

Short-term observation beach hydro-sedimentary dynamics of reef pocket: study case of Sakouli, Mayotte

Sarah Charroux, Matthieu Jeanson, Sophie Morisseau, Yann Mercky,

Gwenaëlle Pennober

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1 ESPACE-DEV, Univ Montpellier, IRD, Univ Antilles, Univ Guyane, Univ Reunion, Montpellier, France. 2 University Center of Mayotte CUFR, Mayotte, France. 3 UMR9190-MARBEC, Université de Montpellier, Place Eugène Bataillon, 34095, Montpellier, France. 4 University of La Reunion, Saint Denis, France

The seasonal beach rotation visible in Sakouli beach reflects : the two distinct hydrodynamic conditions that occur in Mayotte and a residual longshore sediment transport favored by a low bay indentation. However, the island subsidence of 10 to 20 cm since 2018 may have an impact over this equilibrium. Indeed, this could lead to higher wave energy over the beach. So, study must be continued and extended to several other beaches on the island.

1. Introduction

Centre Universitaire

MAYOTTE

Mayotte is a French island in the West Indian Ocean, characterised by a vast lagoon (1,500 km²) sheltering a highly indented shoreline composed of numerous pocket beaches.

The island undergoes a tropical climate, with a **wet season** (December – March) and a dry season (June – September).

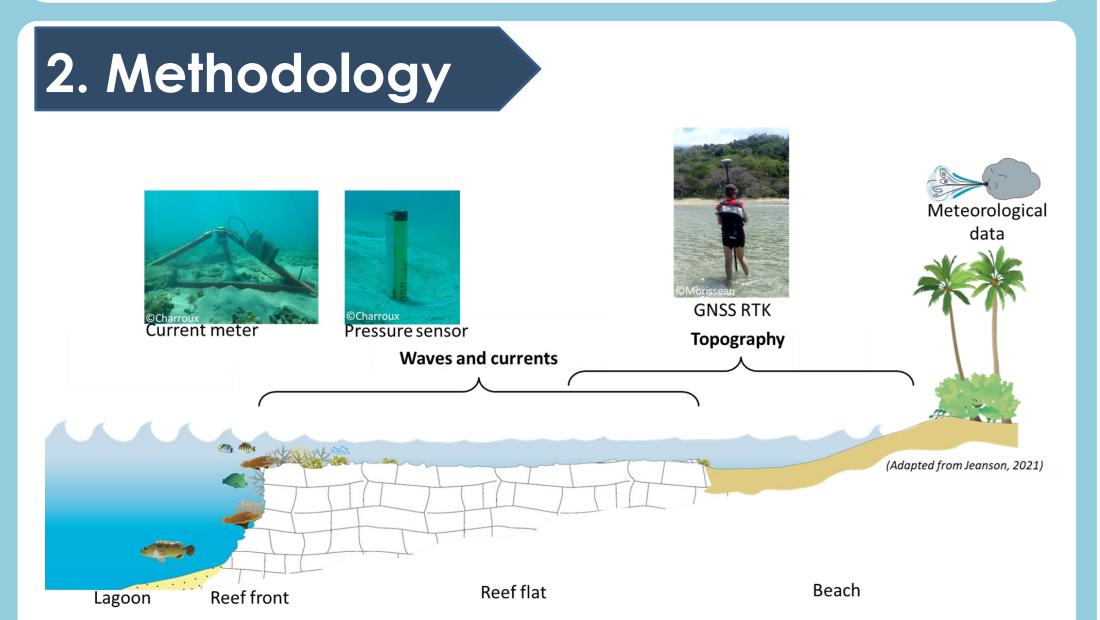
Sakouli location map

Sakouli beach is :

- 650m long,
- fringed by a 220m reef flat.
- NE oriented.



Sakouli beach





→ Sakouli reef flat is more affected by southerly wind so even though winds were stronger in January wave periods were less driven by winds and there were more sea swell than during dry season.









