Maurice becomes the 128th Party to the Convention

21 September 2000

Mauritius

The Ramsar Bureau is extraordinarily pleased to announce that on 30 May 2001 the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of the Republic of Mauritius, Anil Kumarsingh Gayan, deposited with the Director-General of UNESCO his government’s instrument of ratification to the Convention on Wetlands, as amended by the Paris Protocol and Regina Amendments, and the treaty will enter into force for Mauritius on 30 September 2001. Mauritius has designated as its first Ramsar site the "Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird Sanctuary" (26 hectares, 20°08’S 057°29’E), listed as Ramsar wetland types F) Estuarine and A) Shallow marine waters and G) Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats, internationally important for 14 regularly visiting migratory birds, as well as for three species of endemic plants. Situated in close proximity to the capital, Port Louis, the site has protected area status and a visitors’ centre is being established, following the completion of which, access to adjacent fishing facilities and unrelated recreational uses will be provided for elsewhere nearby. Port-related activities present a chronic risk but oil spill contingency plans are in place; agricultural effluents are present but plans are in place to minimize their adverse effects. As an ex-dumping ground, leachates are detected, but a rehabilitation plan is under study. Invasive species of flora are being removed, and a management plan is in preparation. Preparations for this accession were assisted by the Swiss Grant for Africa. The Indian Ocean state of Mauritius, to be considered part of the Ramsar Africa region, is enthusiastically welcomed as the Convention’s 128th Contracting Party. [13/09/01]

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