LAND-BASED

OCEANIC INDUSTRY

MAURITIUS

550

600

650

700

750

800

850

900

950

1000

BRINGING OUT VALUE FROM

DEEP

INDIAN OCEAN WATER

Doing business in
mauritius
the Paradise Island in the Indian Ocean

Ideally located in the Indian Ocean off the coast of East Africa, and with its Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.9 million km2, Mauritius offers unlimited investment opportunities. The island has, over the years, meticulously assembled the prerequisites to become a business-friendly, profitable and safe location of unparalleled quality, thus benefiting the investor community. It boasts over three decades of positive track record in hosting foreign investors coming from major capitals of the world. Many of them have reinvested in multiple projects since, and are still present in Mauritius.

Mauritius is today an ideal investment location where businesses can start operations on the basis of self adherence to comprehensive and clear guidelines. Relevant authorities exercise ex post control to check for compliance and facilitate investors to start their business activities within three working days.

LAND-BASED
OCEANIC
INDUSTRY

The Land-Based Oceanic Industry in Mauritius: A Unique Business Venture in a Pristine Location

Sourced from the deep currents of the Indian Ocean

Over 1,000 metres below the surface of the sea, deep currents travel continually around the globe, moving very slowly large masses of water of exceptional quality. Mauritius is ideally positioned to exploit the deep sea water currents as such deep waters from the Indian Ocean flow a few kilometres off the coast of the island.

The Exceptional Properties of the Five-Century old Mauritian Deep Sea Water

Recent scientific analysis of the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the deep (1,000 metres) water off the coast of Mauritius, has established that the water is very pure, rich in mineral and of high nutrient content as well as being cold (6°C).

Five-century old water

Carbon dating techniques indicate that the water is about five-century old, is pure and free from surface pollution. These unique properties allow a multitude of business opportunities to bring out value from the water of the deep Indian Ocean.

Low-temperature stability

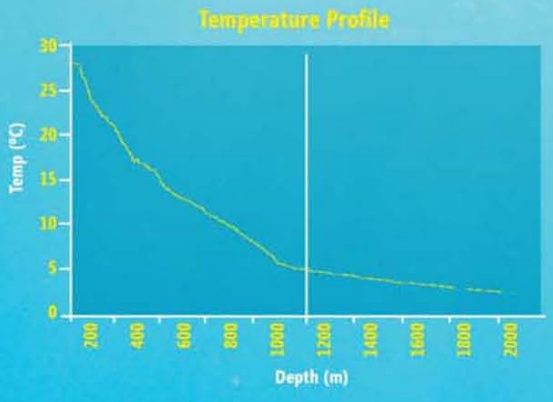
While the temperature of surface seawater varies seasonally, that of the Mauritian deep-sea water remains almost constant, ranging between 5° to 6°Celcius all year round.

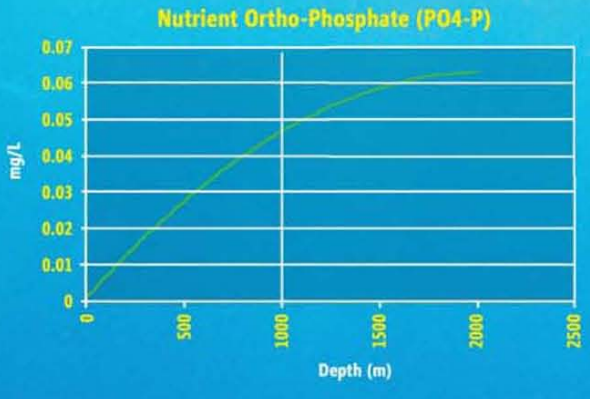
Inorganic Nutrient Richness

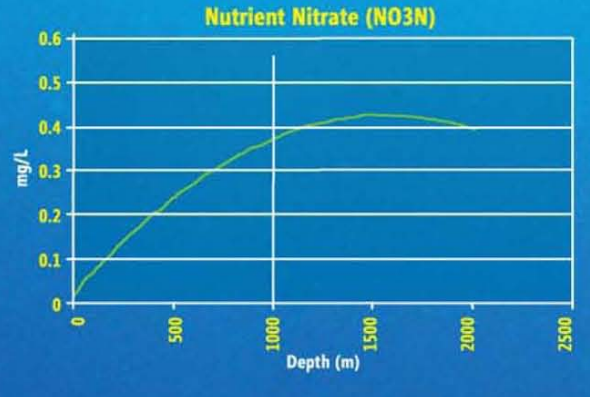
Sunlight does not reach the 1,000m-deep water and as a result, photosynthesis does not take place, leaving a nutrient-rich water ideal for aquaculture.

