

TITLE OF PROGRAMME: ANSE-QUITOR NATURE RESERVE RESTORATION PROJECT

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



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. So far, all attempts to propagate the plant have failed.

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 and plant endemic and native seedlings in high density in restoration plots.
- Eliminate the invasive la coqueluche (*Milletia pongamia*) 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).

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 began a larger scale restoration project in 1996 with a focus on employing conservation labourers from the local community. So far, of the 35 ha fenced reserve 32.3 ha have been restored, with the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation planting approximately 116,500 native Rodriguan plants.

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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By restoring this area, extremely rare plants are safeguarded and endemic and native habitat are recreated for the endangered Rodrigues Fruit Bat. It is also hoped that the recolonisation of this area by the Rodrigues Warbler may be possible thus helping increase their numbers. Rodrigues Fodies have been observed in the reserve but 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 work days 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 during the closed season.*

BUDGET 2021-2022

| Description | Budget (Rs) |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Project Staff Cost | 2,170,530 |
| Transport and Travel | 335,000 |
| Equipment and Materials | 97,500 |
| Other Operation Costs | 47,550 |
| Total Operational Cost | 2,650,580 |
| Administration Cost | 245,000 |
| TOTAL PROJECT COST | 2,895,580 |

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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