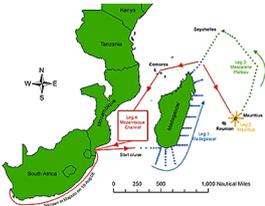


The 2008 western Indian Ocean cruise aboard the [Dr. Fridtjof Nansen](#) is probably the longest (~118 days) and most ambitious cruise to have taken place in the western Indian Ocean region to date. To follow the cruise, be sure to look at the [Cruise Blog](#)

The cruise will be comprised of four main legs. Leg one will be a survey of the southern and eastern parts of Madagascar, including the upwelling cell near Angoche, and the entire east coast. Leg two will be a survey around the whole of the island of Mauritius. Leg three will cover the remote Mascarene Plateau and some of the Seychelles. Leg four will be in the Mozambique channel, and will survey any dipole eddies in the channel at the time and continue a long-running survey of the Delagoa Bight upwelling region.



The cruise will start in Durban on the 22nd of August. The *Nansen* will depart Maputo on the 23rd of August, and sail across the Mozambique channel to Toalanao (Fort Dauphin) in Madagascar, where there will be a brief stop to resupply and change over the *Nansen* operating crew.

From Toalanao, the ship will embark on the first leg - a pioneering oceanographic survey of the oceanographic conditions off the East coast of Madagascar, a region which has been very poorly surveyed in the past. This will be the first near-synoptic oceanographic survey of this region, and will likely help us understand the oceanographic conditions in this poorly studied area, enriching our understanding of the physico-chemical structure of water masses and the pattern of current flow.

