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Oceans economy and trade:
Sustainable fisheries, transport and tourism



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INTRODUCTION

- The Indian Ocean is the world's third largest ocean.
- The Indian Ocean Commission Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, Seychelles.
- The small islands are, in fact, large oceans states.
- Territorial waters of the five IOC Countries span more than 5.5 millions sq km.

- ◉ Indian Ocean States, including Mauritius, have recognized the Ocean Economy as a pillar of their sustainable development path.
- ◉ Mauritius and Seychelles have a dedicated Ministry for Ocean/Blue Economy.
- ◉ There is strong focus on oceans related activities such as consolidating maritime connectivity and ensuring sustainable fisheries and tourism in the region.
- ◉ Over 90% of our external trade transits through the harbour, and as island states, we have to develop our port infrastructure and the transport sector to boost and ensure the viability of the fisheries and tourism sectors.

TRANSPORT & PORT DEVELOPMENT

- ◉ Regionally, the IOC states are developing a cabotage system to increase the capacity for maritime trade between Islands.
- ◉ Consolidating commercial links between Eastern Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean.
- ◉ Half of the world's container ships, one third of world's bulk cargo traffic and almost two thirds of the world's oil shipments transit through the Indian Ocean.

- Total Container Throughput will reach about 800,000 TEUs by 2020 and over 1 million by 2025.
- Bunker in the region is in the order of 1 million tonnes and may increase up to 8 million tonnes.
- Port expansion and advance port logistics are necessary for the increase flow of vessels and increasing demand for port related services in the region.

- Mauritius is transforming its harbor into a regional hub for Container Transshipment, Bunkering and Petroleum activities, Ship Repairs and Shipbuilding, Cruise activities and other Port related activities.
- To manage potential environmental risks, necessary protocols prevent marine pollution - oil spills, hazardous substances, sewage and garbage from ships as well as transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens in line with MARPOL Convention and IMO BW Convention.
- In order to minimize Environmental Impact in the lagoon as a result of the port expansion, Bund Walls will be constructed to contain the dredged materials (est. 1.4 million tonnes) and to subsequently protect the reclaimed land.

TOURISM

- ◉ Tourism contributes 7% to 60 % to the GDP of the (IOC) Member States.
- ◉ The 5 IOC countries attracts roughly 1.8 million tourists per year.
- ◉ Tourism Sector in region, including Mauritius, mainly consists in Coastal tourism, and new clusters include Green tourism, Cultural tourism, Medical tourism, Spa and Wellness, Shopping.
- ◉ Internationally renowned Hotels and Restaurants are concentrated on the coastal regions.

- ◉ Wide variety of sea-based tourism activitiesThese activities have windfall gains for local fishermen and businesses.
- ◉ The Indian Ocean region is also emerging as a cruise destination.
- ◉ Indian Ocean Vanilla islands coordinates tourism promotion strategies and promotes and markets regional tourism in the Indian Ocean under a common brand.
- ◉ L'Alliance Vanille, launched by IOC in July 2015 promotes greater air connectivity for the region.

- ◉ Mauritius is also tapping the potential for the region to act as a transit between Asian emerging economies and Africa An Air Corridor to bridge Asia and Africa and transform Mauritius into a potential aviation hub of the region.
- ◉ Coastal tourism contribute to degradation of marine environment.
- ◉ The IOC, through its ISLANDS programme on sustainable development is currently developing a vision for the protection of coral reefs and their related ecosystems, seeking to protect 20% of the region's coral reef by 2030.

- ⦿ In Mauritius, we have put in place measures to preserve beaches and lagoons and slowdown coral degradation.
- ⦿ Target for at least one third of Mauritian Beaches to obtain the Blue Flag label.

FISHING

- Types of Fisheries.... industrial, semi-industrial and artisanal fisheries and also marine-based aquacultures.
- With the promotion of ocean economy, there are more prospects for artisanal and semi-industrial fishing activities.
- Fish that is transformed into value added products come from artisanal and semi-industrial fishing.
- Mauritius has a Seafood strategy that promotes the supply of value added processes and services relating to sea food products.

- Tuna fishing is the most industrialised in the region and has an estimated annual value of 2 - 3 US billion dollars.
- Indian Ocean is the 2nd largest Tuna Stock in the world.
- 25% of overall canned tuna imported by the EU come from Indian Ocean canneries.
- Industrial fishery is operated by fishing fleets that are licensed and foreign-owned, mainly from Europe and South East Asia and carry out fishing in accordance with UNCLOS provisions.

- ◉ The IOC countries are committed to fight illegal fishing.
- ◉ The IOC is already contributing to improve ocean governance, notably to combat marine pollution, sustainable management of fisheries resources, such as fisheries surveillance and integrated coastal zone management.
- ◉ We are members of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission which manages of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean, ensures the conservation and appropriate utilisation of fish stocks and encourages the sustainable development of fisheries.
- ◉ The IOTC has Regional Observer Programme to monitor transshipments at sea.

- ◉ We also form part of the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC).
- ◉ Seychelles and Mauritius have ratified the FAO Port State Measures Agreement... Improve their capabilities to stop illegal fishing in the region.
- ◉ SmartFish Programme for the Implementation of a Regional Fisheries Strategy in ESA-IO region is being implemented by the IOC.
- ◉ In March 2016, the Indian Ocean Commission won two international "Stop IUU Fishing Awards". The international Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network awarded the
 - First Prize in recognition of innovative solutions to deter Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing and
 - Second Prize for support against fisheries crimes.

- ◉ The FISH-i Africa Task Force is a strong network of members committed to end IUU fishing in the West Indian Ocean and beyond.
- ◉ Its members are Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and Maldives as observer. They share real-time information using cutting-edge satellite technology to identify and track down illegal operators and high-risk vessels and coordinate inspection and enforcement action.
- ◉ Mauritius will host the 5th FISH-i Africa Task Force Meeting in June this year.

OCEAN ECONOMY

- The Vision 2030 of the Government of Mauritius identifies Ocean Economy as one of the main drivers for economic growth.
- The Mauritius Roadmap for Ocean Economy consolidates existing activities -tourism, fishing, ports activities- and promotes emerging and new sectors such as Aquaculture and Mariculture, Deep Sea Water Application (DOWA), Offshore Oil, Gas and Seabed Minerals, Maritime Services, Marina Development and Cruise Tourism, Marine Biotechnology and Marine Renewable Energies.

- ◉ We have a dedicated Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Island and a National Ocean Council set up in 2015 for the implementation of the Roadmap for Ocean Economy.
- ◉ Ocean Economy Activities is expected to contribute up to 20% of Mauritian GDP.
- ◉ Ocean Economy require high level of capital investment, technical knowhow, Research and Development and the proper legislative and regulatory framework.