



Mauritius facing 'ecological disaster' from oil spill

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The operator of a bulk carrier that ran aground off the coast of Mauritius has apologized, after for an oil spill that environmentalists warn is creating an ecological disaster.

1. On the coast of Mauritius, clear waters and pristine beaches that attract more than a million tourists each year _____

2-1. Environmentalists are calling this _____
2-2. and on Sunday the Japanese operator _____

Akiho Ono, executive vice president of Mitsui OSK Lines, said "we apologize profusely and deeply for the great trouble we have caused."

3. And that trouble _____

4-1. Reuben Pillay, _____
4-2. says the spill is next to Ile aux Aigrettes - _____

"There's the pink pigeon, there are giant tortoises, there's a tree there that's said to be 400 years old, and they've been trying - the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation has been trying to preserve things there and care for these endangered species but it's going to prove to be quite a challenge to protect them now, given the spill is just next to it."

5. The MV Wakashio hit a reef off the southeast coast of the East African island nation on July 25 _____

6. At least 1,000 tonnes of oil _____

7. The government declared _____

8-1 Japan is sending a six-person disaster relief team, and France - _____

[Vocabulary]

□ **Mauritius**: an island and state in the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar: originally uninhabited, it was settled by the Dutch (1638–1710) then abandoned; taken by the French in 1715 and the British in 1810; became an independent member of the Commonwealth in 1968. It is economically dependent on sugar.

Mark Twain said it all: “Mauritius was made first, and then heaven; and that heaven was copied after Mauritius.”

□ **pristine**: something that is pristine looks very clean, neat, or new

- *Nowadays pure and pristine traditions are difficult to find.*
- *pristine snow/beaches*

□ **saturate**: to fill something completely with a large number of things or with a large amount of something; If people or things saturate a place or object, they fill it completely so that no more can be added.

- *The shops were saturated with merchandise from the film.*
- *His work clothes, having become saturated with oil, had to be cleaned.*

□ **environmentalist**: someone who wants to protect the environment

- *She is a committed environmentalist but needed to learn the economic realities of environmental protection.*
- *The environmentalists say that time is running out.*

□ **ecological**: characterized by the interdependence of living organisms in an environment

- *ecological disaster*

□ **bulk carrier**: a ship that carries unpackaged cargo, usually consisting of a single dry commodity, such as coal or grain. Also called: bulker

- *There is still a very long haul to get this bulk carrier safely into port.*

□ **run aground**: to hit or reach the ground; with the bottom lodged on the ground; If a ship runs aground, it touches the ground in a shallow part of a river, lake, or the sea, and gets stuck.

- *He ran the ship aground.*
- *The ship ran aground where there should have been a depth of 35ft.*

□ **Mitsui OSK Lines**:

□ **profusely**: in an abundant manner

• *profusely apologize*

□ **Reuben Pillay**: a visionary executive and strategic leader with excellent people skills

□ **virtual tour**: a simulation of an existing location, usually composed of a sequence of videos or still images. It may also use other multimedia elements such as sound effects, music, narration, and text. It is distinguished from the use of live television to affect tele-tourism

□ **reubsvision.mu**: Virtual Tour of Mauritius in 360

□ **spill**: an amount of liquid that has accidentally flowed out of its container

• *She wiped a spill of milkshake off the counter.*

• *An oil spill could be devastating for wildlife.*

□ **Ile aux Aigrettes**: an islet off the south-east coast of Mauritius. It functions as a nature reserve and a scientific research station. It is also a popular visitors attraction - both for tourists and for Mauritians. Ile aux Aigrettes is a tiny coral island (25 hectares) just off the coast of the town of Mahebourg. The island has been declared a nature conservation site and today is being preserved by the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation.

□ **natural reserve**: An area of land managed to conserve wildlife or plant habitat or other natural features

□ **endemic**: restricted or **peculiar** to a locality or region

• *an endemic species*

□ **pink pigeon**: a species of pigeon in the family Columbidae endemic to Mauritius

□ **the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation**: the only non-governmental organization (NGO) in Mauritius to be exclusively concerned with the conservation and preservation of the nation's endangered plant and animal species.

□ **preserve**: If you preserve something, you take action to save it or protect it from damage or decay.

• *We need to preserve the forest.*

□ **challenge**: something that needs a lot of skill, energy, and determination to deal with or achieve, especially something you have never done before and will enjoy doing

• *The company faces the daunting challenge of completing the building on time.*

• *The challenge for policy-makers is to achieve economic growth without damaging the environment.*

□ **given**: considering (the fact) that

• *Given that it is hot today, we should wear shorts.*

• *Given that Ohtani had a great debut, he will get a high salary in the future.*

□ **reef**: a long line of rock or coral in the sea, with its top just below or just above the surface

□ **colonial power**: (*mainly historical*) a country which **possesses**, or formerly possessed, **colonies** in different parts of the world. □ **equipment**: the tools, machines, or other things that you need for a particular job or activity; Equipment consists of the things which are used for a particular purpose, for example a hobby or job.

• *...computers, electronic equipment and machine tools.*

- ...outdoor playing equipment.

[参照辞書: *Merriam-Webster, Oxford English Dictionary, America Heritage of the English language, Collins English Dictionary, Macmillan Dictionary, the Free Dictionary, Wikipedia*]