



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

413-04-02-00-6/369858 – CITES 3/21

**Notification to the Signatory and Acceding States to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), concluded in Washington on 3 March 1973**

**I. Communication by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

With note received on 11 June 2021, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland requested the Depository of the CITES to bring to the attention of the Signatory and Acceding States the enclosed document of 10 June 2021 rejecting the claims contained in the note of the Republic of Mauritius of 10 January 2020 (Depository's notification of 31 January 2020).

**II. Reservation by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

On 18 June 2021, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland entered, pursuant to Article XVI, paragraph 2 of the CITES, a reservation with respect to the listing of *Alauda arvensis*, *Galerida cristata*, *Lullula arborea*, *Melanocorypha calandra*, *Emberiza citrinella*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Carduelis cannabina*, *Carduelis carduelis*, *Carduelis flammea*, *Carduelis hornemanni*, *Carduelis spinus*, *Carpodacus erythrinus*, *Loxia curvirostra*, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, *Serinus serinus*, *Erithacus rubecula*, *Ficedula parva*, *Hippolais icterina*, *Luscinia svecica*, *Luscinia luscinia*, *Luscinia megarhynchos*, *Monticola saxatilis*, *Sylvia atricapilla*, *Sylvia borin*, *Sylvia curruca*, *Sylvia nisoria*, *Turdus merula*, *Turdus philomelos*, *Oriolus oriolus*, *Parus ater*, *Troglodytes troglodytes* and *Emys orbicularis* in Appendix III of the Convention and with respect to the amendment to annotation #13 for an existing listing of 1 native plant species (*Lodoicea maldivica*) in Appendix III of the Convention, informing that this reservation applies to Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Bailiwick of Guernsey, Isle of Man, Bailiwick of Jersey, Montserrat and Northern Ireland.

The present notification is addressed to the Governments of the Signatory and Acceding States by the Depository ([www.fdfa.admin.ch/depositary](http://www.fdfa.admin.ch/depositary)) in conformity with article XXV, paragraph 2, of the CITES.

Enclosure

Bern, 6 July 2021





Note No: 015/2021

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy presents its compliments to the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and has the honour to refer to a Note Verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius dated 10 January 2020 (1197/28) regarding the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's extension of the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and its Amendments on 22 June 1979 and 30 April 1983 to the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT).

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland rejects the claims contained in the Note Verbale of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius. The United Kingdom's full position in respect to our continued sovereignty over BIOT is set out in the United Kingdom's submission to the report of the Secretary-General (A/74/834) dated 18 May 2020. The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the territory of BIOT, which has been under continuous British sovereignty since 1814. Mauritius has never held sovereignty over the islands that now form BIOT and the United Kingdom does not recognise its claim. The Advisory Opinion issued by the ICJ is not legally binding and UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295 does not and cannot create any legally binding obligations for UN Member States.

The United Kingdom is also aware of the judgment delivered on 28 January 2021 by the Special Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) formed to deal with the dispute concerning delimitation of a maritime boundary claimed by Mauritius to exist between Mauritius and Maldives in the Indian Ocean. The UK is not a party to these proceedings, which can have no effect for the UK or for maritime delimitation between the UK (in respect of BIOT) and the Republic of the Maldives.

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