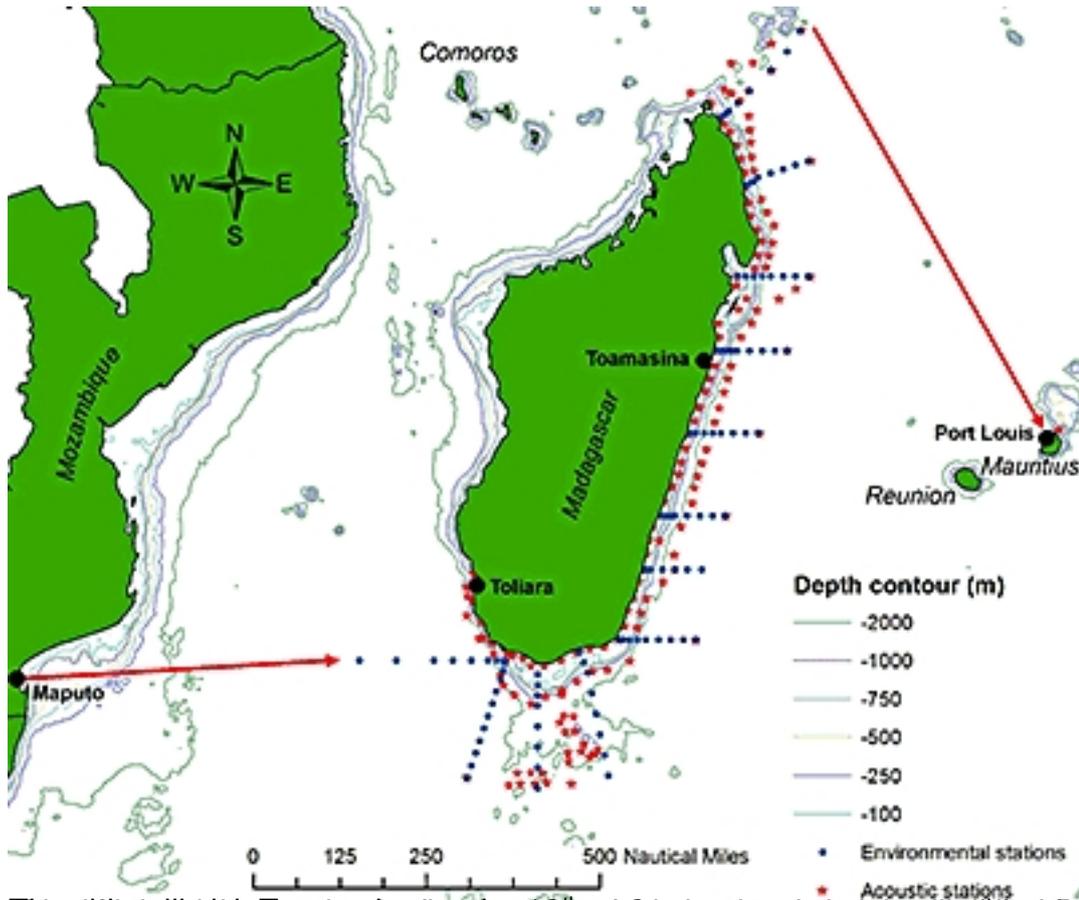
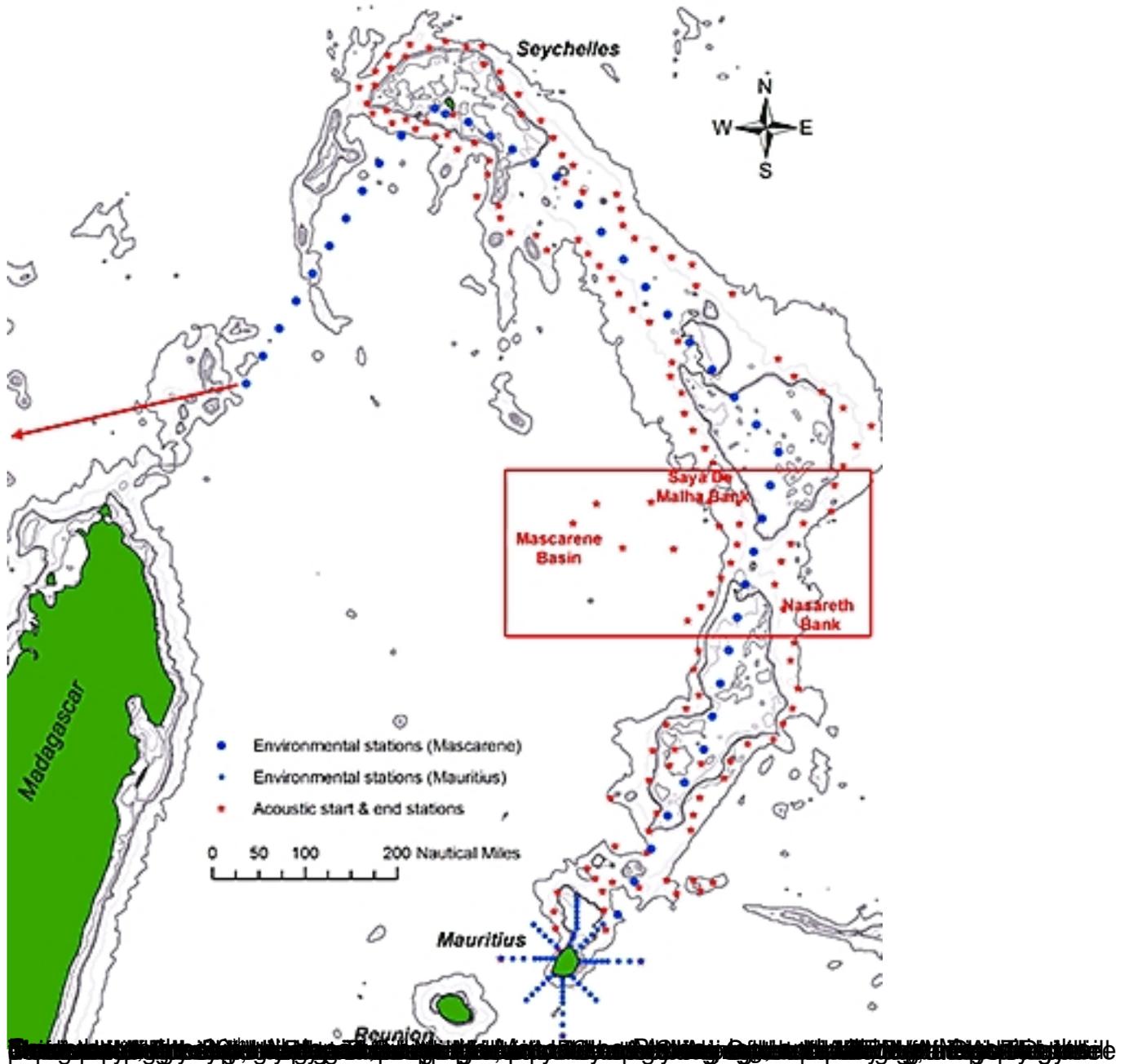
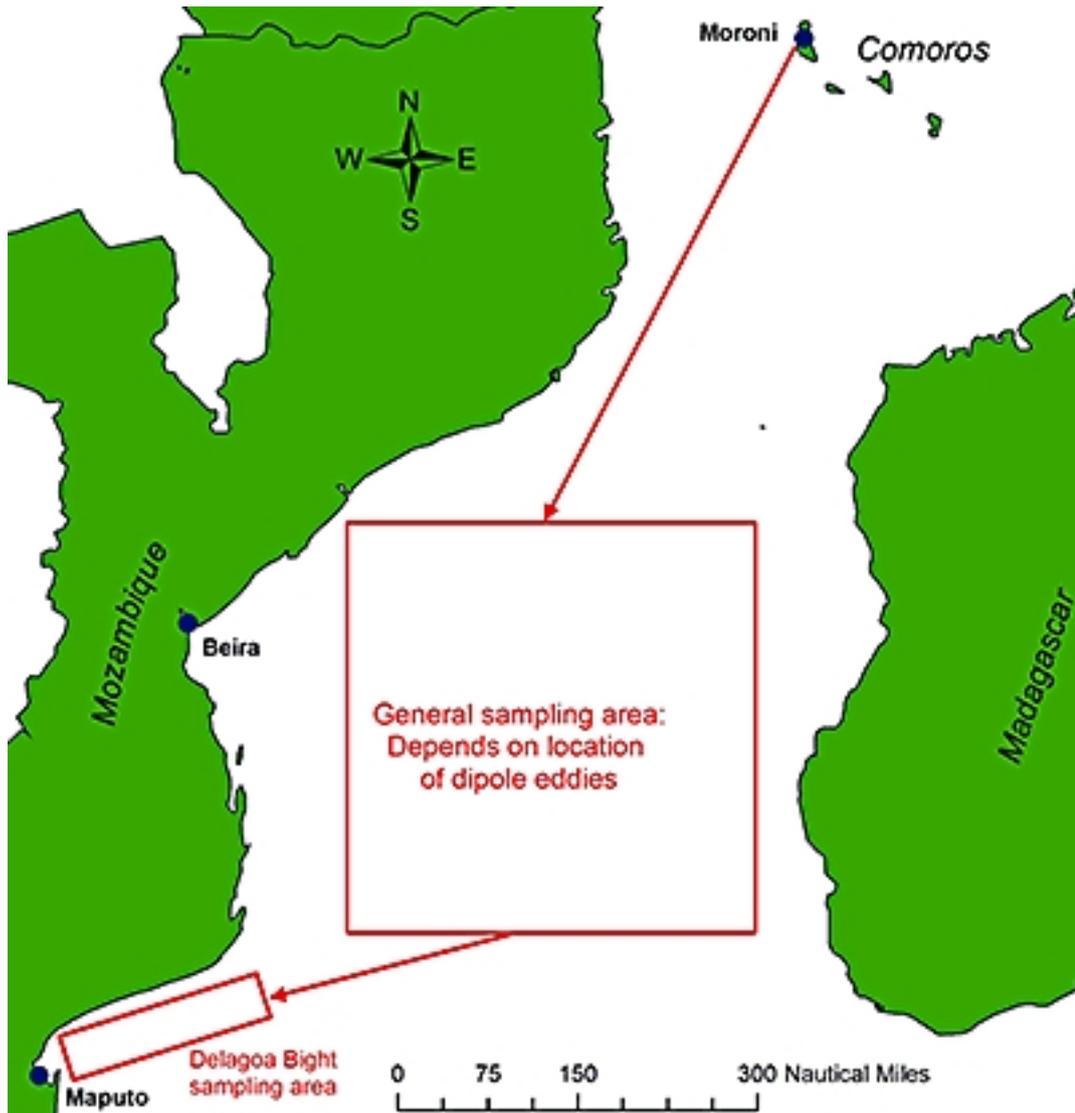


Figure 1. Map of the Indian Ocean region showing depth contours, environmental stations, and acoustic stations. The map includes Madagascar, Mozambique, Comoros, Reunion, and Mauritius. Key cities like Maputo, Toamasina, and Toliara are marked. A scale bar shows 0, 125, 250, and 500 Nautical Miles. A compass rose indicates North, South, East, and West. A legend identifies depth contours (2000, 1000, 750, 500, 250, 100 m) and station types (Environmental and Acoustic).





<http://www.mozambiquechannel.org/> <http://www.comoros.gov.mg/> <http://www.maputo.gov.mz/>