

MAURITIUS



Source: esri

General

Mauritius - officially the Republic of Mauritius - is an island nation in the Indian Ocean about 2,000 km off the southeast coast of the African continent. The country includes the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues (560 km east of Mauritius), and the outer islands (Agaléga, St. Brandon and two disputed territories). The area of the country is 0.204 Mha (million hectares) with in 2022 a population of 1.3 million, or 6.4 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2022).

Climate and geography

Mauritius has a tropical climate. There are two seasons: a warm humid summer from November to April, with a mean temperature of 24.7 °C and a relatively cool dry winter from June to September with a mean temperature of 20.4 °C. Annual rainfall ranges from 900 mm on the coast to 1,500 mm on the central plateau. Although there is no marked rainy season, most of the rainfall occurs in the summer months. The prevailing trade winds keep the east side of the island cooler and bring more rain. Occasional tropical cyclones generally occur between January to March and tend to disrupt the weather for about three days, bringing heavy rain (source: Wikipedia).

Mauritius Island is relatively young geologically, having been created by volcanic activity some 8 million years ago. They are no longer volcanically active. The land rises from coastal plains to a central plateau where it reaches a height of 670 m. There are several streams and rivers, many formed in the cracks created by lava flows.

Existing polders

Only the Dodo Polders could be identified. There have only been three very small temporal polders of in total 20 m² in the period 2005 – 2007 during the excavations of many drawned Dodo's (Figures 1 and 2) (de Louw and Rijdsdijk, 2007).

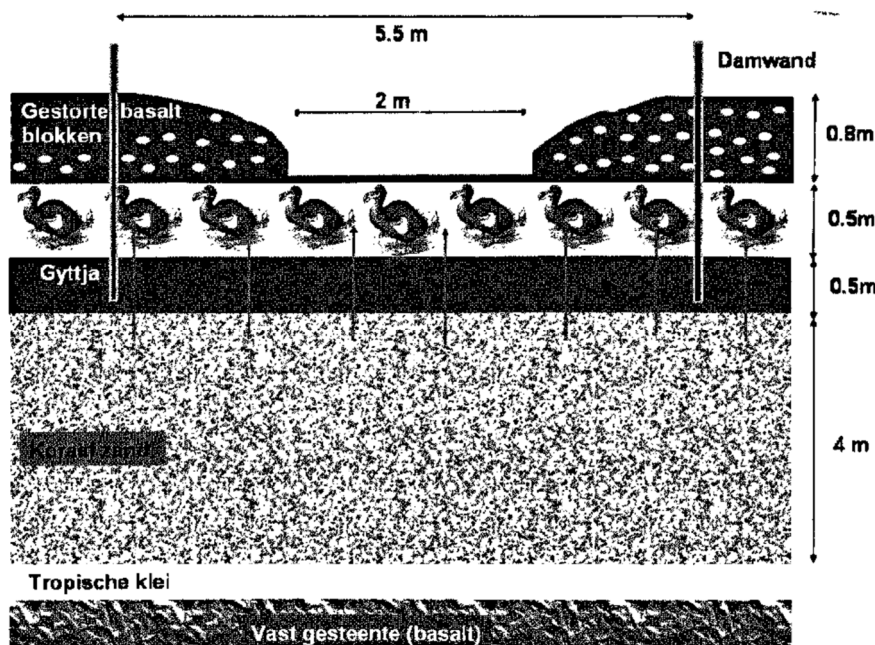


Figure 1. Geologic profile of excavation site A in Mare aux Songes and a schematic presentation of the Dodo-polder (de Louw and Rijdsdijk, 2007)

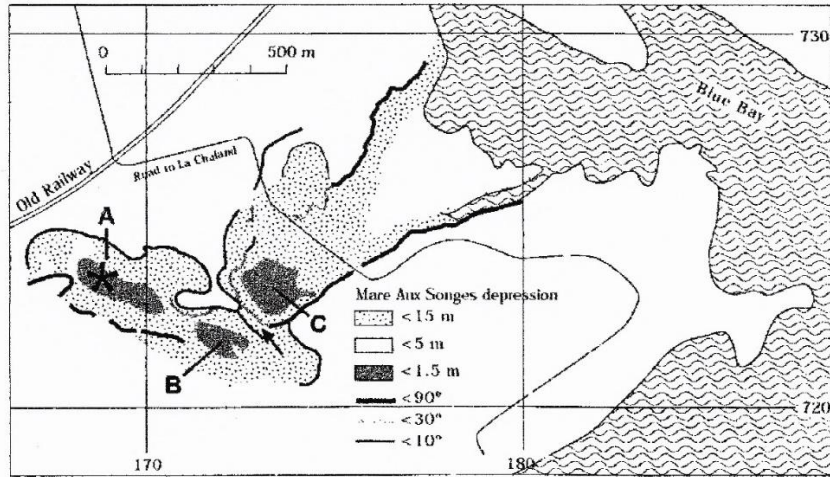


Figure 2. Location of the three Dodo polders in the Mare aux Songes (de Louw and Rijdsdijk, 2007)

General characteristics of the polders in Mauritius are shown in Table I.

Proposed polders

No proposed polder could be identified.

Location of the polders in Mauritius as shown on the World polder map

The location of the polders in Mauritius is shown in Figure 3.

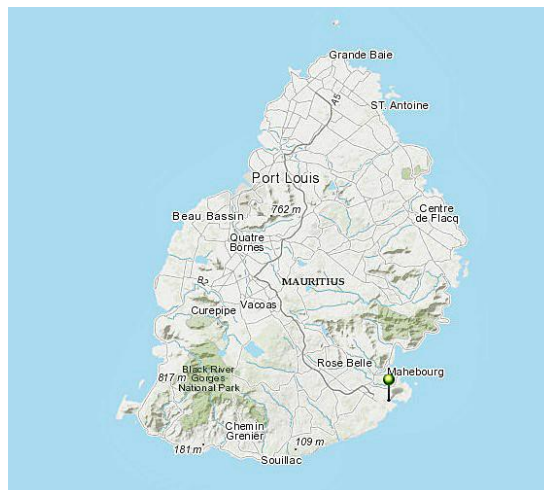


Figure 3. Location of the polders in Mauritius (source: esri – Batavialand)

References

- Louw, Perry de en Kenneth Rijdsdijk, 2007. De Dodo-polder. *Stromingen*. 13.4.
 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2022. *World population prospects, medium prognosis. The 2022 revision*. New York, USA.

Web site: <http://www.kennislink.nl/publicaties/dodopolder-levert-unieke-vondst>

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Table I. General characteristics of existing polders in Mauritius

Name	Reclamation	Area in ha	Type *)	Latitudes	Longitudes	Elevation in m+MSL	Land use
Dodo-polders	2005-2007	0.0002	RLL	20° 27' S	57° 42' E	11	
Total		0.0002					

*) RLL = reclaimed low-lying land; LGS = land gained on the sea; DL = drained lake