



COUNTRY PROFILE

MAURITIUS



Full Name:	Republic of Mauritius
Area:	2,040 km²
Capital:	Port Louis
Main Languages:	English (official), Creole, Bhojpuri, French
Currency:	Mauritian rupee (MUR)
Head of State:	President Sir Anerood Jugnauth
Prime Minister:	Navinchandra Ramgoolam



The Profit 2007 Regional Investment Conference in Kampala, Uganda is a component of the Pro€Invest programme which is a common initiative of the European Commission (EC) and institutions from the ACP states (Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific).

This profile of the tourism sector has been prepared on behalf of the organisers by Tourism Intelligence International (TII) under contract to BK Consultants.

The authors accept sole responsibility for the profile which does not necessarily reflect the views of the organizers: Pro€Invest, the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the African Union (AU) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

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1. BUSINESS OVERVIEW

The outlying territories of Mauritius include the island of Rodrigues, situated 544km eastward, and two clusters of smaller islands.

1.1 Key Economic Indicators

Table 1 shows the recent trend for selected key economic indicators using the most up-to-date available information. More general country information is provided in the websites referred to in Section 5.0 at the end of this report.

Table 1: Key Economic Indicators 2003-06

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Area	2.040 km ²			
Population (mn.)	1.228	1.238	1.248	1.256
Population Growth (%)	1.00	0.90	1.00	0.70
GDP (US\$ bn. at current prices)	5.159	5.937	6.231	6.362
GDP per capita (US\$ at current prices)	4,244	4,837	5,029	5,085
GDP growth at constant prices (%)	3.60	4.50	3.40	3.40
Current account balance (US\$ bn.)	1.216	1.227	1.239	1.251
Inflation Rate (%)	3.90	4.70	4.90	8.90
Exchange Rate: annual average Mauritian rupee per US\$	27.902	27.499	29.496	31.656

n.a = not available

Sources: COMTRADE, International Trade Centre, Central Statistics Office, Bank of Mauritius, IMF, World Development Indicators, World Development Indicators database

1.2 Economic Context

In 2006, total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) amounted to some US\$6.4 billion at current prices. Currently, real GDP is growing at around 3.4 percent per annum.

In 2004, the manufacturing sector accounted for 20 percent of the total GDP. The next largest sectors were financial and business services, with 18 percent; public administration and other services, 18 percent; transport, storage and communication, 13 percent; and wholesale and retail trade, 11 percent. Although not separately identified in the national accounts, the tourism sector is estimated to represent over 25 percent of GDP (see Section 1.4 below).

GDP per capita amounted to an estimated \$5,085 in 2006 – one of the highest levels in Africa.

Mauritius is hailed as an economic success story, rising from a low income, undeveloped economy at independence in 1968 to its current position of a well-established middle income economy. A great deal of this success has been the result of lucrative sugar contracts with the European Union, tourism and the phenomenal growth of the textiles and clothing sector. According to a World Bank report (Country Brief, May 2005), the country's "ability to profit from these opportunities testifies to institutional strengths – stable democracy and rule of law; ethnic tolerance; macro-economic stability; equitable social progress; and reliance on private incentives."

The drivers of Mauritius' success are however the very factors that have, in more recent years, made the country extremely vulnerable to events taking place internationally, most notably the move by the European Union to Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) that will affect Mauritian sugar sales (decrease of 36% in the price of sugar cane bought by European Union by the year 2009) and the expiration of the Multi Fibre Agreement which has improved the position of China in world textile markets.

The Mauritian response to these factors has been to embark on an ambitious programme, the Economic Agenda for the New Millennium, which aims to diversify the economy into higher technology industries and the high-skill services sector and ultimately to increase GDP growth to 8 percent per annum by 2015.

Allied to this is the need for Mauritius to remain competitive against increasing competition both at home and abroad. The development of tourist industry will also take an important place in the new strategy. The Government has fixed an ambitious objective in terms of the number of arrivals per annum. With approximately 800,000 arrivals today, the aim is to reach 2 million arrivals by 2015.