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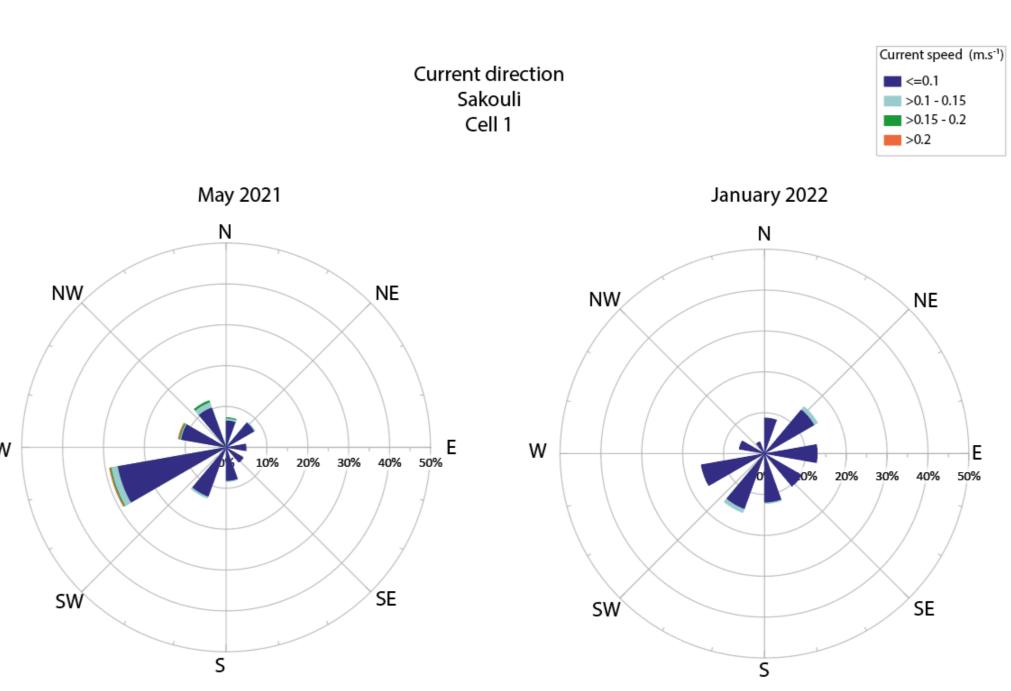
3. Results

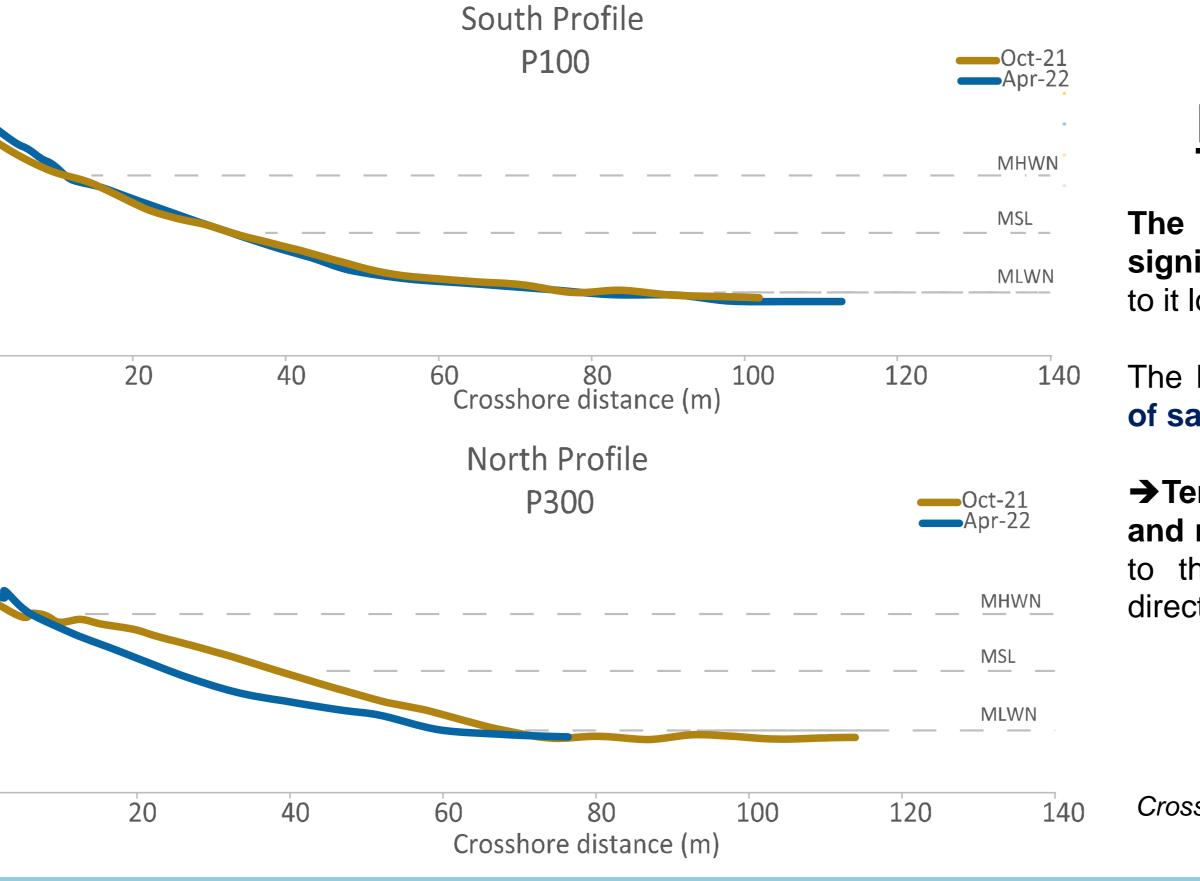
Hydrodynamic

Mayotte is subject to a mesotidal range (3.2 m) which have a big impact.

