
Mauritius Oceanography Institute

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The Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI), was established in January 2000 by the proclamation of the MOI Act (Act No. 24 of 1999), to rationalise and co-ordinate oceanographic research and development activities in the Republic of Mauritius.

The role of the MOI is to advise the Government of the Republic of Mauritius on the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes related to oceanography for the development of a sustainable blue economy.

As mandated, to underpin the development of oceanography, the MOI has conducted more than 30 research projects over the past 23 years. The MOI is leading national projects such as the characterisation of earmarked aquaculture sites around mainland Mauritius. The MOI also initiated a community-based coral culture in the Republic of Mauritius for capacity building of coastal communities in small-scale coral farming as an alternative means of livelihood for fishermen and for reef rehabilitation of the Mauritius lagoon, whereby the developed techniques have been transferred to regional stakeholders.

For the last 15 years, the MOI has been collaborating with the Shipping Division of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping on the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments and Guidelines for the Control and Management of Ships' Biofouling.

In collaboration with the Commission de l'Océan Indien, the Institute has enhanced satellite oceanography capabilities in the African region through European Union (EU) and African Union Commission (AUC) funded projects namely the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD), Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA)

and Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa (GMES & Africa).

The MOI has also collaborated with various international institutes on projects such as seismicity around Rodrigues and ocean acidification. Another key project is the bioprospecting of marine organisms of Mauritius Waters to find potent natural products against human pathologies with a prospect towards the development of marine drugs for pharmaceuticals purpose.

Moreover, the MOI is developing capacity to intervene in the situation of crisis by providing daily physical oceanographic data of the region on a GIS support for coordinating search and rescue operations at sea as well as for tracking oil spills.

In addition, the MOI is paying particular attention to the impacts of climate change on the marine ecosystems, through research projects such as Sea Level Rise, Long Term Ecological Monitoring of the Nearshore Waters of Mauritius, Coral Culture for Reef Rehabilitation and Ocean Acidification.

Aspiring towards becoming a Centre of Excellence in the South-West Indian Ocean, the MOI was relocated to Albion in December 2015. The Institute has now five operational research laboratories which operate under three Units namely Chemical Oceanography Unit, Physical/Geosciences Unit and Biosciences Unit. The laboratories are Biological Oceanography Laboratory, Chemical Oceanography Laboratory, Physical Oceanography Laboratory, Marine Biotechnology Laboratory and Marine Geosciences Laboratory.

Vision: To be a leading institute in oceanography in the Indian Ocean region.

Mission: To undertake oceanographic and coastal research for the development and sustainable management of resources for the Blue Economy of the Republic of Mauritius.