1.3 Population and Labour Force

The population is estimated at 1.25 million persons and is currently growing at around 1.0 percent per annum. At around 607 persons per km², the population density is one of the world's highest. In 2004, the labour force amounted to 532,000, or 44 percent of the total population.

1.4 Role of Tourism

Tourism is already making a very significant economic contribution – accounting directly and indirectly (according to World Travel & Tourism Council estimates) for an estimated 26 percent of Gross Domestic Product, and 28 percent of total employment. The main focus is on high value upmarket developments.

1.5 General Institutional and Regulatory Framework

Mauritius has a mixed legal system consisting of British common law practices and the French Napoleonic Code. Although Mauritius has been a Republic since 1992, the country remains a member of the Commonwealth and the Privy Council in London is the Supreme Court of Appeal. Companies in Mauritius are regulated by the Companies Act 2001, which incorporates international best practices and promotes accountability, openness, and fair dealing.

Land tenure

Coastal land must be leased from Government for an initial period of 20 years followed by up to four 10 year renewals.

1.6 Operating Costs

Average operating costs for basic inputs are somewhat higher than in most other African countries, but are still low by European standards. The average wage for an ordinary hotel worker is the equivalent of around US\$150-200 per month.

1.7 Local Skills Base

Mauritius has a literacy rate of over eighty percent. Education up to the tertiary level is free and the Government is constantly improving the educational system. The country has a large pool of well-educated young people who are versatile and easily trainable. Skilled labour, graduates and qualified professionals including lawyers, engineers, programmers, consultants, accountants and chartered secretaries are available. Vocational training (including training for the hospitality and tourism industries) is co-ordinated by the Industrial and Vocational Training Board.

In addition to academic training at the University of Mauritius and the University of Technology, many Mauritians benefit from international exposure through overseas education in Europe, North America and elsewhere.

1.8 Infrastructure Services

1.8.1 International air access

The SSR (Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam) International Airport, located at Plaisance in the south east of the island, is served by 12 airlines, including Air Mauritius, Air Seychelles, Air Austral, Air France, Air Madagascar, British Airways, , Britannia Airways, Catovair, Condor, Corsair, Emirates Airlines, Eurofly, South African Airways .

The national carrier, Air Mauritius, provides services to/from some 28 destinations in Europe (Paris, London, Milan, Rome, Frankfurt, Geneva, Vienna and Zurich); Asia (Chennai, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Mumbai, Delhi and Singapore); Australia (Melbourne, Perth and Sydney); Middle East (Dubai); Africa (Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, Antananarivo and Nairobi); and the Indian Ocean islands (Reunion and Seychelles).

1.8.2 Domestic air services

Air Mauritius operates daily flights to/from the main island and Rodrigues. Catovair operates daily flights to/from Rodrigues.

1.8.3 Roads

The roads around the main island are generally good.

1.8.4 Sea Access

The main harbour is in Port Louis.

1.8.5 Telecommunications

Mauritius has an excellent telecommunications system and the service is good.

2. TOURISM SECTOR

Tourism is expected to take a very important place in the Mauritian economy. To confirm this objective, the Government has decided to reach 2 millions tourist arrivals per annum by 2015.

So, a new strategy of development has been defined: opening of the sky ; marketing action plan to develop new markets ; ambitious programme of building with the increase of the number of rooms and the launching of numerous Integrated Resort Scheme ; and the organization of international cultural events.

Tourism to Mauritius has experienced consistent growth in recent years. The number of international tourist arrivals increased from 422,463 in 1995 to more than 788 00 in 2006.

