Abstract

In an email to HoDs dated 26th February 2019 I forward communication received from Mauritius regarding the Mauritius & Seychelles Joint Management Area that extends into the SIOFA Area and a copy the confirmation/response letter from the Secretariat (Annex I).

At the Fifth Meeting of the Parties which took place 25-29 June 2018 in Thailand, Mauritius reiterated its claim for historical rights on the Saya de Malha Bank and stated that the Secretariat would be informed of the progress on the legal evaluation undertaken by Mauritius (MoPS Report, Para 781).

It is not understood if the communication received from Mauritius is the legal evaluation referred to at MoPS. A further response was provided by Mr Dr Badal 8 April 2019 (Annex II)
Executive Secretary
Mr Jonathan Lansley
APSOI/SIOFA
C/O DAFF
Batiment B
Parc de la Providence
97489 Saint-Denis de La Réunion

Dr M. Rezah Badal
Co-ordinator (Joint Management area)
2nd Floor, Belmount House, Intendance Street
Port Louis
Republic of Mauritius

26 February 2019

Dear Dr M. Rezah Badal,

Ref: Joint Management Area Mauritius & Seychelles

Thank you for your communication dated 18 Feb 2019 (attached), I acknowledge receipt of this letter.

SIOFA Secretariat will transmit this letter to Contracting Parties for their consideration without delay.

At the Fifth Meeting of the Parties which took place 25-29 June 2018 in Thailand, Mauritius reiterated its claim for historical rights on the Saya de Malha Bank and stated that the Secretariat would be informed of the progress on the legal evaluation undertaken by Mauritius (MoP5 Report, Para 781).

Please confirm if this letter is the legal evaluation of Mauritius discussed at MoP5.

Kind regards

Executive Secretary

Tim Costelloe, SIOFA Acting Chairperson
SIOFA MoP Heads of Delegation

1 http://apsoi.org/sites/default/files/documents/meetings/MoP5%20Report%20FINAL.pdf
Dear Sir/Madam,

Further to the establishment of the Extended Continental Shelf/Joint Management Area between Mauritius and Seychelles, the Joint Commission wishes to apprise the SIOFA of this new jurisdiction.

2. Please find enclosed a letter addressed to that effect from JMA Co-ordinator.

Thank you and Regards,

Dr M. Rezah Badal
Co-ordinator
(Joint Management Area)
2nd Floor, Belmont House, Intendance Street
Port Louis
Republic of Mauritius

Tel: +230 260 0105    Fax: +230 214 1705    E-mail: mrbadal@govmu.org; mzadministration@govmu.org

Disclaimer Notice:

This e-mail message (including any attachments) is intended for the addressee only, and may contain confidential information. The unauthorised use, disclosure or copying of this e-mail or any information contained within it is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the author and delete this e-mail (including any attachments) immediately in its entirety.

This e-mail message has been swept by a virus checker for the presence of known computer viruses. Besides, any opinion or other information in this email (including any attachments) that does not have anything to do with the official business of the Government of Mauritius, is personal to the author, and therefore does not engage any liability whatsoever of the Government of Mauritius.

The above statement does not constitute an acceptance of liability on the part of the Government of Mauritius or its employees in the event of technical or virus issues generated by this e-mail. It is the responsibility of the recipient to take adequate security measures. Further, the Government of Mauritius or its employees do not accept liability however arising, including liability for negligence, for any loss resulting from the use of or reliance upon the information contained in the email (including any attachments) and/or reliance or its availability at any time. The recipient must also verify/check any information with the relevant Government department(s) and/or other source(s), and to obtain any appropriate professional advice before acting on the contents of this email.
JOINT COMMISSION OF THE EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF
MASCARENE PLATEAU REGION

18 February 2019

The Executive Secretary
Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA/APSOI)
C/O DAAF, Batiment B
Parc de la Providence
97489 Saint Denis Cedex
La Réunion

Dear Sir/Madam

MAURITIUS-SEYCHELLES
ESTABLISHED OF THE JOINT MANAGEMENT AREA

I have the honor to inform you that in March 2011, the United Nations Commission on the limits of the Continental Shelf conferred upon the Republic of Seychelles and the Republic of Mauritius an extended continental shelf covering an area of 396 000 km². The two countries have subsequently signed two treaties in March 2012 establishing the joint exercise of their sovereign rights on and to sustainably manage the natural resources of that area.

2. The outer limits of the said extended continental shelf also known as the Mauritius-Seychelles Joint Management Area (JMA) are depicted in the attached map and have also been published in the Law of the Sea Bulletin No. 79 of 2013, pages 25-52.

3. The treaties also provide for the area to be managed by a Joint Commission comprising of officials from both countries.

4. It has come to the attention of the Joint Commission that in the publications of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Secretariat, the area under the management of the Joint Commission continues to be depicted as an area managed under SIOFA.

5. The Joint Commission would therefore highly appreciate it if the necessary steps could be taken to correctly depict the outer limits of the Mauritius-Seychelles Joint Management Area (JMA) in all future documents published the SIOFA and for a corrigendum to that effect to be issued with regard to publications made after March 2011.

.../cont'd
6. It also follows that SIOFA can no longer devise any policy or implement any project in the Mauritius Seychelles Joint Management Area.

7. I should be grateful if you could kindly bring the above to the attention of the SIOFA members and acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Please accept, dear Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Dr. M. Rezah BADAL
Co-ordinator
(Joint Management Area)
JOINT COMMISSION OF THE EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF
MASCARENE PLATEAU REGION

08 April 2019

Mr Jonathan Lansley
Executive Secretary
Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA/APSOI)
C/O DAAF, Batiment B
Parc de la Providence
97489 Saint Denis Cedex
La Réunion

Dear Sir,

MAURITIUS-SEYCHELLES
ESTABLISHED OF THE JOINT MANAGEMENT AREA

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 26 February 2019 informing the Joint Commission that the content of the letter dated 18 February 2019 has been circulated to all members States of SIOFA.

2. I shall be grateful if you could inform me of the action taken by SIOFA to effect the necessary changes in all SIOFA documents as well as on SIOFA’s website to reflect the geographical boundaries of the JMA upon which Mauritius and Seychelles exercise a joint jurisdiction.

3. With regard to the second part of the letter, I wish to inform you that the JMA is not concerned with the matter.

4. You may, therefore, wish to address the query to the relevant Mauritian Focal Point of SIOFA.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Dr M. Rezah BADAL
for Co-ordinator
Joint Management Area

Focal Office for Seychelles: Independence Building Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Focal Office for Mauritius: Level 2, Belmont House, Port Louis, Mauritius, Tel No: 260 0105, Email: mbadal@govmu.org