

# Annual Report

2001-2002



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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 2002.

Yours sincerely

Mr. H. Ganoo  
Chairman

## Vision and Mission statement

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) 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**

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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**

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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**

Mr. Harry Ganoo, G.O.S.K.

### **Prime Minister's Office**

Mr. S. C. Seeballuck, Secretary for Home Affairs

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade**

Mr. J. Nayeck, First Secretary

### **Ministry Economic Development, Productivity and Regional Development**

Mr. D. Bundhoo, Principal Economist

### **Representative of the Ministry of Finance**

Mr R. Oree, Economic Analyst

### **Ministry of Environment and Urban and Rural Development**

Mr. S. Seebaluck, Permanent Secretary

### **Ministry of Fisheries and Co-operatives**

Mr. D. Goorah, Principal Fisheries Officer

### **Ministry of Housing and Lands**

Mr. R. Khoobarry, Ag. Chief Surveyor

### **Ministry for Rodrigues**

Mr. L. Chaytoo, Acting Permanent Secretary

### **Mauritius Research Council**

Dr. A. Suddhoo, Executive Director

### **University of Mauritius**

Prof. I. Fagoonee, Pro Vice Chancellor

### **Mauritius Meteorological Services**

Mr. S. N. Sok Appadu, Director

### **Mauritius Ports Authority**

Captain P. Ponambalum, Port Master

### **Outer Island Development Corporation**

Mr. P. Jhugroo

### **Nominated Members having wide experience in Oceanography or International Law**

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

Mr. S. Ragoonaden, Ex-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 2002, the following members of staff**

### Scientific Staff

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Dr R. Mukhopadhyay	Director
Dr. J. Leven	Project Manager
Mr. V. Soondron	Assistant Director
Dr. A. D. Poonyth	Project Officer
Ms. R. Gopal-Nursimhulu	Project Officer
Mr. R. Badal	Project Officer
Mr. S. Persand	Project Officer
Dr. D. Marie	Project Officer
Mrs K. R. Moothien Pillay	Project Officer

### Accounts and Finance Staff

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Mr. S. Mawren	Senior Finance Officer
Mrs. R. Shobha	Accounts Officer

### Administrative Staff

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Mrs. N. Tegally	Confidential Secretary
Mrs. S. Ramjanally	Clerical Officer\Word Processing Operator
Ms. S. Maunrajoo	Clerical Officer
Ms R; Boyjoonauth	Clerical Officer
Ms P. Kallichurn	Receptionist/Public Relations Officer

### Support Staff

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Mr. D. Munsah	Driver\Office Attendant
Mr V. Heeroo	Driver
Mrs M. Rajjah	Cleaner

## Projects

### **Continental Shelf Project**

The MOI has been entrusted with the task of formulating the claim for the extended continental shelf for Mauritius. This claim is likely to further extend the maritime jurisdiction of the Republic of Mauritius, and must be submitted to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) before 2009. Following an invitation for tender launched in August 2001, Svitzer Co. Ltd. (U.K.) was awarded the contract to carry out two marine surveys in the region of the Mascarene Plateau and the Southern Chagos Ridge. The surveys were undertaken with a view to acquiring the necessary scientific data for the formulation of the claim of Mauritius to the CLCS.

### **Geo-spatial Information System for Mapping Marine Habitats**

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute initiated a research project in 2003, with the financial support of Commission de L'Océan Indien to study and map the reef habitats of the South Eastern Coast of Mauritius. The main aim of the project was to design a computerised system for the mapping of the relative ecological richness of the lagoon. The system will complement a decision support tool for integrated coastal zone management. The results will be released in the form of bilingual cartographic document, CD-Rom, technical reports and research papers.

### **Study of Short Period Sea Level Oscillations**

A study of short period sea level oscillations was undertaken for the purpose of understanding the physical forcings in the coastal areas of Mauritius and Rodrigues. Pressure recorders have been deployed at various locations around the lagoons and outer reef, measuring sea level at high frequencies. The result will help to address issues of coastal erosion, pollutant dispersal and navigation safety.

### **Inventory of the Coral Fauna of Mauritius**

MOI collaborated with the Albion Fisheries Research Centre (AFRC) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the publication of 'The field guide to corals of Mauritius'. The guide contains information on 163 species of corals found on our reefs.

