

**Conservation**

# Signing of five-party agreement for Silhouette

Silhouette Island is regarded by conservationists as one of the most important biodiversity hotspots in the Indian Ocean.

Labriz in order to strengthen the partnership between the two organizations in relation to coral reef health and monitoring. Island Conservation Society has been working on Silhouette since 2011 to coordinate and implement the Silhouette Island Conservation Management plan. The ICS recently received an award from Hilton considering the important role it has played in promoting the conservation and restoration of island ecosystems, sustainable development of islands, and awareness of their vulnerability and vital importance to the planet's biodiversity.

The Chair of the Silhouette Foundation, Mr. Eddie Belle, has described the signing of the 5-party agreement as an important milestone for conservation efforts on Silhouette—"the agreement shows very clearly the commitment of each party to redouble our efforts in ensuring that the rich biodiversity of Silhouette is protected for future generations" said Mr. Belle. The Chair of the Foundation also recognized the key role played by investors such as Hilton Labriz on Silhouette to tangibly support conservation and cultural heritage programmes on the island.

As the third largest granitic island in Seychelles and with Mont Dauban, the second highest mountain, the limited amount of development on Silhouette meant that the island is home to an exceptional range of unique flora and fauna. 93% of the island is now a national park and is surrounded by a marine national park that extends to 1km from the shoreline.

Since 2008, the Silhouette Foundation has been working with various stakeholders to establish a basis for cooperation to conserve, restore and enhance the eco-systems of Silhouette.

Recently, this partnership was formalised through the signing of a 5-party agreement aimed at promoting the conservation, rehabilitation and enhancement of Silhouette to be among the finest restored tropical island ecosystems in the world, in harmony with sustainable low impact human development and ecotourism.

The 5-party agreement was signed between Island Development Company, the Island Conservation Society, the Seychelles National Parks Authority, Hilton Labriz Resort and the Silhouette Founda-



tion. The signing ceremony took place during the 2018 Global Week of Service Signature Site event for Africa and

Indian Ocean hosted by Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort and Spa. The agreement sets out the duties of each party

as part of the conservation efforts on Silhouette as well as their collective responsibilities as members of the Silhou-

ette Foundation. A second MoU was also signed between Island Conservation Society and Hilton

