



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

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Duration: 3'19"

MAURITIUS USES MOORING BUOYS TO PROTECT CORAL REEFS

VIDEO

AUDIO

NARRATION

BUOY/BOAT (9")

Underneath the buoy that marks the best diving sites in Mauritius lies also the island's hope of greater economic growth.

UNDERWATER SHOTS OF
CORALS AND FISH (8")

Located in the western Indian ocean, Mauritius is surrounded by an almost unbroken chain of coral reefs.

SCUBA DIVERS (15")

Home to a diversity of marine life, this undersea world attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists every year. While officials welcome them, they are also concerned about the damaging effects of the increased number of tour boats at diving sites.

SEEBALUCK (3")

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Sateev Seebaluck.

SEEBALUCK:

SEEBALUCK ON CAMERA
(12")

CORAL REEFS

"Where ever these boats go around, they just drop their anchors anywhere...and each time, these anchors are dropped; it causes damage to the coral. So we have embarked on a project to put the mooring buoys."

YANN UNLOADING BUOY
(14")

NARRATION

Boats can now be tied directly to the buoys. Yann von Arnim runs the Mauritius Marine Conservation Society; a non-governmental organization entrusted to do the installation work.

YANN ON CAMERA
(12")

YANN:

"We are setting up some permanent mooring buoys on these sites so that the boats are not throwing the anchor any more."

YANN IN BOAT, PUTTING
BUOY IN WATER
(14")

NARRATION

The pilot project, supported by the Ministry of Tourism and the UN Development Programme, UNDP, put four mooring buoys at two popular diving centres. One of them was damaged during a cyclone, and Yann is about to replace it.

YANN SPEAKING TO BOAT
OPERATOR (11")

YANN:

"We had a problem with the fixed mooring buoy, we bought a new buoy and we will change them today. So, please, you must be careful when you come and moor these buoys."

YANN PREPARES TO DIVE IN,
YANN UNDERWATER
REPLACING BUOY (18")

NARRATION

Setting up a buoy is the easy part. The operation takes about half a day. And the cost, including the buoy, is just a little over 200 US dollars. The tough part is getting the sustained commitment to maintain the buoys and to spread awareness.

YANN IN WORKSHOP WITH
LOCALS (10")

The project is making progress. Fishermen and boat operators across the island are now learning about the need to protect coral reefs.

YANN SPEAKING TO
FISHERMEN (6")

YANN:

"The coral is the house of the fish. If you break the coral, the fish has no house and there will be no fish left anymore."

DUNDOO (8")

NARRATION

Diving centres have agreed to share the cost and responsibilities of the maintenance work. UNDP Small Grant Programme Coordinator, Pamela Dundoo.

DUNDOO ON CAMERA
(13")

DUNDOO:

"The pilot project was so successful. And the Minister of Environment is right now looking into co-funding that project, which will mean that 89 other sites around the island will have permanent mooring buoys in a few months."

SEA/TOURISTS/CORALS

NARRATION

Mauritius is a small island nation with a million

(13")

people. Tourism is one of its major industries. Protecting corals at dive sites is vital in preserving its unique marine world, and ensuring a sustainable growth of the economy.

CORAL REEFS & FISH (9")

The coral reef system in Mauritius has also an important, though often overlooked role to play in the world's ocean ecosystem.

UN LOGO (10")

This report was prepared by Patricia Chan for the United Nations.