### **Education and Outreach**

#### **Lagoon and Reef Watch Movement**

The Lagoon and Reef Watch Movement was initiated in August 2001 with a view to sensitising the public on coastal issues and promoting environment stewardship. The movement aims at encouraging stakeholders, both public institutions and non governmental organisations, to participate fully in the protection of the lagoon and reef of Mauritius. The project is financed by the National Environment Fund of the Ministry of Environment.

## Activities of the Institute

### Training

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#### **M.Sc. Training course**

Mr Sharveen Persand completed his MSc in Physical Oceanography at the University of Wales, Bangor, U.K.

#### **First Aid Training Course, January 2002**

A training course in First aid was organised for MOI staff. The St John's Ambulance dispensed the course and a certificate was awarded to the participants.

#### **Training course on the establishment of the Outer Limits of the Legal Continental Shelf, Brazil, 3 to 8 March 2002.**

Mr Vishnu Soondron, Project Officer, attended a 5 day training course on the Establishment of the Outer Limits of the Legal Continental Shelf held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 3 to 8 March 2002. The course was sponsored by the UN Commission for the Resources of the Sea. Several issues related to the claims for an extended continental shelf were addressed during the course.



## International Conferences and meetings attended

### **Rodrigues Marine Biodiversity Workshop, Rodrigues, 10 September - 04 October 2001.**

The first Marine Biodiversity Workshop for Rodrigues was organised by the Shoals of Capricorn from 10 September to 04 October 2001. Fourteen scientists from well known foreign institutions were invited to produce a taxonomic inventory of nine major taxa. They were assisted by scientists from Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Comores, who were trained in the identification of various marine species.

Dr Daniel Marie of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute was imparted training in the identification and classification of marine algae.

## Scientific Cruises in the Western Indian Ocean

### **RRV Charles Darwin, 6 July - 11 August 2001**

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The RRV Charles Darwin undertook a scientific cruise (CD129) in the Western Indian Ocean from 6 July to 11 August 2001. The overall objective of the cruise was to determine the response of the changing vigour and chemistry of deep and intermediate convection in response to changing global ocean thermohaline circulation and meltwater events over the last glacial cycle. Cores from bottom seafloor in the south-western Indian Ocean under the western boundary current were drilled during the cruise. Mr Sharveen Persand, of the MOI, participated in the cruise.

### **Continental Shelf Project**

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In the context of the Continental Shelf Project, several cruises were undertaken from 9 March to 30 May 2002 to collect scientific data which are required to formulate our claim for an extended Continental Shelf. The first cruise took place from 9 March to 13 April 2002 on board MV L'Espoir. Multibeam bathymetric surveys were carried out on the Mascarene Plateau, the Southern Chagos Ridge and the Central Indian Ridge. The second cruise, on board MV L'Espoir, was undertaken from 29 April to 30 May 2002 to acquire seismic refraction data on the Saya de Malha and Nazareth banks. Concurrently, the MV Meridian carried out seismic reflection surveys. The data collected during these surveys will be used to define the extent of our continental shelf as per the requirement of the United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS)

Project officers from the MOI and representatives of the Ministry of Housing and Lands, Ministry of Fisheries and the National Coast Guard participated in the cruises.

## Events

### **Appointment of Mrs Moothien-Pillay as Project Officer - October 2001**

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Mrs. Kamla-Ruby Moothien-Pillay was recruited as Project Officer to monitor the activities of the Shoals of Capricorn.

### **Appointment of Dr Mukhopadhyay as Director - February 2002**

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Dr. Ranadhir Mukhopadhyay was appointed as Director of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute. Dr. Mukhopadhyay is a geologist and has been employed at the National Institute of Oceanography, India, prior to joining the MOI.

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT

### **To the Chairperson of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute**

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I have audited the accompanying balance sheet of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute as of 30 June 2002, 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**

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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**

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

#### **Submission of Accounts.**

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The Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act requires MOI to prepare and submit to the auditor an annual statement if its income and expenditure and a balance sheet not later than three months after the end of every financial year.

On 9 October 2003 MOI submitted the financial statements which were amended after audit. The final amended accounts were submitted in July 2004.

(R. JUGURNATH)  
Director of Audit

National Audit Office  
Air Mauritius Centre  
Port Louis  
27 July 2004