Mauritania places Diawling on the Montreux Record

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Mauritania

The Government of Mauritania has completed the procedure for placing the Parc National du Diawling Ramsar site onto the Montreux Record, effective 28 February 2002, with the intention of drawing national and international attention to changes in the ecological character of the site. Plagued in recent years by infestations of alien invasive species, particularly *Salvinia molesta* and *Typha australis*, this extremely important site has seen a loss of biodiversity and diminution of open water. Following a joint Ramsar Advisory Mission in September 2000 to Diawling and the nearby World Heritage and Ramsar site in Senegal, the Djoudj National Bird Park, undertaken by Ramsar, the World Heritage Convention, and IUCN-The World Conservation Union, financial assistance has been forthcoming to address many of the Mission's recommendations, and it is thought that the problems with *Salvinia molesta* are on the way to resolution. There is a considerable hope that, with the added attention to be brought to bear upon the Diawling site as a result of its Montreux Record listing, the *Typha australis* and related problems can be solved satisfactorily and the site removed from the Record in not too long a time.

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