2.1 Product Offer

The prime attractions are:

Beaches

The sandy beaches and warm, tropical seas are among the island's foremost attractions. Among the most popular beaches are:

- Grand Bay in the north, the main centre for yachting and water sports;
- La Cuvette beach, Belle Mare, Palmar and Trou d'eau Douce on the east coast;
- Blue Bay in the south east, known for its scuba diving;
- Le Morne and Tamarin which offer several kilometres of beaches for bathing and surfing; and
- Flic en Flac (white beaches fringed with filaos or Casuarina trees).

Port Louis

- The attractions of the capital city of Port Louis include the Central Market, Chinatown. Caudan Waterfront and the Domaine les Pailles.

Eco-tourism

- Green Mountains for mountain climbing or exploring nature through forests, plants or endemic flowers;
- The SSR Botanical Gardens at Pamplémousses which are known to naturalists throughout the world for their large collection of indigenous and exotic plants; and
- The Bois Cherie Tea Factory and Museum.

Nature

National parks and nature reserves include:

- La Vanille Reserve des Mascareignes viewing free-roaming Nile crocodiles and giant tortoises plus an insectarium with more than 20,000 species;
- Casela Bird Park is home to more than 140 species of birds as well as tigers, monkeys and deer;
- The Black River Gorges National Park was established to preserve the last of the island's remaining forests;
- Le Val Nature Park;
- Yemen Reserve with its herds of deer; and
- The Nature Park of Domaine Les Pailles

Visits can also be made to the Trou au Cerfs crater and the volcanic landscape at Chamarel.

Marine Life

Opportunities exist for scuba diving, snorkeling, kayaking and deep sea fishing. Species include the blue or black marlin, all types of sharks, yellow tuna, bonitos, barracuda, etc.

Spas

The island's spas include Le Saint G eran, the Royal Palm, Hilton, Prince Maurice, Beau Rivage, Oberoi, The Residence, Sofitel Imperial and Dinarobin hotels.

Golf

There are three 18-hole golf courses and five 9-hole courses. Belle Mare Plage has two championship golf courses.

Duty free Shopping

The island's reputation for duty free shopping is enhanced by the diversity and quality of the shopping opportunities.

Honeymoons

Mauritius has become a favoured venue for weddings and honeymoons. Most hotels offer extensive wedding and honeymoon packages.

Restaurants

For the food connoisseur, there is a wide variety of gastronomic experiences to be enjoyed at the many hotels and restaurants around the island.

Touring the island by car or on foot provides the visitor with an interesting insight into the island's rich history (Dutch, French, British) and many diverse cultures (Hindu, African, Creole, etc.).

Rodrigues

The sister island of Rodrigues affords opportunities for relaxation, swimming, scuba diving, bird watching, walking and hiking. It's a very nice place to develop eco-tourism.

2.2 Accommodation

In 2004, there were an estimated 10,640 rooms in tourism accommodation establishments in Mauritius compared with 9,647 in 2003 and 8,657 rooms in 2000. Numerous hotels are refurbishing their rooms or increasing their capacity, so 560 additional rooms are expected by the end of 2007.

The number of nights spent by non-residents in tourist accommodation establishments increased from 6.4 million nights in 2000 to an estimated 7.1 million nights in 2004.

2.3 Market Trends**2.3.1 Visitor arrivals by purpose of visit*****Visitor arrivals***

It is estimated that total international arrivals amounted to 788 000 in 2006, compared with 761,000 in 2005 719,000 in 2004, 702,000 in 2003 and 656,500 in 2000.

For 2007, the Tourism Minister has announced the objective of 10% growth arrival rate. 2006 has registered a 3.6% growth. This moderate figures can be explained by the chikungunya crisis which has affected especially the French market. Between 1995 and 2005, the number of international visitors increased by an estimated 80 percent (an average annual rate of increase of 6 percent).

Purpose of visit

Holiday visitors constitute the largest single component, with an estimated 72 percent of the total, followed by honeymoon, 13 percent; business, 9 percent; visits to friends and/or relatives (VFR), 3 percent; and other, 3 percent.

Mode of transport

It is estimated that in 2004 some 97 percent of all visitors entered Mauritius by air.

