

Climate - Republic of Mauritius

Introduction

The Republic of Mauritius comprises several islands across the South-West Indian Ocean: Mainland Mauritius, Rodrigues, Agalega, St. Brandon, Diego Garcia, and Tromelin. All these islands are free from direct continental influence. Agalega and Diego Garcia experience mostly equatorial-maritime type of climate while the others experience tropical-maritime type.

The Climate

During winter months, the climate of the region is generally dominated by subtropical anticyclones travelling across the southern subtropics. Summer months are also influenced by subtropical anticyclones, but then they are weaker and travel along higher latitudes. Thus, during winter, the low-level easterly to south-easterly winds are stronger and more persistent and, during summer, the winds tend to be generally weaker. Moreover, during summer, with weaker prevailing winds and warm, moist conditions, sea-breeze circulations often develop across Mauritius and Rodrigues, and thereby cause considerable variations in the

wind and weather regimes.

Tropical cyclones

Tropical cyclones/storms do, occasionally, affect the area during the summer season. On an average, in a particular season a total of around 10 tropical storms can be expected to develop in the basin and reach mature stage; however, the interannual variability in the total number of formations is high. The islands of the south-west Indian Ocean are at times significantly affected by tropical storms. Agalega and Diego Garcia are rarely directly affected by these storms; however, in summer, these islands are often influenced by the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone and embedded vortices.

Reference

Regional climatological summaries (temperature, humidity, wind, sunshine, and precipitation) may be viewed at the Meteorological Services, Mauritius, website: <<http://metservice.intnet.mu>>