

Mercredi 7 mai 2025 | Voilà Hotel Bagatelle Mall

# Gestion des risques côtiers

épisode 1

État des lieux et  
perspectives



ADAPT  
ACTION

UN PROGRAMME



B BUSINESS  
MAURITIUS

# Gestion des risques côtiers

État des lieux et  
perspectives



## Cadre institutionnel et juridique des littoraux mauriciens

**M. Ram SEENAUTH**

**ICZM Division**

*Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management  
and Climate Change*

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# **Institutional and Legal Framework for the Management of Coastal Zones in Mauritius**

**Workshop on Coastal Zone  
Management**



**07 May 2025**

# Presenter

Mr. Ram Seenauth

Divisional Environment Officer

Head of the ICZM Division

Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change

# Presentation outline

- Definition of the coastal zone
- Key Challenges Facing the Coastal Zone
- **Institutional Framework and Key Stakeholders**
- **Legal Framework**
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management Committee

**How is the coastal zone defined ?**

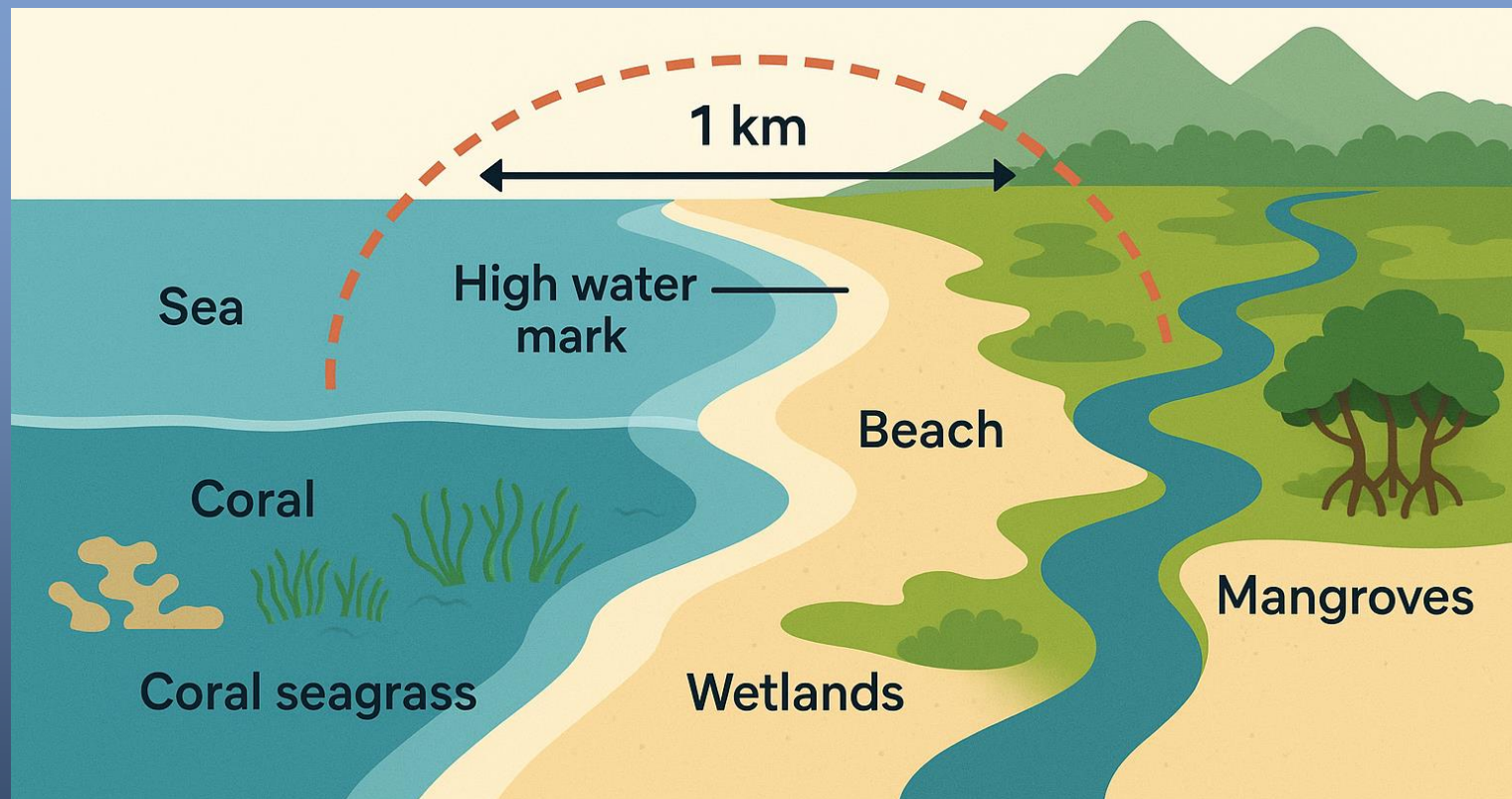
**The area where the land meets the sea**

# COASTAL ZONE (As per Sec 84 of the Environment Act 2024)

**Coastal Zone** means any **area**, which is situated within **1 km** or such **distance as** may be prescribed **from the high water mark, extending either side into the sea or inlands**

It includes :

- **Coral** reefs, reef **lagoon, beaches, wetlands, hinterlands** and all **islets** within the territorial waters of **Mauritius** and **Rodrigues**.
- Any **estuary** or mouth of river`
- The islands of **Agalega** and **St Brandon**, and **outer islets**





# The coastline of Mauritius

- Approximately 322 km long,
- more than 150 km of it is made of white sandy beaches of coral origin
- Most of the coastal areas are protected by coral reefs.