The highest energy wave patterns noted at Sakouli occurred during dry season.

Changes in waves origins : dry season, waves are generated by wind blowing toward South while during monsoon season stronger wind blew toward WWN to NWW.







Current direction during dry (left) and monsoon (right) season

Morphodynamic

The South profile does not show significant seasonal variations due to it location on the beach.

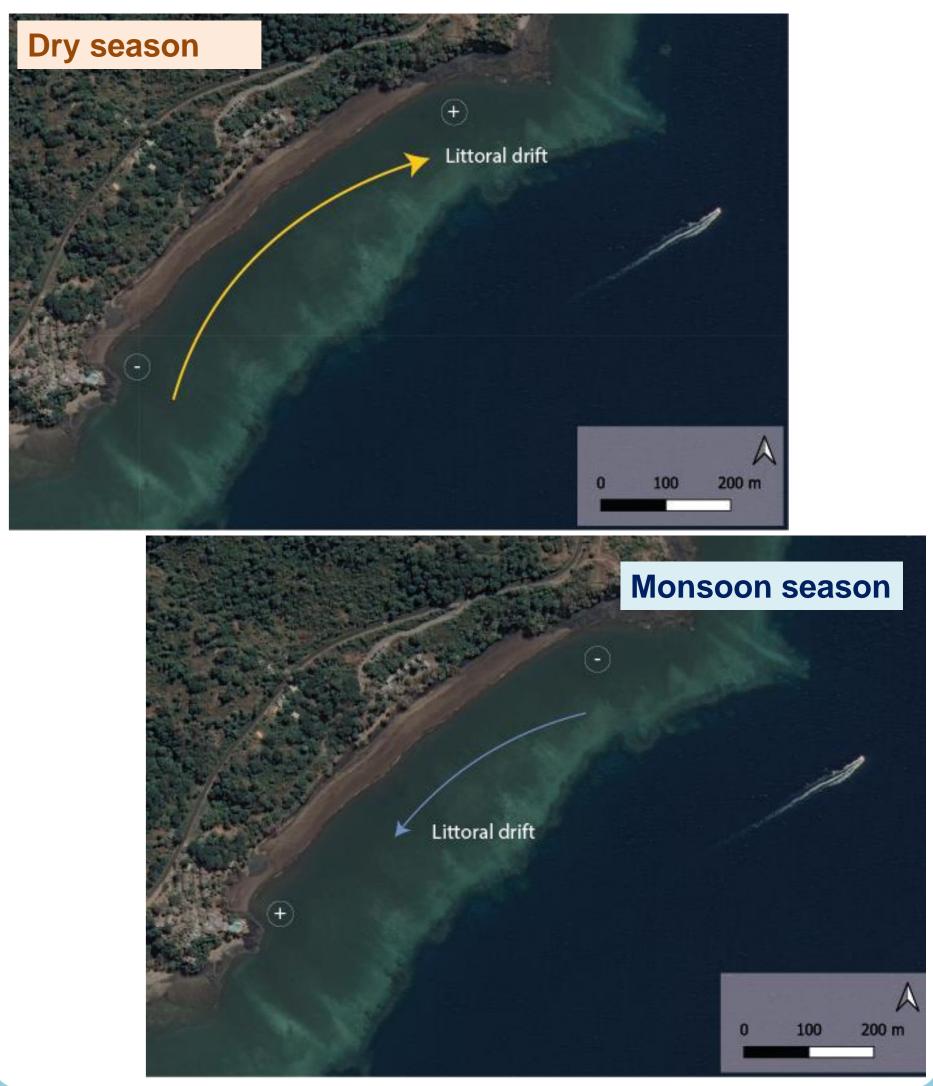
The North profile experiences a loss of sand in the wet season.

→ Temporal alternations in erosion and recovery that maybe a response to the seasonal changes in wave directions.

Crosshore elevation profile for the south part (up) and north part (down)

4. Conclusion

Sakouli is characterized by a seasonal beach rotation, with sand accumulation and sand loss at the end of the beach, between monsoon season and dry season. Those changes are induced by drift in wind and waves leading to longshore drift.



5. Contact

Sarah CHARROUX sarah.charroux@univ-mayotte.fr

