



**MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
**[Economic Development]**

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Our Ref: MFED/EFU/25/18

15 April 2005

Mr James Bond  
Country Director for Mauritius  
The World Bank  
Rue Andriamifidy L Razafimanantsoa  
Anosy  
Antananarivo  
Madagascar

Dear Sir

***Letter of Endorsement from Mauritius for the South West Indian Ocean  
Fisheries Programme (SWIOFP)***

Government of Mauritius would like to re-iterate its interest in the sustainable management of offshore fisheries resources, which is a priority for Global Environment Facility assistance.

2. In this context, Government of Mauritius has decided to become a member of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Programme (SWIOFP), as it recognises that the SWIOFP will be a collaborative effort with other countries in the Western Indian Ocean.

3. We should however like to highlight that our membership to the SWIOFP is subject to the following reservations:

- (i) The State of Mauritius is defined in the laws of Mauritius as including the island of Mauritius, Rodrigues, Agalega, Tromelin, Carriagos Carajos and the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia and any other island comprised in the State of Mauritius;
- (ii) Mauritius re-iterates its right to exercise complete and full sovereignty over its territory including the territory and maritime zones of Chagos Archipelago and Tromelin as defined in the Constitution of Mauritius;
- (iii) Membership acquired to the SWIOFP through territories found partly within the area should not constitute a basis for denying the rights of the Republic of Mauritius regarding the exercise of its sovereignty or territorial and maritime

jurisdiction on the Chagos Archipelago, Tromelin Island and surrounding maritime areas.

4. Thus on behalf of the Government of Mauritius, and in my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point, I wish to endorse the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Programme (SWIOFF), subject to reservations expressed in para(3) above.

Yours faithfully

G Wong So

Director-General and  
GEF Operational Focal Point

Cc

1. South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Programme (SWIOFF) Secretariat, Maputo
2. Secretary for Home Affairs, Prime Minister's Office
3. Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Regional Cooperation
4. Solicitor-General, Attorney-General's Office
5. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries