources, underpinned by effective marine science and technology, to assist the industrial and strategic exploitation of our maritime zones and contribute to economic development.

Our Mission

To obtain recognition for maximum maritime rights for the Republic of Mauritius under the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea and to provide an integrated scientific approach for the investigation, exploration, exploitation and sustainable management of our ocean territory.

The Board

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) is administered and managed by a Board, consisting of a Chairperson appointed by the Prime Minister and senior representatives of different ministries and institutions. Sections 8 to 10 of the MOI Act of 1999 lay down the overall responsibility of the Board. The composition of the Board for the year 2000 - 2001 was as follows:

Chairman of the MOI Board, January 1999 - January 2001

Mr. Mohamad A. Vayid, C.M.G

Chairman of the MOI Board, As from February 2001

Mr. Harry Ganoo, G.O.SK

Prime Minister's Office

Mrs. K Beegun

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Ambassador M. Goburdun, Head of Bilateral Directorate

Ministry Economic Development, Productivity and Regional Development

Mr. Bundhoo, Senior Economist

Ministry of Finance

Mr R Sokkappadu, Senior Economic Analyst

Ministry of Environment and Urban and Rural Development

Mr. T. S Pamyead, Acting Director, Department of Environment

Ministry of Fisheries and Co-operatives

Mr. D. Goorah, Divisional Scientific Officer

Ministry of Housing and Lands

Mr. J. S Ho Man Cheong, Chief Surveyor

Ministry for Rodrigues

Mrs. V. L. Pamsamy, Acting Permanent Secretary

Mauritius Research Council

Dr. A. Suddhoo, Executive Director

University of Mauritius

Prof. I. Fagoonee, Pro Vice Chancellor

Mauritius Meteorological Services

Mr. R R Vaghjee, Director

Mauritius Ports Authority

Captain Toi, Director General

Outer Island Development Corporation

Mr. V. Gokhool, General Manager

Nominated Members having wide experience in Oceanography or International Law

Dr. A. Chan Chim Yuk, Associate Professor, University of Mauritius

Mr. S Pagoonaden, Deputy Director, Mauritius Meteorological Services

Mrs. A. Narain-Ramloll, Principal State Counsel, Attorney General's Office

Mr. L. E. Venchard, Barrister-at-law

Staff of the Institute

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute had, as at 30 June 2001 the following members of staff:

Scientific Staff

Dr. J. Leven	Project Manager
Mr. V. Soondron	Project Officer
Dr. A. D. Poonyth	Project Officer
Ms. R Gopal-Nursimhulu	Project Officer
Mr. R Badal	Project Officer
Mr. S Persand	Project Officer
Mr. D. Marie	Project Officer

Accounts and Finance Staff

Mr. S Mawren	Senior Finance Officer (Deputed by Ministry of Finance)
Ms. R Woocheet	Accounts Officer

Administrative Staff

Mrs. N. Tegally	Confidential Secretary
Mrs. S Pamjanally	Clerical Officer/Word Processing Operator
Ms. S Maunrajoo	Clerical Officer
Mrs. N. Nunnoo	Receptionist

Supportive Staff

Mr. D. Munsah	Driver\ Office Attendant
Mrs. M. Pajiah	Cleaner

Projects

Continental Shelf Project

MOI has been entrusted with the task of formulating a claim to the UN Commission on Limits of Continental Shelf (CLCS) for an extension of the maritime zone of the Republic of Mauritius. In this context, in August 1999, MFC/MOI initiated the Continental Shelf Project. A desktop study was commissioned to define the scope of the Mauritian claim for an extended Continental Shelf. This study is now the key element in preparing the terms of reference for the International Tender which will be launched for a scientific and technical survey of the Continental Shelf. Concurrently, a legal study was undertaken by Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea (NILOS), University of Utrecht, Netherlands, to produce a well researched legal background to inform and support negotiations with neighbouring countries.

Baseline Review Project

MOI, in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Lands, carried out a review of the baselines of the territorial seas and the EEZ of Mauritius with a view to maximising the areas of the maritime zones.

Shoals of Capricorn

In March 1999, the newly established Mauritius Oceanography Institute spearheaded by the Mauritius Research Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Royal Geographic Society, U.K. for the launching of the Shoals of Capricorn Programme. This marine science, training and education programme was implemented both in Mauritius and Rodrigues with a view to undertaking scientific research with the participation of international, well-known, scientists and local volunteers. The Shoals programme will end in September 2001.

Activities of the Institute

Training

M.Sc. Training course

Mr. Rezah Badal and Dr. Asha Poonyth completed their MSc in Oceanography at the Southampton Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton, U.K.

Ms. Reena Gopal-Nursimhulu completed her MSc in Physical Oceanography at the University of Wales, Bangor, Wales, U.K.

First Aid Training Course, January-March 2000

A course in first aid was organised for both technical and administrative staff. St John's Ambulance dispensed the course and a certificate was awarded to the participants.

Diving Training Course, October 2000

Dr. Jim Leven and Mr. Rezah Badal completed their diving course.

International Conferences and meetings attended

International Coral Reef Symposium, Indonesia, International Society for Reef Studies, 23-27 October 2000

Dr. Asha Poonnyth, Project Officer, attended this symposium where she presented a poster on the status of coral reefs in Mauritius.

Meeting at the Royal Geographical Society in London, 10 October 2000

Mr M. Vayid, Chairman, attended a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) pertaining to the Shoals of Capricorn Programme in Mauritius.

