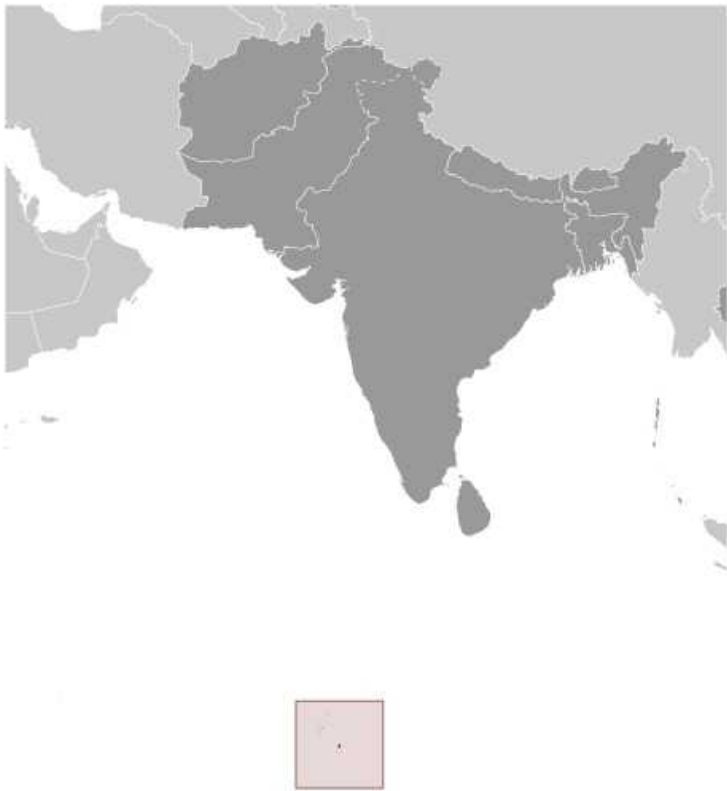




# British Indian Ocean Territory



<b>Background</b>	Formerly administered as part of the British Crown Colony of Mauritius, the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) was established as an overseas territory of the UK in 1965. A number of the islands of the territory were later transferred to the Seychelles when it attained independence in 1976.
<b>Capital</b>	name: administered from London; often regarded as being on Diego Garcia
<b>Area</b>	total : 60 sq km land: 60 sq km water: 54,340 sq km
<b>Climate</b>	tropical marine; hot, humid, moderated by trade winds
<b>Natural resources</b>	coconuts, fish, sugarcane
<b>Executive branch</b>	chief of state: King CHARLES III (since 8 September 2022) head of government: Commissioner Nishi DHOLAKIA (since 16 December 2024); Administrator Bob FAIRWEATHER; note - both reside in the UK and are represented by Commander Andrew WILLIAMS, RN, Officer commanding British Forces on Diego Garcia (since January 2025)
<b>Economic overview</b>	small island territory economy; economic activity mainly on Diego Garcia with national military installations; recently settled disputes with Mauritius have increased oil exports; established marine reserve has limited commercial fishing
<b>Exports - partners</b>	Malta 42%, Brazil 11%, Switzerland 9%, France 8%, Egypt 6% (2022)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	ships, refined petroleum, asphalt, diamonds, jewelry (2022)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	US 34%, Switzerland 13%, China 11%, Italy 11%, France 7% (2022)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	ships, refined petroleum, diamonds, aircraft, aluminum (2022)