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## HSBC AND THE MAURITIAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION CELEBRATE A NEW HOPE FOR THE “CARDINAL DE MAURICE”

Yesterday in HSBC’s headquarter, Ebene, the bank donated the sum of Rs 400 000 to the **Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF)** to celebrate the amazing success story of the conservation of the Mauritius Fody.

**Sandeep Uppal**, CEO of HSBC Mauritius symbolically gave a Global Positioning System (GPS) to MWF director, **Jacques Julienne**. This piece of equipment is part of the material donated to encourage the scientific teams to carry on the good work executed over the past eight years. The donation also includes solar batteries, laptops and other eco friendly equipment used for research and field work.

Thanks to the hard work of the MWF along with the strong financial help of HSBC – more than Rs 3 million since 2003 – the Fody is no more classified as critically endangered. Based on discussions on BirdLife’s globally threatened bird forums, the decision was taken to down list the Mauritius Fody to Endangered on the 2009 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. This is a major achievement for this project considering the time scale in which it has taken place.

Though Mauritius is known for its extinction of wildlife of which the Dodo is the symbol, the country also is number 1 in the world (before USA and New Zealand) for having saved most bird species from extinction, through the intensive conservation programmes led by the MWF.

Sandeep Uppal, CEO of HSBC said: “This is an exciting realisation and HSBC is proud of its partnership with the MWF since 2003. However, it does not mean that the Mauritius Fody is completely saved from extinction risk. We shall continue to support this project as well as others in order to achieve sustainable success”.

Climate change represents the single largest environmental, social and economic challenge this century and will impact HSBC’s customers, employees, and shareholders. It is, therefore, a key focus of HSBC’s sustainability strategy.

HSBC has a long standing commitment to the environment. We manage our impact on the environment by operating as efficiently as possible and by making wise business decisions. We also understand that we can do much more. As one of the leading global financial institutions, we can invest and profit from projects that advance the transition towards a low-carbon economy.

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Within its community investment budget, HSBC commits 25 % to the environment. Projects include internal procedures and habit changing awareness campaigns as well as other education projects aimed at the community at large such as:

- A water saving campaign
- Recycling in our premises
- Planting of endemic trees in schools
- Inviting Zone d'Education Prioritaire (ZEP) pupils to visit conservation island of Ile Aux Aigrettes
- Field visits for employees
- Organising Endemic Treasure Hunts for employees and customers

**HSBC is satisfied that conservation efforts are paying dividends and will continue to support such initiatives.**

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**Notes to editors:**

**1. The HSBC**

In Mauritius, HSBC operates 11 full-service branches and an offshore unit, which for many years has played a leading role in facilitating cross-border investment activity. It offers a wide range of products and services to a diverse domestic and cross border customer base, from accounts services to credit cards, savings, investments, home loans, personal loans and custodian services. Through our new locally incorporated subsidiary, the HSBC Bank (Mauritius) Ltd (HBMU), HSBC is able to offer many of its global customers more sophisticated financial products and structures that benefit from the extensive range of international double taxation avoidance treaties that Mauritius has negotiated.

**2. The HSBC Group**

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of the HSBC Group, is headquartered in London. The Group serves customers worldwide from around 8,500 offices in 86 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa. With assets of US\$2, 422 billion at 30 June 2009, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations. HSBC is marketed worldwide as 'the world's local bank'.

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