



Assessment of Blue Carbon Ecosystem (Seagrass) in Mauritius: Relevance for Marine Spatial Planning

*7th WIOSAP PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
DARES SALAAM, TANZANIA
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Dr Sundy Ramah

Albion Fisheries Research Centre

**Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy & Fisheries
(Blue Economy & Fisheries Division)**

Mauritius

Why the Project

- **Gaps & Objectives:**
- Knowledge gap on the seagrass distribution and their efficiency to act a natural carbon sink for Mauritius
- Component 1: Seagrass Assessment & Monitoring around the island
- Component 2: Assessment of Blue Carbon Storage Capacity
- Component 3: Sensitisation & Educational Campaign
- **Where:**
- Around Mauritius Island

- **Partners:**



University of Mauritius



Key Achievements

Seagrass mapping and monitoring:

- Maps depicting the distribution and diversity of seagrass species in the lagoons of Mauritius
- Acquisition of continuous long term monitoring data on seagrass and its health status
- Seagrass protection included in the new Fisheries Act 2023



Blue Carbon:

- Carbon storage capacity determination at selected sites
- Potential for generating blue carbon finance

Sensitisation:

- 6 National Campaigns with 100,000 people educated on the seagrass and conservation efforts



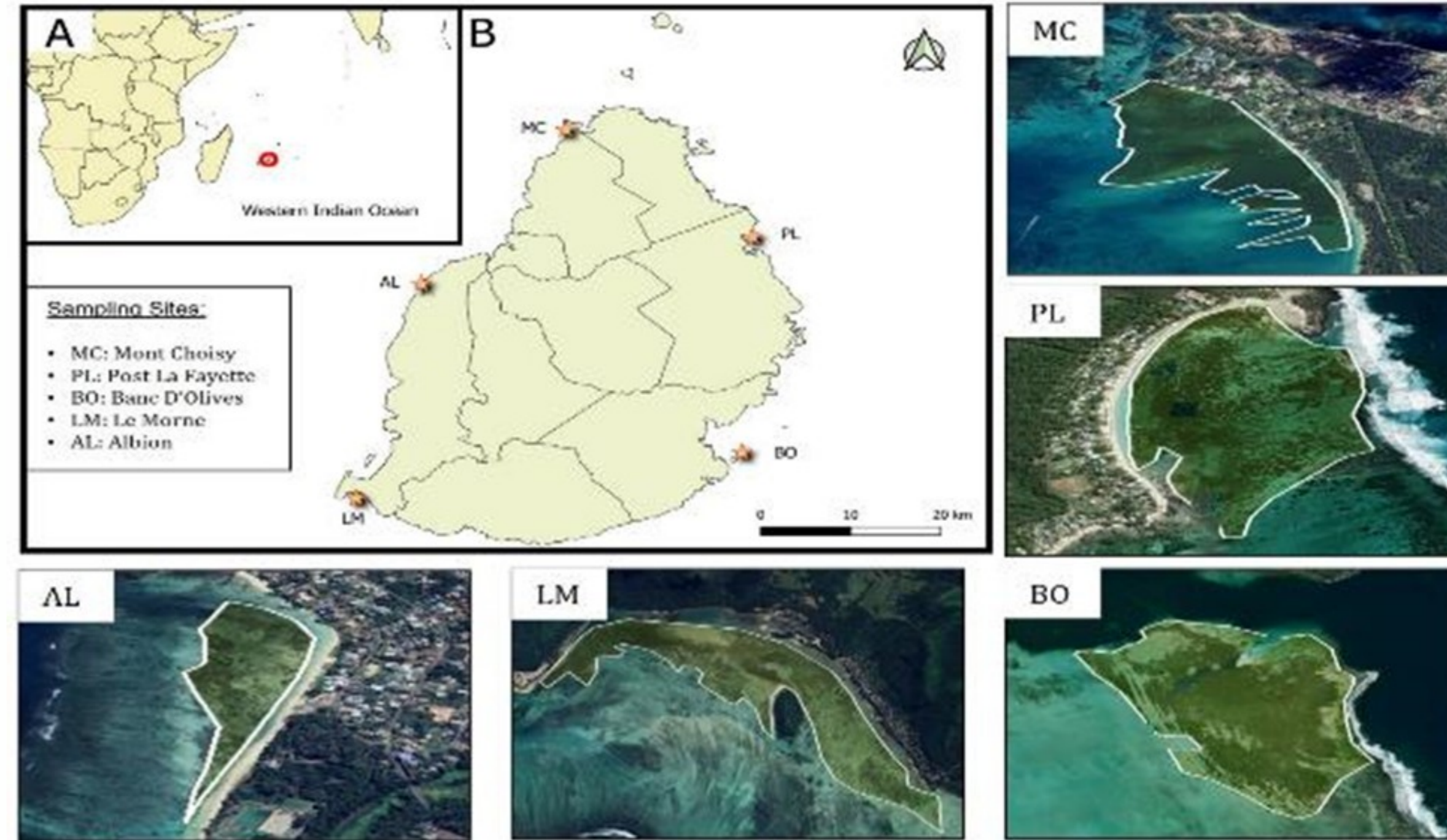
Key Lessons Learnt

Assessment of the sedimentary organic and inorganic carbon storage capacity in tropical seagrasses: A first study for Mauritius, Western Indian Ocean

Sundy Ramah^{1*}, Mat A. Vanderklift² and Mark Wilson²

¹Albion Fisheries Research Centre, Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries & Shipping, Petite Riviere, Albion, 91001, Republic of Mauritius.

²CSIRO Environment, Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre, 64 Fairway, Crawley, WA 6009, Australia.



Sub-Part C – Marine Environmental Quality

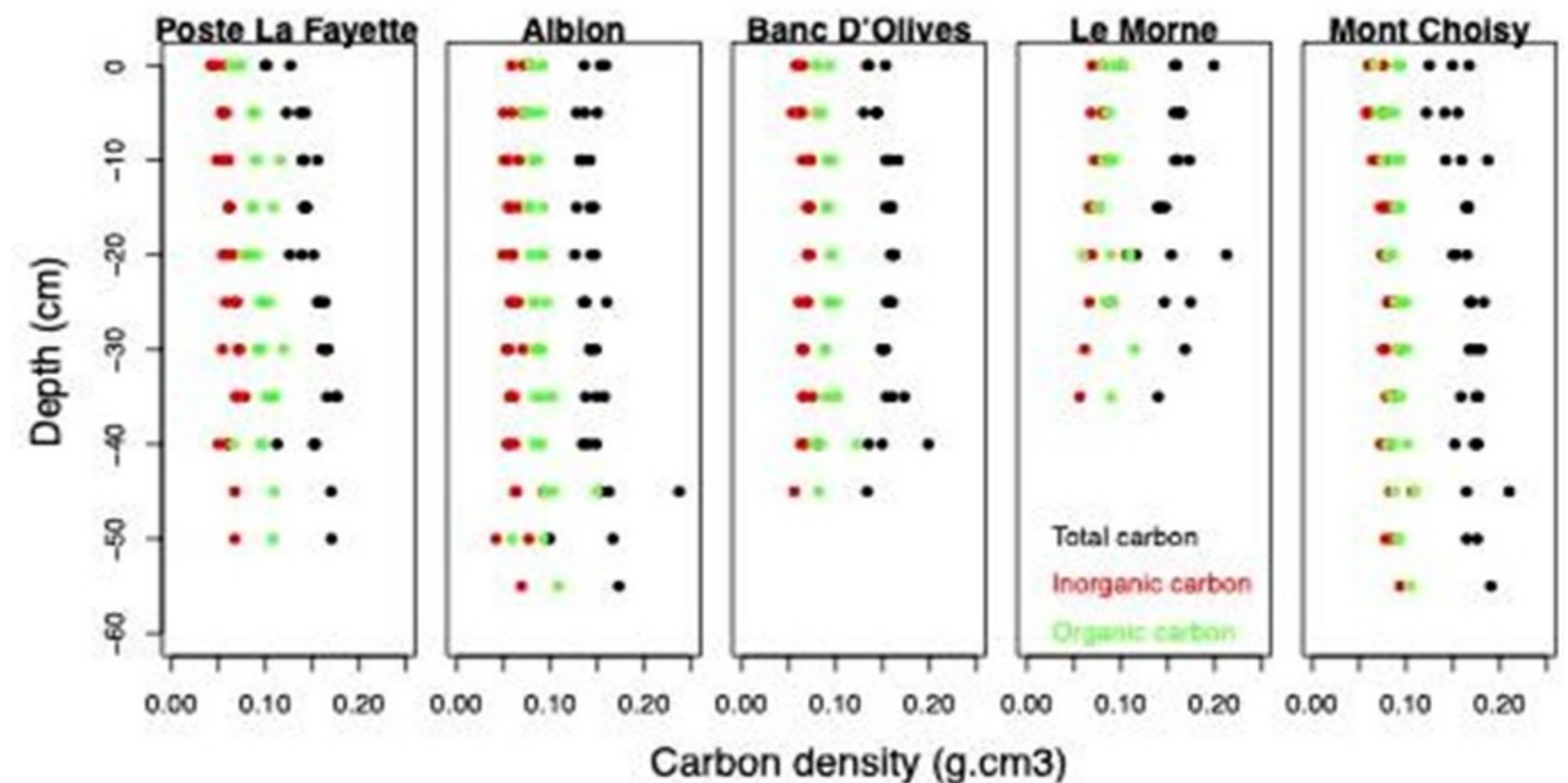
20. Protection of marine ecosystem

(1) No person shall introduce into the maritime zones of Mauritius, directly, indirectly, deliberately or accidentally, any deleterious substance, including substances which may have toxic, hazardous or other harmful properties or effects in relation to fish or the marine environment.

(2) The supervising officer may prohibit any activity which he has reasonable grounds to suspect may result or is resulting in non-compliance with subsection (1).

(3) No person shall, without an applicable authorisation –

- (a) cut, lop, remove, take away, relocate, transplant or otherwise cause any damage to a mangrove plant, **seagrass** or coral.
- (b) cause another person to cut, lop, remove, take away or otherwise cause any damage to a mangrove plant, **seagrass** or coral.



Project Sustainability

