



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE MAURICE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES
ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES**

Our Ref: MMG/CD/5/SEC

23 February 2010

**H. E. Mrs Julia Marton-Lefèvre
Director General
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Rue Mauverney 28
1196 Gland
Fax: (022) 999 0002**

DGO

Received: **24 FEV. 2010**

Réf. N° **53**

ACTION

INFO

JM

*E. Lahman
C. Wadh*

Excellency,

I am instructed by the Government of Mauritius to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Mauritius hereby lodges its unequivocal and strong protest against the submission made by the IUCN in the context of the public consultations launched by the British Government in November 2009 on the proposal for the establishment of a marine protected area around the Chagos Archipelago and that the Government of the Republic of Mauritius cannot and does not endorse the contents of the said submission although it is a Member of the IUCN.

Therefore, the Government of the Republic of Mauritius dissociates itself from the said IUCN submission and reaffirms the position of Mauritius as outlined in the Note Verbale (Ref. No. 20/2010 MMG/CD/5/SEC V3) dated 28 January 2010 from this Permanent Mission and addressed to the IUCN, in particular as regards the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, and the unconditional need, therefore, for the explicit agreement of the Government of Mauritius for the establishment of any marine protected area around the Archipelago.

Furthermore, the Government of the Republic of Mauritius, a Member State of the IUCN, deeply regrets that despite its request to the IUCN not to make any submission, the IUCN decided otherwise. The Government of the Republic of Mauritius also notes with regret that your letter dated 11 February 2009 to this Permanent Mission was sent on the very eve of the deadline that was set for sending submissions, thereby allowing no time for Mauritius to convey its decision regarding the IUCN "draft" submission prior to its transmission.

In keeping with the principles of transparency and fairness, the Mauritian Government requests you to circulate this letter to all IUCN Members.

Yours faithfully,

**S. B. C. Servansing
Ambassador**