The coastline is composed of different shore types

- sandy,
- rocky,
- muddy,
- mixed shores and
- cliffs.



# Key Challenges Facing the Coastal Zone

Our coastline is highly vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise (5.6mm/yr). **Impacts** already being observed are as follows:

- Accelerated **beach erosion**
  - **Coral bleaching** events leading to the decline in coral cover
  - Extreme weather events such as **flash floods causing coastal flooding**
  - **Drought** events
- 
- ❑ **Human activities** such as **illegal development** on the coast, **backfilling of coastal wetlands**, land-based sources of **pollution**, increasing sea based activities amongst others



# **INSTITUTIONAL SETUP**

## ORGANISATIONS WITH RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO COASTAL RESOURCES

<b>Ministry of Housing and Lands</b>	Physical planning, management of State lands, proclamation of public beaches, sand transportation
<b>Local Authorities</b>	Development control (BLUP), solid waste collection
<b>Ministry for Blue Economy &amp; Fisheries</b>	Fisheries and living marine resources, structure at sea, marine parks, lagoon water quality monitoring
<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	EIA/SEA/SEA, standards setting, ICZM, beach erosion control, oil spill coordination
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<b>Wastewater Mgt Authority</b>	Wastewater management
<b>Shipping Division</b>	Marine pollution from vessels
<b>Department for Continental Shelf</b>	Management of maritime zones, formulate policies in ocean affairs, MSP
<b>Mauritius Meteorological Service</b>	Wave and weather data
<b>Mauritius Oceanography Institute</b>	Research, Oceanographic data
<b>Mauritius Ports Authority</b>	Port functions

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**Ministry of Housing and Lands**

**Physical planning, management of State lands, proclamation of public beaches, sand transportation**

**Local Authorities**

Development control (BLUP), solid waste collection

**Ministry for Blue Economy & Fisheries**

Fisheries and living marine resources, structure at sea, marine parks, lagoon water quality monitoring

**Ministry of Environment**

EIA/SEA/SEA, standards setting, ICZM, beach erosion control, oil spill coordination

**Beach Authority**

Control and management , and provision of amenities on public beaches

**Solid Waste Management Div**

Solid Waste management

**Ministry of Tourism**

Ensures sustainable tourism, oversees regulated development by Tourism Authority, zoning of lagoon,

**Tourism Authority**

Tourism enterprises, Pleasure crafts, leisure activities at sea, beach hawkers

**Ministry of Home Affairs (NCG)**

Control of illegal activities at sea ,oil spill combat

**Ministry of Agro Industry**

Islets, coastal wetlands, forest management

**Wastewater Mgt Authority**

Wastewater management

**Shipping Division**

Marine pollution from vessels

**Department for Continental Shelf**

Management of maritime zones, formulate policies in ocean affairs, MSP

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# LEGAL FRAMEWORK

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- The Code Civil Mauricien (*Article 538*)
- Pas Géométriques Act 1895 (amended 1982)
- State Lands Act 1874 (amended 1982)
- Town and Country Planning Act 1954
- Planning and Development Act 2004
- Removal of Sand Act 1975
- Local Government Act 2011 and its regulations.
- Beach Authority Act 2002
- Fisheries Act 2023
- Environment Act 2024 and its regulations and guidelines
- Forest and Reserves Act 1983
- Maritime Zone Act 2005
- Merchant Shipping Act 2007
- National Coast Guard Act 1988
- Ports Act 1989
- Rivers and Canals Act 1863
- Tourism Authority Act 2006 and its regulations and guidelines
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# ICZM Committee

- The ICZM Committee was established in 2002 under the Environment Protection Act to **coordinates activities within the coastal zone.** It coordinates coastal conservation, erosion control, and sustainable development efforts, develops ICZM strategies and action plans, among others.
- It comprises government Ministries, parastatal bodies, NGOs (6), and private sector representatives, ensuring a collaborative approach to managing coastal resources.

# GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

- Ministry of **Environment**
- Ministry of **Local Government**
- Ministry for **Fisheries & Marine Resources**
- Ministry for **Shipping**
- Ministry of **Housing & Lands**
- Ministry of **Tourism**
- Department for **maritime zones** administration
- Ministry responsible for **Water resources**
- **Forestry** Service
- **National Parks** and Conservation Service
- Island Chief Executive, Rodrigues

- Ministry for **Port Development**
- Ministry for **Social security**
- Mauritius **Meteorological** Service
- **Municipalities & District Councils**
- National **Coast Guard**
- **Wastewater** Management Authority
- Mauritius **Ports** Authority
- **Academia**
- Mauritius **Oceanography** Institute
- **Beach Authority**
- **Police** de l'Environnement
- Central **Water Authority** (CWA)

# NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

## PRIVATE SECTOR

- MRU2025
  - Eco-Sud
  - Reef Conservation
  - Coral Garden Conservation
  - Platform Moris Lanvironman
  - Save the Blue
- Association des Hotels et Restaurants de l'Ile Maurice (AHRIM)

Under Section 85 (4) of the Environment Act 2024,  
the ICZM Committee shall, in relation to the coastal  
zone

- (a) develop an **integrated management plan**;
- (b) coordinate **regional and international projects**;
- (c) conduct and recommend **studies on beach erosion** and propose **measures for its control**;
- (d) make recommendations for the **upgrading of recreational facilities**;
- (e) make recommendations on **guidelines for coastal constructions**; and
- (f) generally make **recommendations to the Minister** on the management and protection of the coastal zone.

# Conclusion

- Mauritius has built a robust coastal management framework
- Integrated, adaptive, and inclusive approaches critical
- A resilient coastal zone ensures economic, social, and ecological sustainability for generations



**Thank you**