2.3.2 Visitor arrivals by country of origin

In 2005, about one quarter of all international tourist arrivals were from other African countries, of which the great majority were from Reunion and South Africa.

Arrivals from Europe accounted for a further two-thirds of total arrivals, and an estimated 70 percent of all nights spent by non-residents in hotels and similar establishments, in 2003. The main European source markets are France and the United Kingdom.

In 2006, the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority has reinforced its marketing action to increase arrivals of market like Italy, Russia and Australia.

Table 2: International tourist arrivals (by residence), 1995-2005

Source	1995	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005*	2006
Africa							
of which	143,586	168,319	172,351	173,996	175,649	185,208	189 458
Reunion							
South Africa	78,431	91,140	96,375	95,679	96,510	99,036	89 127
	42,653	47,882	42,685	45,756	52,609	58,446	70 796
Europe							
of which	n.a.	437,305	451,504	465,379	477,041	502,715	510 479
France							
United Kingdom	116,701	197,595	202,869	200,229	210,411	220,421	182 295
	31,324	77,888	80,667	91,210	92,652	95,407	102 333
Other/not specified	130,852	54,694	57,793	62,643	66,171	73,140	88 339
Total	422,463	660,318	681,648	702,018	718,861	761,063	788 276

* estimate

Source: Central Statistics Office

2.3.3 Average length of stay

The average length of stay for all overnight visitors is 10.4 nights.

2.3.4 Visitor expenditure

In 2005, international tourism receipts amounted to an estimated \$871 million compare with \$853 million in 2004 and \$696 million in 2003. This compares with estimated total export earnings from textiles, clothing, sugar and other products of some \$2.3 billion in 2006.

2.3.5 Cruise tourism

Port Louis is the main port of call for cruise ships.

2.4 Institutional Arrangements

The main responsibility for tourism development lies with the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure and, for promotion, with the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority. The main private sector body is the Association des Hôteliers et Restaurateurs de L'Ile Maurice (AHRIM).

2.5 Future Outlook

A number of developments have taken place in the tourism sector in Mauritius in recent years which augur well for continued sustained growth, including construction of new five-star hotels and other tourist accommodation; the introduction of new standards to upgrade the level of hospitality service and the quality of amenities offered by small individual operators; and the enhancement of security by the setting up of a Tourism Police Unit.

In addition, there are ongoing developments in Mauritius that will have a positive impact on the economy as a whole as well as providing spin-off benefits for the tourism sector. These developments include the Ebene CyberCity Development (designed to transform Mauritius into a diversified, high-tech, high income services and knowledge-based economy); the Seafood Hub Development (aimed at establishing the fishing industry as a pillar of the Mauritian economy alongside sugar, textiles, tourism, financial services and ICT); and the planned diversification of the sugar industry.

It is likely therefore that the tourism sector will continue to grow in coming years. The developed infrastructure, access to cost effective and educated labour, attractive investment incentives and existing linkages with industry representatives in EU and eastern and southern Africa put Mauritius in an excellent position to take advantage of growth opportunities.

WTTC expects Mauritius's travel and tourism economy to grow by 1.9 percent in 2007, and by 3.5 percent per annum, in real terms, between 2008 and 2017.

3. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN TOURISM

Mauritius is today recognised as an up-market travel destination for holiday-makers from all parts of the world. The tourism sector offers a wide range of luxury beach hotels ranked among the best in the world. The industry has registered high rates of growth in the last decade and has attracted considerable FDI, particularly in the construction of world-class hotels. The future emphasis is on diversifying its beach offer by developing products for eco-tourism, community-based tourism, cultural tourism, golf and Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism.

