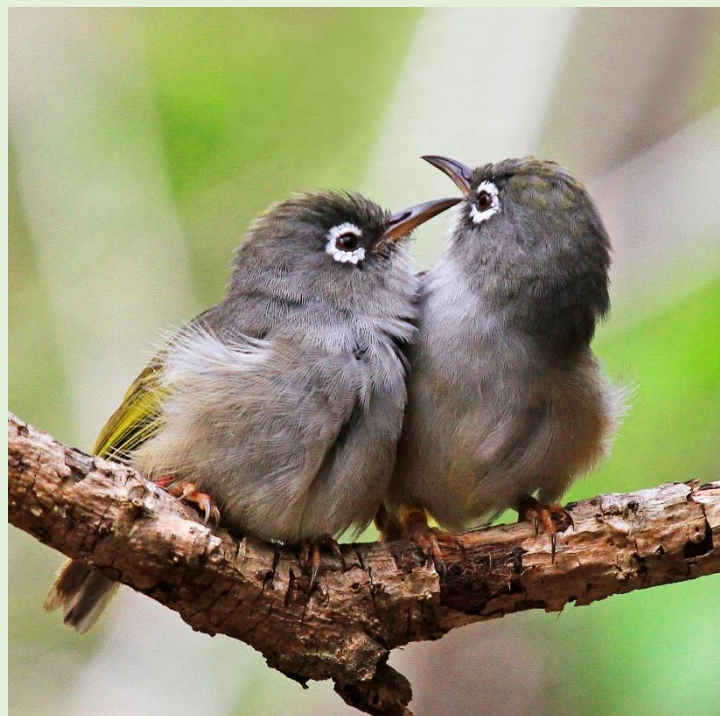


# TITLE OF PROGRAMME: MAURITIUS OLIVE WHITE-EYE CONSERVATION PROJECT

By **Mauritian Wildlife Foundation** [NCSR Reg No: NCSRF/2017/0158]



## PROJECT TECHNICAL SHEET

Project Type	Species Conservation
Start of Project	2005
Scientific name	<i>Zosterops chloronothos</i>
Species	Passerine
Location	Focusing on Black River Gorges National Park and surrounding areas, and Ile aux Aigrettes
Priority Area	Environmental & Sustainable development - Biodiversity
IUCN status	Critically Endangered

### OBJECTIVES

- Decrease the risk of extinction of the species from Critically Endangered to Endangered in the next decade.
- Study a method of predator control, GoodNature traps, which enable a large area of forest to be protected from rats - their impact on the breeding success of the species is a very significant factor.

### ACTIVITIES BEING IMPLEMENTED

- Trial GoodNature self-setting traps to plan for introduction of the Olive White-eye to a “mainland

island”, an area on the mainland where predators are reduced.

- Monitor the wild population of birds at Combo and mistnet to ring birds
- Provide supplementary food to support the reintroduced population on Ile aux Aigrettes.
- Experiment with changes in supplementary food provided to the birds on Ile aux Aigrettes to attain minimum management.
- Collect feeding observations from birds on Ile aux Aigrettes.
- Monitor the survival of released birds and fledglings on Ile aux Aigrettes.
- Prepare a Management Plan for the species with Partners.

### PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

- Mauritius Olive White-eye, Mauritian Biodiversity.
- Mauritian population and its future generations, school children, tourists and the world at large.
- Republic of Mauritius, regarding meeting national biodiversity targets (e.g. the National Biodiversity and Strategy Action Plan 2006-15) and fulfilling obligations towards international biodiversity conventions (e.g. Rio Conventions, Aichi Targets, Millennium Development Goals).

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The *Zosterops chloronothos*, Mauritius Olive White-eye, is thought to be the rarest and most threatened of the endemic Mauritian birds. The number of Olive White-eyes has fallen drastically since the early 1970s, coinciding with the last large-scale forest clearance on Mauritius. In 2005, conservation action was considered essential to decrease the risk of extinction of this attractive small bird whose habitat had dwindled to a few separated areas in the Black River Gorges National Park.

The Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (Mauritian Wildlife) aims to save the Olive White-eye by protecting the area they live in and maintaining a population of birds on the predator free island of Ile aux Aigrettes. From 2005 to 2009, MWF rescued eggs and chicks from failing wild nests, incubated eggs, hand raised chicks and released fledglings onto Ile aux

For CSR activities and more information please contact the Fundraising Manager or email [fundraising@mauritian-wildlife.org](mailto:fundraising@mauritian-wildlife.org)

Thank you for considering our appeal.

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Aigrettes. A second team of biologists monitored the progress of the birds on the island to understand the species biology and habitat requirements and continues to do this to this day. This knowledge gained will inform future translocations to protected areas. Habitat restoration and supplementary feeding support the population of birds which has successfully developed on Ile aux Aigrettes, to around 65 birds, which is thought to be the maximum carrying capacity for the island. It is now possible for the public to have a glimpse of the Olive White-eye, one of the most threatened birds in the world, during visits to Ile aux Aigrettes.

Future plans will be formalised in a Management plan which is due to be prepared in 2022/2023. These include a release of birds to create new populations. The experience gained on Ile aux Aigrettes will be invaluable in guiding release techniques and subsequent support care. Populations released will be protected from rats by GoodNature self-setting traps and the deployment of these traps are under consideration for Combo to protect the existing population there. A Passerine survey will also be planned in the near future to assess the current status of the Olive White-eye and identify other areas to protect.



## REPORTING AND FINANCIALS

### PROJECT DATES

The programme is continuous but the level of project activity is assessed yearly to adjust to the project aims and requirements. Annual report & other reports delivery is as per agreed timeframe with main funders.

### RESOURCES REQUIRED

- Human Resources: Two Conservation Biologists, and support from a project Coordinator, a Manager and Head Office.
- Infrastructure: Two equipped field stations.
- Equipment: Use of one jeep, two laptops, two GPS units, bird ringing equipment, mist netting equipment and supplemental feeding equipment.
- Other: Vet tests, food for the birds and consumables.

### BUDGET 2022-2023

Description	Budget (Rs)
Project Staff Cost	1,114,975
Transport and Travel	203,300
Equipment and Materials	117,650
Veterinary Costs	24,000
Other Operation Costs	65,500
<b>Total Operational Cost</b>	<b>1,525,525</b>
Administration Cost	225,000
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>1,750,525</b>

**ANY LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTION IS MOST WELCOME.**

**If excess funds are raised, they are carried forward to the next year of the project.  
A full and detailed project and budget write-up can be given to you on request.**