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## ***News release***

Date: 17 August 2016

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## **Mauritius' hotel and tourism sector set for steady growth as visitor number and total room revenue continue to grow: PwC Outlook**

**Ebène, 17 August 2016** – Mauritius' hotel industry is set for steady growth in the next five years, driven by an increase in the number of foreign visitors from Europe and Asia-Pacific.

According to PwC's 6<sup>th</sup> edition *Hotels Outlook 2016 – 2020*, revenue from hotel room accommodation in Mauritius rose 6.7% in 2015 to Euro557 million, reflecting an increase in stay unit nights, by far the largest gain during the past five years, as the hotel market benefited from the large increase in foreign arrivals.

Overall, hotel room revenue is projected to expand at a 10.6% compound annual rate to Euro920 million in 2020.

PwC's report features information about hotel accommodation in South Africa, Nigeria, Mauritius, Kenya, and Tanzania.

“The continued and sustained marketing efforts and promotions by Air Mauritius and the tourism authorities, with the support of hotels on the island, have contributed significantly to the increase in visitors from China in 2015. We expect the global economy to be a major influence, as Mauritius relies principally on foreign leisure travellers”, said Nicolas Vaudin, the Hospitality Industry specialist at PwC Mauritius and contributor to the publication.

The number of tourist arrivals to Mauritius increased by 10.9% in 2015. For the first five months of 2016, the number of airline seats grew by 7.4% year on year in line with the growth of 10% in tourist arrivals.

Europe remains the main source of visitors to Mauritius (55%), with France heading the lot. Russia fell 13.9%, while the next-largest source of tourists come from Africa (25%), led by Reunion. Double-digit increases were also recorded in visitors from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and the Philippines, while arrivals from the Americas rose by 8.4% (mainly USA and Canada).



Looking forward, we project the number of available hotel rooms to increase at 2.8% compound annual rate (15,600) in 2020. Total room revenue for five-star hotels will increase by a projected 12.5% compounded annually to Euro491 million. We expect stay unit nights to also increase a 5.5% compound annual rate over the next five years as foreign tourism grows.

***Hotel accommodation: South Africa – Nigeria – Mauritius – Kenya - Tanzania***

The number of hotel rooms planned in Africa has increased from prior years in the wake of a number of developments across the continent.

Overall, room revenue in South Africa, Nigeria, Mauritius, Kenya and Tanzania rose 6.7% in 2015, the largest gain since 2011. Tanzania had the largest increase with a 14.4% gain, the result of a large increase in the average room rate that offset a drop in stay unit nights.

“It is promising to see a growing number of new hotels that are planned for the South African market over the next five years. We are forecasting an additional 2 600 hotel rooms to be added over the next five years,” says Pietro Calicchio, Southern Africa Hospitality Industry Leader.

Nigeria’s long-term prospects for the hospitality sector remain positive, though the impact of its current weaker economy is likely to reflect in near-term hotel performance. Kenya’s economic growth has been strong and a number of initiatives have contributed to a recent increase in the tourism industry.

“The tourism industry continues to be one of the fastest growing sectors of Africa’s economy. In spite of recent challenges, including the change in visa regulations in South Africa and the contraction of the global economy, the sector has significant potential to create jobs and uplift inclusive economic growth across the continent”, concludes Calicchio.

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