



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NDU

ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINE No. 21

Nautical Centres

1.0 Purpose of guideline

This environmental guideline for the setting up of nautical centres in the coastal zone has been prepared by the Ministry of Environment & NDU to ensure that all environmental issues are duly taken into consideration by stakeholders.

2.0 Nature of development

A nautical centre is a place where any approved nautical activities are provided. Nautical centres may consist of an administrative building, stores, sheds, hangars for boats and parking facilities amongst others.

The typical nautical activities in Mauritius include the following:

- ♦ Big game fishing and recreational fishing,
- ♦ Kayaking,
- ♦ Kite surfing,
- ♦ Parasailing,
- ♦ Sailing boats,
- ♦ Scuba-diving,
- ♦ Site seeing excursions (e.g. Glass bottom boats).
- ♦ Snorkelling,
- ♦ Water skiing and related variants,
- ♦ Water-wheelers,
- ♦ Wind-surfing.

In case nautical centres want to provide jetties, an EIA has to be submitted as per EPA 2002

3.0 Potential impacts

The major environmental issues associated with a nautical centre are loss of biodiversity, pollution to coastal waters, disturbance to marine life and beach erosion. The different aspects, impacts and nuisances related to such activities are listed below:

Activity	Aspects	Impacts/ Nuisances
Construction phase		
Site preparation / Construction of buildings (where applicable)	- Generation of excavated soil / construction wastes \ - Use of heavy machinery	- Dumping into barelands and watercourses and drains, sea - Noise, mud ,dust, traffic - Visual impacts

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Operation phase		
Nautical activities	- Mooring of boats - Movement of the boats, ski, kayaks, - Fuel spills - Improper storage and handling of nautical equipment and cleaning agents	- Loss of biodiversity- - Disturbance to marine life - Backwash - Beach erosion
Waste management	- Improper disposal of sewage and solid waste	- Pollution of the coastal waters, may lead to eutrophication
Parking facilities	- Not enough /adequate parking facilities	- Trampling of adjoining sites may lead to erosion of the beach
Storm water management	- Improper evacuation of stormwater	- Creation of gulleys on the sand leading to beach erosion - Flooding of site
Zoning of lagoon	- Improper zoning	- Conflict in use - Accidents

Note: The above list of impacts are not exhaustive.

4.0 Siting of activity

The nearest hard infrastructure shall be located at least 30 m from the High Water Mark (HWM), rivers and wetlands.

5.0 Environmental Conditions

The major environmental issues are **pollution to coastal waters, disturbance to marine life and beach erosion** and the following conditions shall be observed:

- (i) All hard structures shall be located at least 30 m from the High Water Mark (including walkways).
- (ii) All boats/nautical equipment shall be stored at least 30 m from the HWM to prevent obstruction to the beach users
- (iii) A contingency plan as provided for under section 30 (3) (a) of the Environment Protection Act 2002 shall be prepared and implemented to combat any case of accidental spillage of fuels.
- (iv) Used oil shall be collected and disposed of as per the Environment Protection (Collection, Storage, Treatment, Use and Disposal of Used Oil) Regulations 2005.

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- (v) All fuel shall be stored in double walled storage tanks to minimize leakage and prevent contamination of seawater.
- (vi) Permanent mooring buoys to be provided at dive sites and mooring sites. These should be located on sandy patches with no corals or sea grasses on a radius of 10 m. Clearance for location of same shall be sought from Ministry of Agro-Industry and Fisheries.
- (vii) The lagoon shall be demarcated (swimming zone, nautical activity, ski lane). Clearance for demarcation to be sought from Ministry of Agro Industry and Fisheries.
- (viii) Water ski activities shall be located well beyond swimming zones and at depths greater than 2m. (There shall be at least 2m of water above coral colonies or in sites where there are no corals).
- (ix) Non-motorised boats/nautical activities shall not be allowed at sites where the lagoon current exceeds 0.5 m/s.
- (x) Surfing activities shall be located well beyond swimming and non-motorized boat activities (pedalos/kayaks and so on) to minimize accidents.
- (xi) Swimming zones shall be located on sandy patches and shall not be located in areas of seagrass or corals.
- (xii) The promoters shall employ professional life savers to keep a watch on swimmers and the other nautical activities. The nautical centre shall provide life saving equipment.
- (xiii) Natural drains, dunes and any wetlands present on the site shall not be tampered with.
- (xiv) Wastewater and sewage generated shall be collected and disposed of.
- (xv) No nuisance by way of noise dust and coastal erosion shall be caused during site preparation, infrastructural works and during operation of the activity.
- (xvi) The Department of Environment of the Ministry of Environment and NDU shall be informed in writing of the dates of commencement of works on site and operation of the activity for monitoring purposes.

6.0 Enforcement

Under Section 13 of the Environment Protection Act 2002, the enforcing agencies for the different environmental medium or pollutants are as follows:

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S. No	Environmental media/ pollutant	Enforcing Agency
1	Waters in the zone other than waters in the port	Ministry of Agro-industry and Fisheries (Fisheries Division)
2	Effluents	Ministry of Public Utilities
3	Noise	Ministry of Health and Quality of Life
4	Solid wastes	Ministry of Local Government
5	Oil Spill	Ministry of Environment

The above-mentioned enforcing agencies shall monitor compliance with the conditions falling under their purview.

7.0 Offences

Any person who fails to comply with any regulations/standards referred to in this guideline shall commit an offence and shall:

- (i) on a first conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 50, 000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.
- (ii) on a second or subsequent conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 8 years.

For further information, please contact

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