

# MAURITIUS OCEANOGRAPHY INSTITUTE



Annual Report  
2002-2003



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## Chairman's letter

October 2006

Dr. The Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam  
Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs  
Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms  
Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands  
Republic of Mauritius

In accordance with the provision of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute Act of 1999, 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 2003.

Yours sincerely,

**Prof. I. Fagoonee**  
Chairman



## Vision and mission statement

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) was established under the Mauritius Oceanography Institute Act (Act No. 24 of 1999)

The objects 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 of 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 those areas of interest and activity related 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,
- To manage and optimise the use of funds and other resources for the purpose of this Act.

## 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 2002-2003 was as follows:

### Chairman of the MOI Board

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

### The Secretary for Home Affairs, Prime Minister's Office or his representative

Mr. S. C. Seeballuck

### A representative of the Ministry to which the responsibility for the subject of foreign affairs is assigned

Mr. P. Gokulsing, First Secretary

### A representative of the Ministry to which the responsibility for the subject of economic development is assigned

Mr. D. Bundhoo, Principal Economist (up to December 2002)

Mr. R.S. Veeramundar, Senior Economist (from December 2002)

### The Financial Secretary or his representative

Dr. P. Aubeeluck, Director

### A representative of the Ministry to which the responsibility for the subject of environment is assigned

Mr. T. S. Ramyeed, Ag. Director (up to September 2002)

Mr. S. Seeballuck, Permanent Secretary (from September 2002)

### A representative of the Ministry to which the responsibility for the subject of fisheries is assigned

Mr. D. Goorah, Principal Fisheries Officer



A representative of the Ministry to which the responsibility for the subject of Rodrigues is assigned

Mrs. S. Samynaden, Assistant Secretary (up to February 2003)

Mr. D. Rawoojee (from February 2003)

The Executive Director of the Mauritius Research Council or his representative

Dr. A. Suddhoo, Executive Director

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Mauritius or his representative

Prof. I. Fagoonee, Pro-Vice Chancellor

The Director, Mauritius Meteorological Services or his representative

Mr. S.N. Sok Appadu, Director

The Director General of the Mauritius Ports Authority or his representative

Captain P. Ponambalum, Port Master

The General Manager of the Outer Islands Development Corporation or his representative

Mr. P. Jhugroo, General Manager

Nominated Members having wide experience in Oceanography or International Law appointed by the Minister

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

Mr. S. Ragoonaden, Ex-Deputy Director, Mauritius Meteorological Services

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

Mr. L. E. Venchard, Barrister-at-law – (up to November 2002)

Mr. J. S. Ho Man Cheong – (from March 2003)





## Staff of the Institute

### Scientific Staff

Dr. R. Mukhopadhyay	Director
Mr. S. Soondron	Assistant Director
Dr. J. H. Leven	Project Manager (up to November 2003)
Dr. A. D. Poonyth	Project Officer
Mr. M. R. Badal	Project Officer
Mr. S. Persand	Project Officer
Dr. D. E. P. Marie	Project Officer
Ms. R. Gopal-Nursimhulu	Project Officer
Mrs. K. R. Moothien Pillay	Project Officer
Mr. B. D. Hansrod	Research Scientist (from December 2002)
Mr. S. Curpen	Research Assistant (from January 2003)
Mr. U. Nundlall	Research Assistant (from January 2003)

### Technical Staff

Mr. C. Samyan seconded for duty from Ministry of Fisheries for technical assistance as from December 2002

### Trainees under the Skills Development Programme Batch of 2002 – 2003

Mr. A. Goolaub  
Mr. J. P. Dupré  
Mr. U. F. Deenmahomed  
Mrs. S. Dhunnoo (from 16th September 2002 – February 2003)  
Mr. S. Curpen (October 2002 - December 2002)



### Trainee under the Youth International Internship Program

Ms. T. Bowen

### Administrative Staff

Mrs. N. Tegally

Confidential Secretary

Mrs. S. Ramjanally - Jaunboccus

Clerical Officer / Word Processing Operator

Ms. S. Maunrajoo

Clerical Officer/ Higher Clerical Officer

Ms. R. Boyjoonauth

Clerical Officer / Higher Clerical Officer

Ms. S. Doomun

Receptionist – Seconded for duty from the Ministry of IT (from April 2003)

Ms. C. Kallichum

Receptionist / Public Relations Officer

### Accounts and Finance Staff

Mr. C. Mawren

Senior Finance Officer (up to November 2002)

Mr. I. Kalloo

Senior Finance Officer (from December 2002)

Mrs. L. Ragavaloo

Assistant Finance Officer (from April 2003)

Mrs. R. Sobha

Accounts Officer

### Supporting Staff

Mr. D. Munsah

Driver / Office Attendant

Mr. V. Heeroo

Driver (up to January 2003)

Mrs. M. Rajjah

Cleaner (part time)







## Projects

### Continental Shelf Project

Under the provisions of the United Nations Law of the Sea, Mauritius has the opportunity to extend its marine jurisdiction beyond the 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone. This extended zone, known as the Extended Continental Shelf, could provide additional resources for our economy. The Continental Shelf Project aims at formulating the technical case and provides Government with the necessary data to substantiate its submission for this extended continental shelf. Work is now focused on the processing and interpretation of the data. The project is therefore on schedule for the formulation of the technical submission to the UN Commission on the limits of the Continental Shelf, so that the Government can submit this claim well before the 2009 deadline.

