

# TITLE OF PROGRAMME: CAPTIVE BREEDING PROJECT AT GDEWS

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



## PROJECT TECHNICAL SHEET

Project Type	Captive Breeding
Start of Project	1976
Location	Gerald Durrell Endemic Sanctuary (GDEWS), Black River
Priority Area	Environmental & Sustainable development - Biodiversity
Status	Ongoing

### OBJECTIVES

- Provide a facility for captive breeding and hand-rearing of birds and mammals for release.
- Help with the rehabilitation of sick and injured or orphaned native animals.
- Train staff in animal handling and general veterinary practices.
- Supply the expertise and facilities to support the fauna recovery programmes in the field.

### ACTIVITIES BEING IMPLEMENTED

- Captive breeding and hand-rearing of Pink Pigeons.

- Hand-rearing of Mauritius Kestrel.
- Rehabilitation of sick, injured or orphaned animals.
- Training of staff in animal handling and general veterinary practices.
- Support of field staff in their work.
- Manufacture of nest boxes and other field equipment.

### PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

- Pink Pigeon, Mauritius Kestrel, Mauritius and Rodrigues Fruit Bats, 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 2017-25) and fulfilling obligations towards international biodiversity conventions (e.g. Rio Conventions, Aichi Targets, Millennium Development Goals).

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Gerald Durrell Endemic Wildlife Sanctuary (GDEWS), also known as the Black River Aviaries, is a centre set up for saving endangered endemic birds and bats. GDEWS may be a small facility but has been critical for saving near extinct animals.

The centre supports the fauna conservation programmes by providing facilities enabling the captive breeding, incubating and hand-rearing of animals to be reintroduced in the wild to boost populations. The centre also takes care of sick or injured native animals (endemic birds, bats, and migratory birds) and provides training facilities for aspects of animal husbandry. The GDEWS shelters captive populations of animals for research purposes with the aim to help better understand their behaviour, diets and habits - which in turn backs efforts to maintain the wild populations and guide conservation actions.

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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In 2015, the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation started an intensive breeding programme for the Pink Pigeon; pairs of birds are kept in captivity and their offspring released into the wild to create new sub populations as well as reinforce current populations. By 2019, around 20 captive pigeons were being used for the captive breeding - including three repatriated birds from Europe to boost the gene pool. In 2023, further repatriated birds will join the breeding programme. Hand-rearing of the Mauritius Kestrel has been ongoing since 2016. This action reinforces their numbers in the wild, with 84 birds released to date.

GDEWS additionally houses a collection of Critically Endangered endemic plants in a secure environment (for instance, the palmiste blanc de l'île Ronde *Dictyosperma album var conjugatum*, the bois puant *Foetidia mauritiana*, and the bois tambour *Tambourissa quadrifida*). Seeds can be collected for propagation the MWF's for *Rare Plants Project* and subsequent reintroductions to forests.

The GDEWS is managed collaboratively by the MWF and the National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS) with specialist assistance from abroad (such as from Durrell, Chester Zoo, London Zoo, Paignton Zoo and the International Zoo Veterinary Group).



## 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: One Aviary Supervisor, two Animal Keepers, one Handyman and support of a Manager and Head Office Staff.
- Infrastructure: Office, hand-rearing facilities, kitchen, stores, aviaries and pens.
- Equipment: Use of one jeep, fridges for storage of fruits, vegetables and veterinary products, freezers for stock of food for hand-rearing, air-conditioners, furniture, one laptop, bird ringing equipment, egg monitoring equipment (Vernier caliper, torch) and hand-rearing equipment.
- Other: Food for animals, veterinary products and consumables.

### BUDGET 2023-2024

Description	Budget (Rs)
Project Staff Cost	1,807,623
Transport and Travel	432,000
Equipment and Materials	207,000
Veterinary Costs	116,000
Other Operation Costs	147,000
<b>Total Operational Cost</b>	<b>2,709,623</b>
Administration Cost	350,000
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>3,059,623</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.**

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