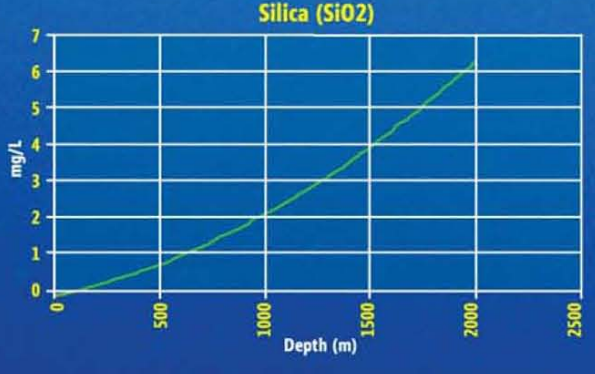
Purity

The amount of organic matter and bacteria in deep-sea water is considerably less than in surface water. From a chemical and microbiological stand point, deep-sea water is very pure and devoid of pathogenic bacteria.









The table below gives an indication of the unique properties of the 1,000 metres deep water of the Indian Ocean.

KEY PARAMETERS OF SEAWATER

(average values analysed from three sites)

PARAMETER	SURFACE SEA WATER[1]	DEEP-SEA WATER[2]
Temperature (°C)	27 - 28	5 - 6
Salinity (ppt)	34.7	34.3
pH	8.3	7.9
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	6.7	3.75
Total Bacterial Count (CFU/mL)	25 - 257	1 - 13
Total Coliforms (CFU/mL)	0	0
Faecal Coliforms (CFU/mL)	0	0
Vibrio Species (CFU/mL)	0	0
Nitrate (mg/L)	0.015	0.39
Phosphate (mg/L)	<0.003	0.05
Ratio Nitrate / Phosphate	5	8
Ratio Nitrate / Nitrite	3	78
Silicate (mg/L)	<0.1	3
Ammonia (mg/L)	<0.01	<0.01

1 - at 3 km from the coast
2 - at 3 km from the coast and 1,000m deep
Other detailed physico-chemical and microbiological data, including pesticides, heavy metals and radioactivity, further substantiate the purity and richness of the water at 1,000m depth. This information can be available from the Mauritius Research Council.

Water samples being taken from a research ship off the coast of Mauritius

Bringing out Value from Deep Indian Ocean Water

Healthcare Products

Desalinated Mineral Water

Renewable Energy

Aquaculture
Salmon, Trout, Oysters

Pharmaceutics

Aquaponics

Deep-Sea Water Applications

Seaweed Culture

Inland Tourism

Pearl Culture

Thalassotherapy

High Purity Marine Salt

Cosmetics

Many countries around the world including Hawaii, Japan, China, Taiwan, and others are now discovering the great potential of deep-sea water applications. Business opportunities exist in the following, but not exhaustive, sectors:

Desalinated Mineral Water

By far, this is the most lucrative business venture. Through reverse osmosis, selected salts are removed from the deep-sea water, leaving behind mineral water of the purest quality. Hawaii currently exports over one million litres of deep-sea desalinated mineral water per day, mostly to Japan. A 1.5 litre of this water costs between 5 to 6 US dollars and it is reported that desalinated bottled mineral water could very quickly become the biggest export earner of the State of Hawaii.

There exists a growing health-conscious market for this unique brand of mineral water. The Middle East countries could be a potential market for mineral water bottled in Mauritius.

Aquaculture

The high degree of purity, the nutrient content and the adjustable temperature of the deep-sea water make it ideal for high-value aquaculture, including salmon and lobster farming. In Hawaii, the deep-sea water has led to a flourishing aquaculture industry, catering for both tropical and cold-water fish and crustaceans.

Pearl Culture

Pearl of the highest quality can be cultured in a controlled deep-sea water environment. Successful businesses are operational in Hawaii.

Thalassotherapy

The healing and therapeutic attributes of deep-sea water have been known for centuries. In many countries, for example in Japan, deep-sea water treatments are being offered by the spa industry in the tourism sector. Being a prime tourist destination, Mauritius is ideally located to exploit this unique quality of our deep-sea water.

Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics

The presence of special chemical elements in the deep-sea water is an important source of natural ingredients for the development of pharmaceutical products, as successfully demonstrated by several businesses based in Japan and Hawaii. The characteristics of the deep-sea water provide an ideal environment for the growth of particular species of seaweeds which constitute important raw materials for biomedical and cosmetic products.

Aquarium products

High-end products for ornamental aquariums, such as seahorses and sea snails, which are normally difficult to cultivate outside oceanic conditions, have been shown to constitute thriving businesses when carried out in a deep-ocean water condition.

Renewable Energy for Air-Conditioning

The coldness of the deep-sea water is ideally suited to replace the electrical chillers in conventional air-conditioning systems. This could lead to as much as 40% savings in the electricity bills of most hotels and coastal buildings in Mauritius.

Deep-sea Water Products
A Growing Market

Deep seawater-related products such as desalinated bottled water, sea salt and nigari, food and beverages, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, have experienced phenomenal successes in countries such as Japan and the USA. Bottled water is the most dynamic food and beverage market, steadily growing at a pace of 15% over the last 30 years. The increasingly health-conscious market is continuously shifting towards mineral water. Deep-sea water is full of healthy minerals. When the salt is extracted, the end product is a very sought-after beverage.

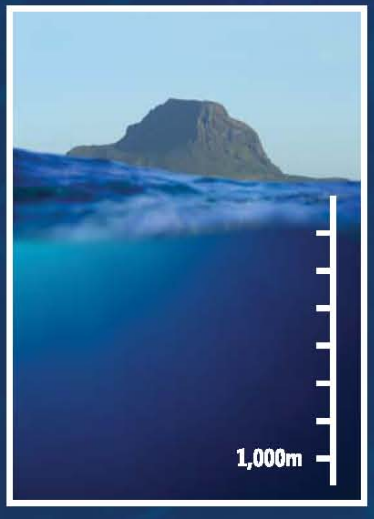
With its insatiable appetite for products related to the deep sea, demand is sure to outstrip the supply of quality deep-sea water for years to come.

The thalassotherapy or spa requires very little investment and is a niche service in great demand by European tourists. The nutrient-rich water can also be used for aqua farming. According to the FAO, the world market for aquaculture is about US$ 55 billion and is growing annually by 10%. As an example, seaweed products command a world market of about US$ 250 million, expanding at a rate of 12%. In Ireland alone, the seaweed market is valued at 12 million Euros, providing jobs for thousands.





The proposed Land-based Oceanic Industry Complex is to be built on the southern coast of Mauritius.



A Unique Concept

The Land-Based Oceanic Industrial Park

Purest Deep-Sea Water brought to you onshore

Marine surveys and scientific tests have indicated that deep ocean water with the unique properties is accessible within a few kilometres off the coast of Mauritius. The Government is investing massively in pumping this water to the shores of Mauritius. This is being done via long HDPE pipes, laid from the coast and on the seabed to a depth of over 1,000 metres. This technique has been demonstrated mostly in Hawaii and Japan. Mauritius is the first country in the world to go to a depth of 1,000 metres to acquire this unique ocean water.

The Government has also earmarked over 300 hectares of prime land, located in a pristine environment, to be developed into an oceanic park. The park will provide all infrastructural facilities for tenants to rent space and add value to the deep water of the Indian Ocean and create flourishing businesses as indicated above. The Oceanic Park will operate under proper environmental conditions and will ensure that products developed in the Park are fully bio, eco-friendly, natural, and unique to the brand of Products of Deep Indian Ocean Water, Mauritius. The Park will use renewable energy from the sun and wind and all air-conditioning may be generated from the coldness of the deep-sea water. The Park will also accommodate tourist visitors for day trips to spa and thalassotherapy, to oceanariums, seafood restaurants and pearl shops.

The prime location of the Oceanic Park is only a few kilometres from the International Airport.