Second Global Ocean Observation System Users' Forum and First Meeting of Coastal Ocean Observation Panel (COOP), Costa Rica, November 2000

Ms. Peena Nursimhulu, Project Officer, attended these meetings which were held under the aegis of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). Discussions of the Users' Forum were focused on identification of new user groups, development of new products and capacity enhancement. At the COOP meeting, discussions focussed on integrating several oceanographic projects into a single programme.

PORSEC Conference in Goa, India, 30 November-8 December 2000

Dr. J. Leven and Mr. R. Badal participated in the Pacific Ocean Remote Sensing Conference (PORSEC). Bibliographic database for Mauritius and hydrographic data for the Indian Ocean using NIO databases were acquired during the mission.

First Session of Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography & Marine Meteorology (JCOMM), Akureyri, Iceland, 19-29 June 2001

The first session of the joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) was held in Iceland from 19th to 29th June 2001. 42 member states of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and 15 International/ Regional Organisations attended the meeting. The Mauritius Oceanography Institute was represented by Mr V. Soondron.

The object of the meeting was to develop an overall strategy and vision for JCOMM which is a partnership between marine meteorologists and oceanographers. One of the major tasks for JCOMM would be the implementation and maintenance of an operational system to provide global ocean observations for climate and also for sustainable exploitation of marine resources.

Scientific Cruises in the Western Indian Ocean

Gimnaut Cruise 14 May - 7, June 2000

The Gimnaut Cruise took place from 14th May to 7th June 2000, along the Rodrigues Ridge within the EEZ of Mauritius. Dr J. Leven and Mr V. Sondron of the MOI participated in the cruise. The active participation of the two officers in this cruise have helped in the preparation of the surveys to delimit the Continental Shelf.

St Brandon - Baseline Review Survey, 17 to 23 November 2000

The St Brandon cruise took place on board of the fishing vessel Vimaya from 17th November to 23rd November 2000. Mr. V. Sondron, Mr. S Persand, Project Officers from MOI, Mr. N. Lutchoo, Senior Surveyor from the Ministry of Housing and Land and Mr B. Murphy, Consultant for the Baseline Review Survey, participated in the cruise. The object of the cruise was to survey the St Brandon groups of islands with a view to updating the basepoints for the demarcation of the EEZ coordinates of the Republic of Mauritius.

Shoals ZUZA Cruise, 3 April - 19 May 2001

A team comprising of Mr D. Marie, Project Officer of MOI, Dr Bradley Opdyke from the Australian National University, Dr Paul Wilson and Matt Cooper from the Southampton Oceanography Centre undertook a coral drilling programme in Rodrigues from 3rd to 19th April 2001. The aim of the project was to study the reef growth with time. The study would also generate information on how reefs would respond to global climate change in the future.

Shoals ZUZA Cruise, 27 April - 19 May 2001

Mr Sharveen Persand, Project Officer, participated in the cruise, on board the Research Sailing Vessel ZUZA, which was part of the Shoals of Capricorn Scientific Programme for the Study of the Mascarene Plateau. The following research projects were conducted during the cruise:

- Zooplankton surveys along the Mascarene Plateau
- Bathymetric observations of Constant, Fortune, Saya de Malha and Nazareth Banks
- Observations of biological habitats and benthic cover on the Mascarene banks using video footage from remotely operated vehicle
- Preliminary in-situ observations in the St Brandon lagoon for the processing of satellite images
- Relationship between gut content of fish and abundance of zooplankton on the banks.

Charles Darwin CD127 Cruise, 25 April - 23 May 2001

Dr. Jim Leven participated in this geological research cruise which was designed to investigate the volcanic, tectonic and hydrothermal processes of the Central Indian Ridge.

Dr. Leven's experience in this cruise would be useful for the geophysical survey work of the Continental Shelf Project, scheduled to take place from March to May 2002.

Events

Mr. M. Vayid resigned as Chairman of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute

Mr Mohamad Vayid submitted his resignation as Chairman of MOI with effect from 1st January 2001.

Mr. H. Ganoo appointed as Chairman of MOI

Mr Harry Ganoo was appointed as Chairman of MOI with effect from 21st January 2001.

Maritime Boundary Delimitation Workshop, 15-17 January 2001

In January 2001, a team of legal experts from the Economic and Legal Advisory Services of the Commonwealth Secretariat conducted a workshop on Maritime Boundary delimitation at the Gold Crest Hotel, Quatre Bornes. The aim of the Workshop was to impart training to local counterparts in negotiation techniques for boundary delimitation with neighbouring countries.

Report of the Director of Audit

To the chairperson of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute

I have audited the accompanying balance sheet of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) as of 30 June 2001, and the related statements of income, and cash flow for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Institute. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those Standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute as of 30 June 2001, and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended comply with the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act.

Emphasis of Matter

Without qualifying my opinion, I draw attention to the following:

Submission of Accounts. The Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act requires MOI to prepare and submit to the auditor an annual statement of its income and expenditure and a balance sheet not later than three months after the end of every financial year. In February 2002, more than four months after the statutory date limit, only an income and expenditure account was submitted. But this was not prepared in accordance with appropriate accounting standards. The Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement were not submitted. New set of financial statements was received at my Office in October 2003 and was amended, after audit, in May and July 2004 respectively.

(R JUGURNATH)
Director of Audit

National Audit Office
Air Mauritius Centre
Port Louis
27 July 2004