

TITLE OF PROGRAMME: ANSE-QUITOR NATURE RESERVE RESTORATION PROJECT

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



PROJECT TECHNICAL SHEET

Project Type	Habitat Restoration
Start of Project	1982
Location	Anse-Quitor, Rodrigues, Republic of Mauritius
Priority Area	Environmental & Sustainable development - Biodiversity
Status	Ongoing

OBJECTIVES

To create a viable long-term safeguard for unique lowland plants and animals while empowering the local population.

ACTIVITIES BEING IMPLEMENTED

- Removal of invasive alien species from current and past restoration plots using chainsaws, machetes, up-rooters and manual labour.
- Propagate endemic and native species in the *in-situ* plant nursery.
- Plant endemic and native saplings in high density in restoration plots.
- Eliminate the highly invasive la coqueluche (*Millettia pinnatta*) along 1 km of the Anse Quitor River.

- Training a team of restoration labourers recruited from surrounding villages.
- Organise volunteers to help in the nursery and nature reserve with the aim of 'learning by doing'.
- Provide free educational visits of the nursery and nature reserve for school and village groups.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

- Endemic wildlife and ecosystems of Rodrigues, Rodriguan Biodiversity.
- Villages in Anse-Quitor region, community groups, Rodriguan 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 2017-25) and fulfilling obligations towards international biodiversity conventions (e.g., Rio Conventions, Aichi Targets, Millennium Development Goals).



Bois pasner (*Zanthoxylum paniculatum*), one of the rarest plants on earth. Only two trees are found in the Anse Quitor Nature Reserve and one in the François Leguat Reserve. Recent grafting efforts successfully led to the production of 5 clones of the 2 mature trees, growing on surrogate *Zanthoxylum heterophyllum* plants brought in from Mauritius.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Well over 20 Rodriguan bird species and a host of plants are now extinct. Forest clearance, introduction of invasive plant and animal species, predators (such as rats and cats), over exploitation of the island's natural resources, unsustainable farming and agricultural practices, and soil erosion have led to the demise of much of Rodrigues' rich biodiversity.

The Anse Quitor Nature Reserve contains critically endangered plants within some of the last relics of forest on Rodrigues - although, even these are highly degraded. Small-scale restoration began in Anse Quitor in the mid-1980s and the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF) began a larger scale restoration project in 1996 with a focus on employing

For CSR activities and more information please contact the Fundraising Manager or email fundraising@mauritian-wildlife.org
Thank you for considering our appeal.

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conservation labourers from the local community. So far, 33.3 ha of the 35-ha fenced reserve have been restored, with the MWF planting approximately 131,340 native Rodriguan plants.

By restoring this area, extremely rare plants are safeguarded, and endemic and native habitat are recreated for the endangered Rodrigues Fruit Bat. It is hoped that the re-colonisation of this area by the Rodrigues Warbler and Fody may now occur naturally, thanks to ecological corridors forming across the island, thus helping increase their numbers. Both Rodrigues Fodies and Warblers have been observed in the reserve, though rarely. Both bird species are considered as 'Near-Threatened' by BirdLife International/International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

The restoration work is being carried out by labourers recruited from surrounding villages, with a focus on supporting poverty alleviation through training and employment, so that they may acquire a marketable skill while gaining experience. It is to be noted that Anse-Quitor ranks as one of the poorest regions of the Republic of Mauritius. Restoration workdays are organised with grassroots associations to sensitise and empower local people in habitat restoration and conservation, lunch being provided. The reserve is also included in the Rodrigues Environmental Education Programme (REEP), where students visit and are taught about the reserve and its importance.



View of Anse Quitor Nature Reserve.

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: Conservation staff, 10 community labourers and support from a Manager and Office staff.
- Infrastructure: One vehicle.
- Infrastructure: One fully equipped plant nursery.
- Equipment: Nursery and restoration equipment (such as chainsaw, uprooters, secateurs, machetes, plant trays and potting bags), laptop and GPS.
- Other: Educational material and volunteer lunches.

* Additional human resources are obtained for the project from community volunteers and octopus fishers (when available) during the closed season.

BUDGET 2023-2024

Description	Budget (Rs)
Project Staff Cost	2,977,126
Transport and Travel	455,800
Equipment and Materials	133,000
Other Operation Costs	49,950
Total Operational Cost	3,615,876
Administration Cost	404,368
TOTAL PROJECT COST	4,020,244

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

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