



UN expert notes “significant improvement in the state of the coastline affected by the fuel spilled from the MV Wakashio”.

The Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, as well as government experts and environmental advisers surveyed the sites impacted by the oil spill from MV Wakashio that ran aground off the south eastern coast of Mauritius on 25 July. They reviewed progress made in the clean-up operations and rehabilitation of the environment.

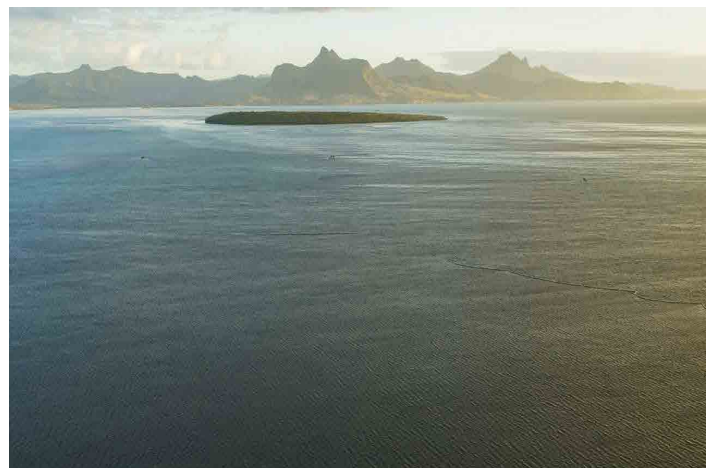
“As far as the first stage of clean-up goes, we noted significant improvement in the state of the coastline affected by the fuel spilled from the MV Wakashio. We would like to recognize the efforts of the many volunteers from the local community who continue to provide support to the environmental rescue operations”, UN expert Matthew Sommerville stated to local media who were present onsite. The team of experts said they will continuously monitor the cleaning and support Mauritian authorities in this important task to restore the area to its original state.

Operations have been contracted out to the specialised firm, Polyeco and Floch Depollution, with support of around 60 fishermen from the area who were recruited for the task.

Cabinet took note that cleaning operations at Ile aux Fouquets, an islet off the south eastern coast of Mauritius, as well as at Pointe d’Esny public beach has been completed. Cleaning is in progress at Bambous Virieux, Bois des Amourettes, Vieux Grand Port and la Falaise Rouge. Some 1,282 metric tons of liquid heavy fuel oil and 1,116 metric tons of contaminated solid wastes and debris have been removed from affected sites and collected at secure interim locations. Booms at the Blue Bay Marine Park and around Ile aux Aigrettes have been removed while those deployed near the shipwreck are being maintained.

More than 310 kilometres representing 96% of Mauritian coastline remain unspoiled from the oil spilled.

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