3.1 Investment Sectors

Priority tourism investment sectors have been identified as follows:

Leisure

- Establishment and management of hotels and other tourist accommodation, including
 - New beach resorts;
 - Middle market family hotels;
 - Inland lodges;
 - Golf estates;
 - Integrated resorts with hotels, housing, marinas, golf;
 - Boutique hotels;
 - Luxury self-catering.
- Spa complexes and health and therapeutically centres.
- Marinas.
- Adventure and nature activities – carting, driving ranges, parasailing, bungee jumping, parachuting.
- Indoor entertainment complexes and amusement/theme parks.
- Support services such as hotel management institutes and training centres for the hospitality industry.

3.2 Priority Investment Zones

The Board of Investment (BOI) is actively soliciting investment, and has successfully attracted developers with FDI, for Integrated Resort Schemes (IRS) in new areas in the south of the island. The IRS has been introduced to attract to Mauritius high net worth non-citizens and citizens who are looking for an alternative or another place of residence by allowing them to acquire luxury villas on land, in specific resorts, approved by the Board of Investment (BOI).

The IRS provides for the development of luxury villas as well as extensive and high-class leisure and recreational facilities. These may include (but are not limited to) golf course, marina, individual swimming pool, catering, nautical and other sport facilities and health centre. Day-to-day management services, such as security, maintenance, gardening, solid waste disposal and household services are provided to the residents. Some of the first such IRS projects are the Tamarina Golf Estate and Beach Club in the south west and Ciel Investment (which is building 250 homes at Beau Champ on the east coast).

4. INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT

4.1 Investment Framework

4.1.1 Government policy

The Government of Mauritius welcomes foreign investment and has created a favourable investment environment offering a wide range of incentives and facilities geared toward attracting foreign direct investment and institutional investors.

Investment in Mauritius is governed by the Non-Citizen (Property Restriction) Act 1975 and the Investment Promotion Act of 2000 which established the Board of Investment (BOI) whose task it is to promote and facilitate investment in Mauritius. The Board is further responsible for approving all investment certificates.

4.1.2 Investment agencies

The BOI is the first contact point for persons or companies interested in investing in Mauritius. Operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance, the BOI is responsible for promoting and facilitating investment in Mauritius.

4.1.3 Double taxation agreements

Mauritius has signed Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements with Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Russian Federation, Sweden and the United Kingdom as well as Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda and Zimbabwe, and China, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Agreements with a number of other countries are either awaiting ratification, awaiting signature or are being negotiated.

4.1.4 Investment guarantees

Mauritius is a member of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), the International Court of Justice for the Settlement of Disputes, the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes and the 1958 New York Convention on Foreign Arbitration Awards. Investments in Mauritius are also eligible for the full range of Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) guarantees.

4.2 Investment Incentives

Mauritius pursues a liberal foreign investment policy and offers attractive incentive schemes in all sectors of the economy. These are grouped under two distinct categories, as detailed in the First and Second Schedules of the Investment Promotion Act 2000 (IPA 2000), according to the nature of the projects.

Under the First Schedule, several investment schemes have been devised to suit the needs and requirements of investors in manufacturing, ICT, hotel industry, regional headquarters, permanent residence, construction amongst others. Projects falling under the Second Schedule require an investment amount exceeding Rs 10 million (€300,000). A flexible package of incentives is given to projects. Incentives offered can be in the form of reduced corporate tax, exemption of customs on equipment and raw materials, preferential loan rates and reduced tariffs for electricity and water. Moreover, dividends paid to shareholders are tax-exempt.

Under the First Schedule, the following tourism-related schemes exist:

- Hotel Management Scheme.
- Integrated Resort Scheme.
- Permanent Residence Scheme.

(a) *Hotel Management Scheme*

In order to attract hotel chains of international repute to be positioned in Mauritius, the Government is encouraging flagship companies of international standard to invest in Mauritius for the management of hotels under the Hotel Management Scheme.

Incentives include:

- 15% corporate tax;
- Tax free dividends for 10 years;
- Free repatriation of profits, dividends and capital, subject to the original investment having received “A” status from the Bank of Mauritius; and
- Term loans and overdraft at preferential rates.