> **“Mauritius is the first country in the world to go to a depth of 1,000 metres to acquire this unique ocean water”**

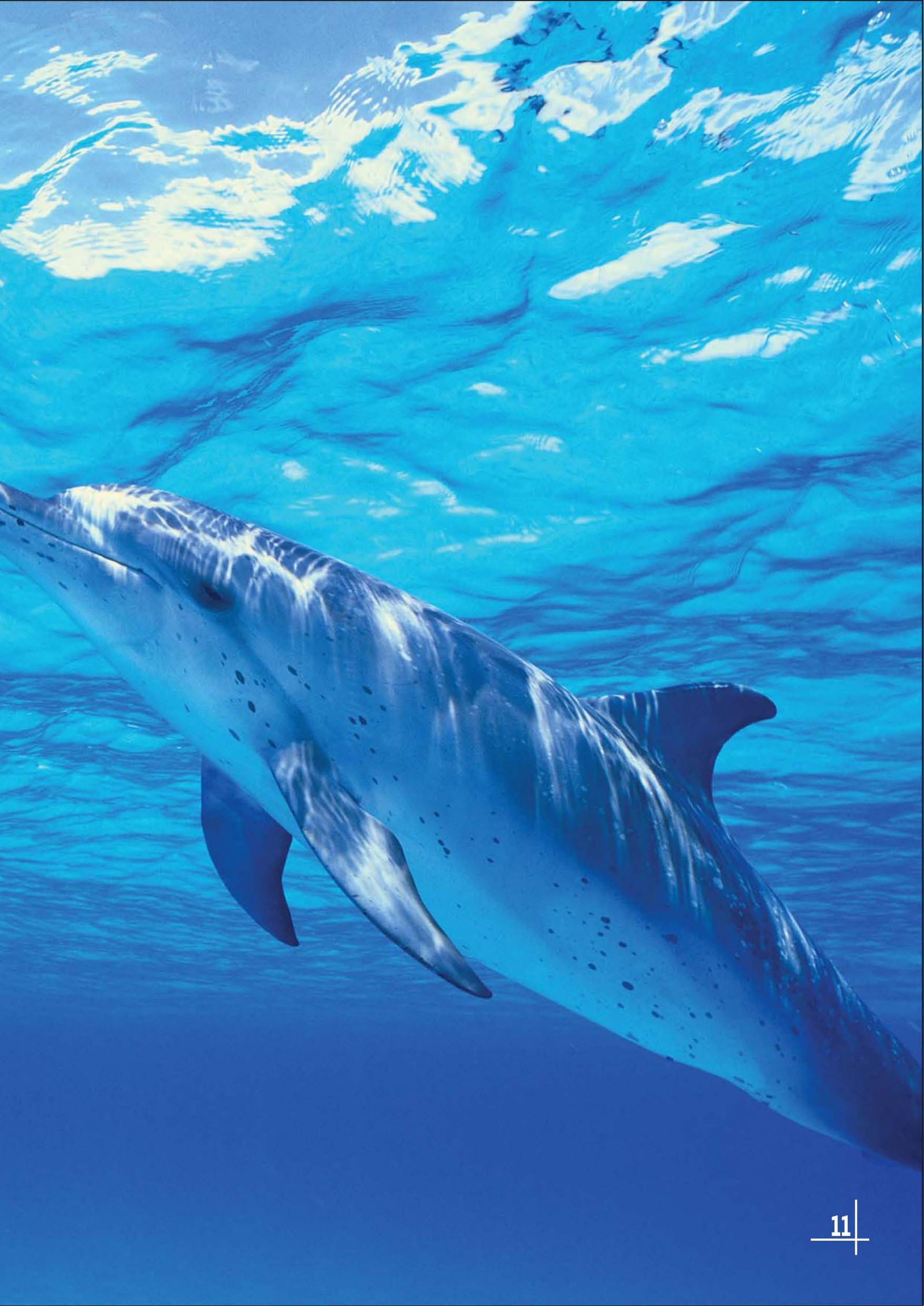
Your Turnkey Solution for Extracting Value from the Deep Sea

A turnkey approach will be adopted for the setting up of companies in this new sector. All companies using deep-sea water will be located within the earmarked area that will be provided with all required infrastructure, services and facilities. The licences and permits required to start a business will be already cleared to ensure the quick implementation of projects.

In addition, investors in this new sector will benefit from the following incentives:

- Low corporate tax of 15%;
- No customs duties on industrial equipment, machinery and materials;
- Tax-free dividends;
- Generous package of annual allowances;
- Possibility of 100% foreign ownership;
- Free repatriation of profits, dividends and capital;
- No exchange control;
- Fast-track process for occupation permit clearances;
- Low registration duty of 5% for the registration of buildings;
- Access to offshore banking facilities; and,
- Possibility for the investor to become a permanent resident after three years, with the right to acquire property.

"Deep-sea water rich in healthy minerals"



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