### Validation of the anti diabetic properties of *Rhizophora mucronata*

Research on the validation of the anti diabetic properties of one mangrove species (*Rhizophora mucronata*) and the anti-inflammatory activities of "liane batatrans" (*Ipomea pes-capreae*) were carried out by Dr. D.E.P. Marie during his post-doctoral fellowship in Brussels, Belgium. Additionally, the anticancer properties of the extracts of two species of sponge collected in the lagoon of Mauritius were tested.

### Mapping of the marine habitats of the South-Eastern coast of Mauritius

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute initiated a research project in 2003, with the financial support of the "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 is to design a computerised system for the mapping of the relative ecological richness of the lagoon. The system complements a decision support tool for integrated coastal zone management. The results will be in the form of a bilingual cartographic document, CD-Rom, technical reports and research papers.

### Lagoon and Reef Watch Movement

The Lagoon and Reef Watch Movement is an awareness programme initiated in August 2001 to sensitise the public on coastal issues and to promote environment stewardship. The movement aims at encouraging stakeholders from both public institutions and non governmental organisations to participate 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

### Staff Training

In 2002, the "Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie" (AUF), awarded a post-doctoral fellowship to Dr. D. E. P. Marie, Project Officer at the MOI. Dr. D. E. P. Marie undertook his post-doctoral research at the Catholic University of Louvain, Brussels, Belgium for a period of ten months.

Mr. M. R. Badal, Project Officer, co-ordinated a training workshop at Blue Bay between 10th to 19th March, 2003. During the ten days, surveys were carried out in the context of a project to develop a 'Geospatial information system for near shore mapping'.

Dr A. D. Poonyth, Mr. M. R. Badal and Mrs. K. R. Moothien Pillay, Project Officers, attended a training workshop in Seychelles from 1st to 3rd April 2003 under the UK Darwin Initiative Project entitled "Zooplankton of the Mascarene Plateau." The officers were trained in the collection and identification of zooplankton.

Mrs. K. R. Moothien Pillay, Project Officer, left for Kitasato University, Japan in May 2003 to carry out research work leading to a PhD.





## International Conferences and Meetings Attended

### Fifth Session of the IOC Regional Committee

Mr. S. Soondron attended the fifth session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Cooperative Investigation in the North and Central Western Indian Ocean from 23rd to 26th September 2002. The purpose of the meeting was to review the programme of activities carried out in the Western Indian Ocean countries during the intersessional period and to develop project proposals for submission to donor agencies.

### South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP), and Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems (ASLME) Project

Dr. A. D. Poonyth attended a conference jointly organised by the SWIOFP and the ASLME Project in Maputo, Mozambique from the 9th to the 13th of September 2002.

### Lagoon biotope survey

Mr. M. R. Badal participated as a resource person in a workshop cum fieldwork at Grande Comores for the conduct of a lagoon biotope project from 10th to 19th March 2003. This follows a similar survey conducted in Mauritius for the south eastern coast. The lagoon biotope survey is the ground – truthing component of the project, where the marine environment was surveyed to identify the various reef geomorphologies along with their associated ecosystems. Each of the biotopes was then classified according to its degree of sensitivity and was mapped to integrate a geographical information system. This system will ultimately allow the production of a sensitivity map after the land information is incorporated into it.

### Meeting on the advancement of science in the Indian Ocean

Dr. A. D. Poonyth, Project Officer, attended a conference entitled “Les Assises de la Science” in Réunion Island from 3rd to 5th June 2003.

### Legal and Scientific Aspects of Limits of the Continental Shelf

Dr. A. Chan Chim Yuk, board member of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute attended the above conference in Iceland from 25th to 27th June 2003. The conference mainly focussed on key legal and scientific issues regarding the determination of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles. Related topics, such as present and future resources pertaining to the ocean's continental margins, were also discussed



## Scientific Cruises

### ORV Sagar Kanya Cruise – 17th October to 4th November 2002

Dr. A. D. Poonyth and Mr. M. R. Badal participated in the ORV Sagar Kanya cruise organised in the context of the IGOOS Conference held in Mauritius in November 2002. This cruise of ORV Sagar Kanya from Chennai to Mauritius via Seychelles and back was flagged off at Chennai on the 17th October 2002. One of the main objectives of the cruise was to bring together scientists of the Indian Ocean region and Indian institutions involved in ocean related research and development activities on a common platform.

## Events

### The Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System (IGOOS)

The first conference of the IGOOS was held at the International Conference Centre, Grand Baie, Mauritius from 4th to 9th November 2002. Over 160 participants representing countries bordering the Indian Ocean and oceanographic agencies /institutions and countries outside the region attended the Conference. The Government of Mauritius through the Mauritius Oceanography Institute facilitated the organisation of this event. About 10 international and national agencies sponsored the Conference.

IGOOS aims at elevating the Indian Ocean from one of the least studied, to one of the most studied of the world's major oceans, with a real emphasis on the link between societal and scientific issues. The 1.5 billion people of the Indian Ocean rim can now look forward to an increased ability to make use of the ocean observations and information produced by IGOOS to improve the management of their marine environment and to use the ocean's resources sustainably.

Nineteen organisations from 10 countries bordering the Indian Ocean signed a Memorandum of Understanding, thus creating a regional alliance for IGOOS. Many other institutions have indicated their intention to join the IGOOS in due course.





## 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 2003, and the related statements of income, and cash flows 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 2003, and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended and comply with the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act 1972.

### 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. The financial statements were received on 15 December 2004 at my Office, that is more than 2 months after the statutory date limit. Amended Accounts were received on 22 June 2005.

(R. Jugumath)  
**Director of Audit**

**National Audit Office**  
Level 14  
Air Mauritius Centre  
PORT LOUIS  
25 July 2005