(b) Integrated Resort Scheme

Together with citizens and non-citizens, companies (including foreign companies) incorporated under the Companies Act (of Mauritius) 2001 are also eligible for participation in the Integrated Resort Scheme, for which the following conditions apply:

Extent of Property: each villa is developed on land not exceeding 0.5276 hectare (1.25 arpents).

Cost per property: the amount of investment in the acquisition of an immovable property for residence, including land not exceeding 0.5276 hectare (1.25 arpents), shall not be less than US\$500,000.

Property under the IRS can be purchased either on the basis of a plan, during the construction phase or when the construction is completed.

(c) Permanent Residence Scheme

Refer to Section 4.4 below.

4.3 Access to Finance

4.3.1 Commercial banks

Mauritius has a modern and efficient banking system. The Bank of Mauritius is the regulatory and supervisory body for the banking system. Major commercial banks include Bank of Baroda, Barclays PLC, HSBC, Habib Bank, the Mauritius Commercial Bank and First City Bank. A number of European Banks have invested in the offshore sector and include Barclays Offshore Banking Unit, Deutsche Bank Offshore and Standard Chartered Bank.

4.3.2 Development banks

▪ Development Bank of Mauritius

The Development Bank of Mauritius (DBM) is a specialised financial institution whose role it is to facilitate industrial, agricultural and economic development in Mauritius. DBM provides financial assistance to different sectors (including tourism) mainly in the form of medium and long term loans. Term loans are sanctioned on the basis of up to 60 percent of the capital investment and have a life span of eight to 10 years. Interest rates may vary between 9 and 15 percent depending on the schemes and the amount borrowed. Other schemes include the National Equity Fund Limited, which provides risk capital through equity participation for start-ups, growth related ventures, corporate expansion and restructuring projects, a venture capital scheme for equity participation in SMEs engaged in high value added activities and the ICT sector, a working capital scheme and a micro-credit scheme.

▪ Mauritius Leasing Company

The Mauritius Leasing Company provides financial leases to eligible clients for the purchase of machinery and equipment. Leases are offered for periods ranging between three and seven years and provide an option for the lessee to purchase the leased asset at the expiry of the contract period. Sectors eligible for lease facilities include the tourism as well as the sugar industry, agriculture, EPZ industries, transport, civil engineering, printing and services sectors, and self-employed professionals.

▪ Mauritius Venture Capital Fund

The Mauritius Venture Capital Fund (MVCF) provides equity and quasi-equity investments to private sector companies with high growth potential. It invests in most sectors of the economy.

The investment can be in the form of ordinary share participation, preference shares and other equity and quasi-equity investments. The MCVF provides finance and management expertise (including Board representation) to the company in exchange for returns as medium term capital gains.

The size of investment will normally range between Rs1 million to Rs15 million which should represent between 10 to 40 percent of the equity capital of the company concerned.

4.3.3 International Financial Institutions

Mauritius, as a signatory to the agreement between African, Caribbean and Pacific nations (ACP) and the European Union (EU), known as the Cotonou Agreement, has access to the facilities of the European Investment Bank (EIB).

As a member of the World Bank, the facilities of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) would also be available for projects in Mauritius. Other potential development finance sources include the African Development Bank (ADB), the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa Ltd (IDC) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

4.3.4 Transfer of Capital and Profits

There are no restrictions on the repatriation of earnings and capital and foreign exchange transactions relating to current account payments.

4.4 Residential and Work Visas

The Government has set up a Permanent Residence Scheme to attract high net-worth individuals in Mauritius.

Under this Scheme, foreigners investing more than US\$500,000 in Mauritius are eligible to permanent residence, along with the spouse and children under 18 years of age. For children above 18 years, an additional deposit of US\$100,000 is required.

The initial investment is transferred in the Permanent Residence Investment Fund (PRIF) which is managed by the Accountant General of the Ministry of Finance. A return earned on the investment is payable yearly.

