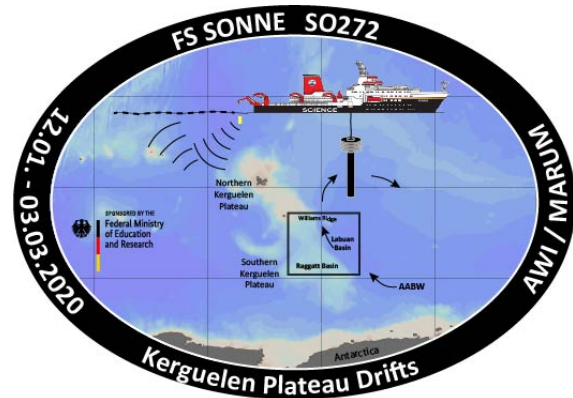


**Expedition So 272
Post Louis – Cape Town**

**Weekly report No 1
11. January – 19. January 2020**



Our science party started their journey to Port Louis, Mauritius on January 9 to go on board RV *Sonne*. The travel was a bit overshadowed by the strike in France since we all were flying via Paris but luckily we were not affected by it. While the weather at home was pretty miserable, Mauritius welcomed us with sunshine and humid 29°C. The evening of January 10 was used for walks through the city. The next morning we embarked on RV *Sonne* and quickly moved into our cabins. Unfortunately, we could not start to unload containers and set up the equipment because one container was still missing. It had been shipped delayed, and we had received news that the container vessel was even further behind schedule. The container would not arrive in Port Louis on January 11 but on January 16, and furthermore it would be shipped to La Reunion! Thus only the Geology team could start setting up their equipment.



(Photo: P. Daub)



We left Mauritius in the afternoon of January 15 to sail to La Reunion. Looking around the harbour we again realised how lucky we were to sail and work on such a nice vessel as RV *Sonne*. Not every ship is as modern and/or comfortable.

(Photo: G. Uenzelmann-Neben, port of Port Louis)

Next morning we arrived in La Reunion. Unfortunately, operations in the port of Reunion had gone on strike. Although the

vessel with our container had arrived safely, the container could only be unloaded from that ship and loaded onto RV *Sonne* on January 17.

We then left port during the early hours of January 18. Our working area is the central Kerguelen Plateau in the southeast Indian Ocean, and the transit will take a few days. Finally, we have been able to start the set-up of our equipment. Everyone is busy and hard-working although it is still very humid and hot. The unfamiliar movement of the ship has led to a few pale faces but everyone is fine again.

Why have we set sail for the Kerguelen Plateau? What are our objectives, what do we hope to learn? More about this in the next weekly report.

All participants are cheerful and send home greetings.

Southern Indian Ocean, January 19 2020, 26° 32.037' S / 57° 54.684' E

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<https://www.awi.de/en/science/geosciences/geophysics/research-focus/gateways-of-the-southern-ocean.html> under *Southern Indian Ocean circulation is archived in Kerguelen Plateau structures*

<https://www.awi.de/forschung/geowissenschaften/geophysik/expeditionen.html>