The sum deposited into the PRIF, or part thereof, can be reinvested in:

- a qualifying activity approved by the Board of Investment;
- securities officially listed on the Stock Exchange; or
- an equity fund.

If the deposit in the PRIF is not reinvested in one of the above activities, a minimum of US\$500,000 shall be locked in the PRIF for a period of 10 years.

Under this scheme, the investor is exempted from work permit requirements and can acquire immovable property to an extent of 0.5276 hectares (1.25 arpents) for personal use.

4.5 Technical and Promotional Assistance

Generic tourism promotion is undertaken by the MTPA (Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority). The public sector marketing budget is complemented by private sector marketing initiatives.

Mauritius is a member of the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA) which, as the official tourism body for SADC, has been given the mandate to market and promote southern Africa in close co-operation with the region's national tourism organisations, the private sector and the communities. The primary aim is to create a clear and recognisable brand identity that will enable the sub-continent to compete effectively within the global arena through co-ordinated marketing activities (including exhibiting at selected trade fairs worldwide, media and educational trade tours, information services, etc.)

Indian Ocean Commission

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) is a regional governmental organisation comprising Réunion, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros, and the Seychelles. The primary objective of the IOC is to promote regional cooperation in economic development (including tourism) and to promote the free movement of goods, services, capital and human resources.

5. LIST OF KEY CONTACTS

Ministry of Tourism and Leisure

Mr. J. Simonet
12th Floor Air Mauritius Centre
Rue John Kennedy, Port Louis
Tel: + 230 211 5168 or 210 9842
Fax: + 230 208 8776 or 211 8161
E-mail: mot@intnet.mu

Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority

Air Mauritius Centre
11th Floor
John Kennedy Street, Port Louis
Tel: +230 210 1545
Fax: +230 2125142
E-mail mtpa@intnet.mu
Website: www.mauritius.net

Board of Investment

10th Floor, One Cathedral Square Building
16 Jules Koenig Street, Port Louis
Tel: +230 203 3800
Fax: +230 208 2924
Website: www.boimauritius.com

First point of contact for all potential investors in Mauritius

Association des Hôteliers et Restaurateurs de L'Ile Maurice (AHRIM)

5th Floor, Barkly Wharf
Caudan Waterfront
Port-Louis
Tel: + 211 4758; 211 5630
Fax: + 211 7359
E-mail: ahrim@intnet.mu
Website: www.mauritiustourism.org

The Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry

3 Royal Street
Port Louis
Tel: +230 208 3301
Fax: +230 208 0076
Website: www.mcci.org

The Chamber of Commerce is a valuable source of business advice and contacts.

Small Enterprise Handicraft Development Authority

Royal Road
Coromandel
Tel: +230 233 0500
Fax: +230 233 5545

Mauritius Freeport Authority

1st Floor Trade and Marketing Centre

Zone #6, Mer Rouge

Port Louis

Tel: +230 206 2500

Fax: +230 206 2600

Website: www.efreeport.com

Development Bank of Mauritius

La Chaussee Street

Port Louis

Tel: +230 203 36 00

Fax: +230 208 84 98

State development banking institution.

Industrial and Vocational Training Board

IVTB House, Pont Fer

Phoenix

Tel: +230 601 8000

Fax: +230 698 4200

E-mail: headoffice@ivtb.intnet.mu

Website: <http://ncb.intnet.mu/ivtb.htm>

The Industrial and Vocational Training Board operates and administers industrial and vocational training schemes.

Useful Websites:

- **Mauritius Government web portal:** provides links to governments and key institutions
www.gov.mu/
- **Board of Investment:** website for investment information and detailed data on incentives
www.boimauritius.com
- **Mauritius Chamber:** website for details on trade agreements, tariffs and procedures
www.mcci.org
- **Southern African Development Community:** the website contains useful profiles on SADC member states: www.sadc.int
- **The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC):** full profiles provide an instant guide to history, politics and economic background of countries and territories, and background on key institutions.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm