



# ECHO NEWS

No.2

## PARTENAIRES PRIVILÉGIÉS



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La conservation, c'est aller au-delà des pratiques respectueuses de l'environnement ; c'est agir pour protéger et sauver notre biodiversité menacée, c'est prendre les choses en main. C'est un travail sans relâche, afin de préserver ce qu'il nous reste d'authentique. Et cela nous concerne tous.

La MCB a compris l'importance et l'urgence de cette démarche, et a joint l'acte à la parole en se ralliant à

notre cause. Dès aujourd'hui la MCB se présente comme notre partenaire privilégié, d'abord en soutenant financièrement plusieurs de nos actions de conservation : 4 programmes de protection d'espèces endémiques (la grosse cœteau verte, le pigeon des Mares, le gecko de Günther & le boa de l'île Ronde) et un nouveau projet d'envergure nationale, qui concerne l'utilisation des îlots entourant Maurice.

Ce projet nous permettra de toucher ceux qui sont les plus concernés par la richesse naturelle qui existe sur ces îlots : les communautés côtières, les gardes côtes, les usagers des îlots et les professionnels tels que skippers et pêcheurs.

Ensuite en menant des actions conjointes de sensibilisation auprès des employés, clients et surtout nos jeunes - qui prendront demain la relève.

Ce partenariat nous donne les moyens de faire parvenir notre message à l'ensemble de la population Mauricienne et Rodriguaise à travers le réseau de communication et les antennes de la MCB. Durant les semaines qui suivront se déroulera la campagne de communication (posters dans les réseaux d'agences, billboards, spots radio). Notre objectif: conscientiser les Mauriciens sur l'importance de préserver la nature et comment ils peuvent - ils doivent - s'y intéresser. Soutenir mais aussi s'impliquer, s'engager ; chacun d'entre nous est tout aussi important dans l'équation, ce travail n'est pas l'exclusivité de la Wildlife mais une affaire de tous.

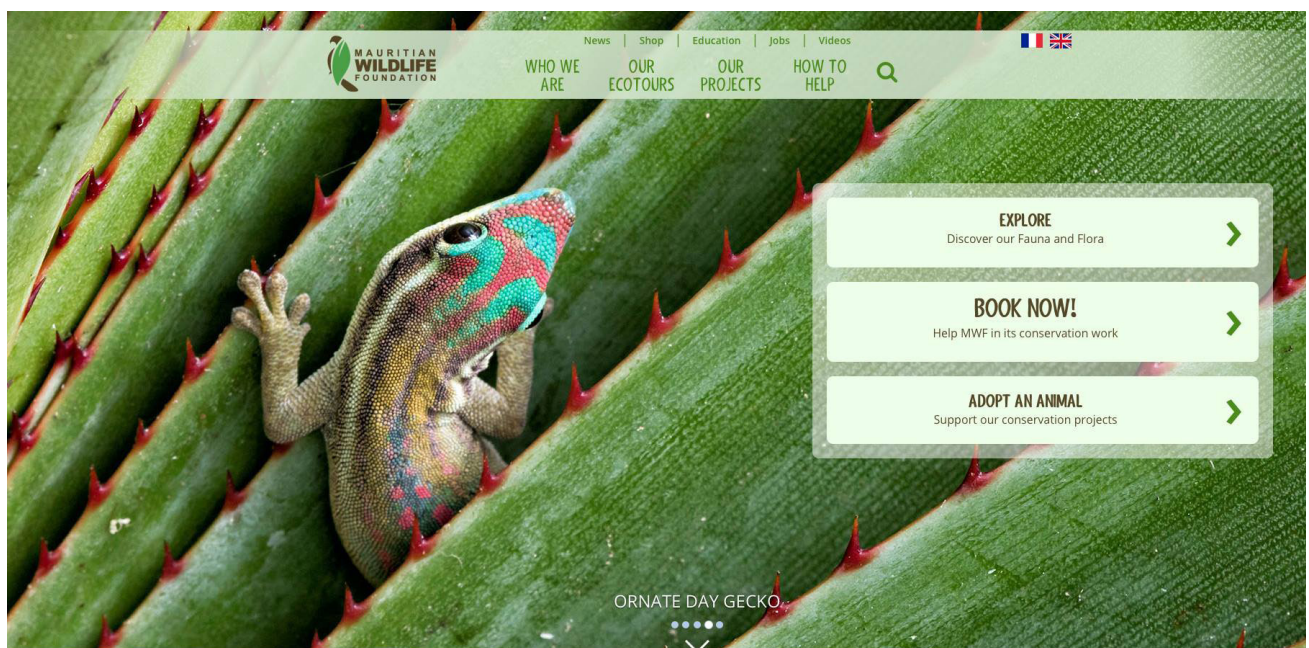
# A NEW VISUAL IDENTITY



A new graphic identity but still the same will to protect our natural heritage: At the dawn of its 35th anniversary, the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, environmental NGO committed to saving the threatened endemic fauna and flora of Mauritius, unveils its new visual identity. A logo which better reflects the widened scope of the organization's activities and its role as an 'institution' in the conservation field - notably for the

conservation of endemic and critically endangered species. With a modern, stylized and simplified kestrel silhouette, dressed in a leaf to denote the NGO's commitment to saving threatened endemic plants, and by fully endorsing the word 'Wildlife', the NGO refreshes its image so as to mark the next chapters of its history.

# NEW WEBSITE



## Our Mission

Thanks to VGR Solutions Ltd the new Mauritian Wildlife Foundation's website is now online.

The previous version, launched in 2011, had become outdated: aesthetics, ergonomics and content issues had to be addressed.

Now with beautiful nature shots and a more fluid navigation,

the new website better meets the needs of web users. And it is mobile friendly as well!

The link to the website stays the same; [www.mauritian-wildlife.org](http://www.mauritian-wildlife.org)

# PHILADELPHIA ZOO GLOBAL CONSERVATION PRIZE



This prize has been attributed to the work done by the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation for the conservation work of Rodrigues, and also specifically to the downlisting of the Rodrigues Fruit Bat. In 2016, the population had grown to 20,000 individuals. It is notable that some of the more recent roosts have significantly more bats than the traditional roosts, and this may be an indication of bats recolonising habitat where they have been extirpated in the past or where vegetation has recovered.

Upon receiving the prize, Mauritian Wildlife's Conservation Director, Vikash Tatayah stated, "It is an immense honour for me to accept the 2018 Global Conservation Prize on behalf of the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation,

in particular the staff on the island of Rodrigues, and the Rodrigues Fruit Bats and other animals and plants! In this era when zoos are increasingly being questioned about their roles and impacts on saving the worlds' threatened species and ecosystems, Philadelphia Zoo can be proud to sail high the Rodrigues Environment Education Project (REEP), as a project that has had impact."

REEP has also made an impact on the people of Rodrigues, the project supports positive community actions to try to change people behavior and ways that will have a beneficial impact on Rodrigues' environment. Every year we have more that 200 volunteers who participate in our restoration work. People are more caring towards

endemic animals. They call us to pick up or bring to our office wounded Rodrigues Fruit Bats.

The Mauritian Wildlife's contribution all these years towards protecting endemic plant and animal species of Rodrigues have been done through:

- habitat restoration and the propagation of endemic plant species amongst which - propagation of rare species
- donation of plants to school children and local communities
- creation of community plant nurseries

Everyone at Mauritian Wildlife and all its collaborators will continue to work even harder to protect the endemic plant and animal species of Rodrigues, Mauritius and its outer islets.

# NOW BIRDLIFE PARTNER



The BirdLife International Global Council meeting on the 4 December 2018 approved the recommendation that the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation should be upgraded to become the BirdLife Partner for Mauritius. This is a thrilling development!

The Mauritian Wildlife Foundation was invited to join BirdLife in September 2008 and formally entered into discussions with BirdLife in 2011 to join the partnership. Made the BirdLife Affiliate for Mauritius in 2013, the Mauritian Wildlife has since worked to become a full partner. However, links between the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP, later renamed 'BirdLife International') and Mauritius goes back to the late 1960's/early 1970's, and ICBP was one of the founder organisations of the Mauritian Wildlife Appeal Fund (later renamed 'Mauritian Wildlife Foundation') in 1984. Although the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation was not a member of BirdLife until 2013, there have been close links to BirdLife for decades. For example, BirdLife is the organisation that conducts the red-listing of bird species globally for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation has provided data for Mauritius and Rodrigues for the red-listing of our birds, as well as the designation of 'Important Bird Areas' for the Republic of Mauritius. There are also several ex-MWF staff and volunteers, who are now occupying senior positions in the BirdLife secretariat in Cambridge, UK, or in the Pacific Ocean secretariat.

BirdLife International is a global partnership of conservation organisations (NGOs) that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with

people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. There are 121 BirdLife Partners worldwide – one per country or territory – and growing. BirdLife was set up in 1922 and is now the largest nature conservation partnership. BirdLife is driven by the belief that local people, working for nature in their own places but connected nationally and internationally through the global Partnership, are the key to sustaining all life on this planet. This unique local-to-global approach delivers high impact and long-term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.

BirdLife is widely recognised as the world leader in bird conservation. Rigorous science by practical feedback from projects on the ground in important sites and habitats enables BirdLife to implement successful conservation programmes for birds and all nature. BirdLife actions are providing both practical and sustainable solutions significantly benefiting nature and people. Each BirdLife Partner is an independent environmental or wildlife not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO). Most Partners are best known outside of the Partnership by their organisation's name (eg Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (UK), Audubon (USA), Nature Seychelles). This allows each Partner to maintain its individual national identity within the Global Partnership. BirdLife Partners work together in a collaborative, coordinated fashion across national boundaries to build a global Partnership of national conservation organisations.

## **Why has it taken so many years for the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation to become a full Partner of BirdLife?**

The answer lies in the fact that

BirdLife would typically have a single NGO as Partner in a country, applies a very stringent selection process based on a long list of factors (science, policy, action, community involvement, education, gender equality, fundraising capacity, governance etc), and has a two-stage process (which until recently was three stages). The application is assessed through a series of questionnaires, site visits in country by assessors, meeting with collaborators, and the application has to go through a series of internal BirdLife stages and be voted by BirdLife Africa partners in our case. Where the organisation does not meet BirdLife standards, there are discussions about ways to address these.

## **What does this partnership bring to the Mauritian Wildlife?**

It brings international recognition and reputation to us; access to a network of bird specialists worldwide and development opportunities; keeps us abreast with the latest trends in global conservation and policy, in particular relating to birds; opportunity to share experience with other countries; to engage with people; and advocacy.

BirdLife is at the forefront of designating Key Biodiversity Areas, investigating effects of climate change on biodiversity (with birds being good indicators), involvement of communities in conservation, protection of bird migratory flyways, addressing invasive alien species, promoting business and biodiversity linkages, amongst others.

The Mauritian Wildlife is also a member of key international conservation alliances: IUCN, Botanical Gardens Conservation International, and Alliance for Zero Extinction.

# DOWNLISTING THE PINK PIGEON

## *FROM ENDANGERED TO VULNERABLE*



The Mauritain Pink Pigeon is now classified as vulnerable! What a fantastic achievement after decades of hard work starting as far back in the 1970's with Gerald Durrell, John Hartley, Carl Jones and Mauritian naturalists-conservationists France Staub, Rivaltz Chevreau de Montlehu, Wahab Owadally and Yousouf Mungroo, when there was a dozen or so Pink Pigeons in the wild.

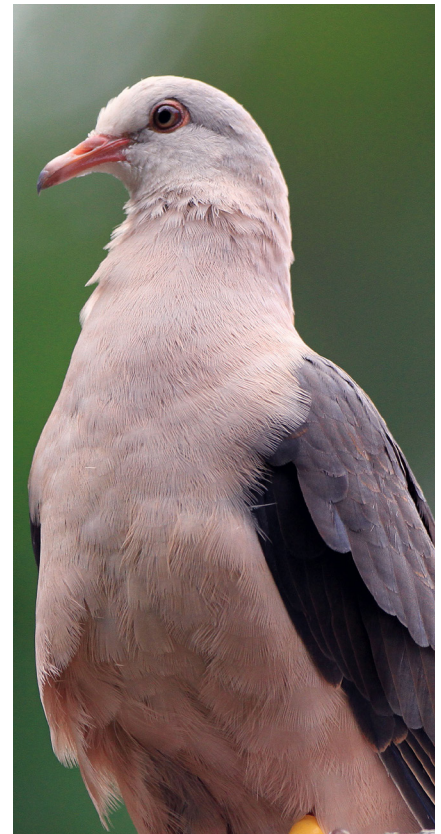
We must first thank all these dedicated staff and volunteers, past and present, Mauritians and expatriates, who have contributed to this success. There are so many that we will not be able to name them all. They have been doing the hard work, surveying habitat and nests, ringing birds, caring for the birds in the wild and in captivity. This success has also been possible thanks to the assistance of our partners, facilitators and collaborators, the Forestry Service to start with and later, the National Parks and Conservation Service, international conservation organizations such as the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Chester



Zoo, Paignton Zoo, Institute of Zoology and a host of universities (Reading, Kent, East Anglia).

Last but not least, our thanks also go to those companies who year after year have contributed through their CSR programmes to fund this project. Together we have reached a milestone but we should not believe it's all done! We still need to care for this bird species as the factors affecting its survival in the wild still prevail.

Now is the time for the congratulations, cheering and sharing the good news.



# ALDABRA TORTOISE TRANSLOCATION

## TO THE GRANDE MONTAGNE NATURE RESERVE



On the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 a new milestone was reached in the restoration work being carried out by the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation in the Grande Montagne Nature Reserve, Rodrigues. 5 Aldabra Giant Tortoises (*Aldabrachelys gigantea*) were translocated to a purpose-built enclosure within the Nature Reserve. The tortoises left the Francois Leguat Tortoise Park around 8 am to reach Grande Montagne at 9 am.

The event was covered by local written press and MBC TV, whilst the project funders (IOC/EU), Government officials and partners (Forestry) and the Mauritian Wildlife staffs were also present. After the necessary administrative checks were completed by Reshad Jhangeer-khan, the Mauritian Wildlife's Rodrigues Manager and the personnel of the Francois Leguat Tortoise Park, Nik Cole, the Mauritian Wildlife's Islands Restoration Manager coordinated the translocation action. A chain was formed with everyone present giving a hand to get the tortoises to the top, including Rodrigues Commissioner for the Environment, Richard Payendee, the EU/IOC representatives and Forestry officers. Once within the enclosure the tortoises seemed instantly at home and began feeding and exploring straight away. Now all is set to perfectly welcome visitors in the Grande Montagne Nature Reserve.



To mention that the IOC/EU funding enabled the Mauritian Wildlife to significantly upgrade the Grande Montagne Nature Reserve for a better visiting experience.



# DOWNLISTING OF THE KEEL-SCALED BOA AND THE GUNTHER'S GECKO

The Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and the Ministry of Agro Industry through the National Parks and Conservation Service have teamed up to achieve another thrilling success. The Günther's gecko is one of the largest geckos in the World. 28 cm in total length, it became restricted to Round Island (a Closed Island Nature Reserve) by the 1800s, following the invasion of rats, cats and loss of habitat throughout its historic range. Introduced goats and rabbits on Round Island were destroying its habitat making them prone to the impact of cyclones and in the 1960s and 70s the population was repeatedly knocked down to a few hundred individuals. By the early 1980s, a captive population of the gecko was established at Durrell's Jersey Zoo to safeguard the gecko from extinction. By 1986, the invasive goats and rabbits had been removed with help of pioneering techniques from



New Zealand. The protection of Round Island, the recovery of the vegetation and replanting efforts allowed the abundance of the gecko to increase by more than 240% between the 1970s and 2011. The removal of rats and the restoration of native forest on Ile aux Aigrettes allowed conservationists to release geckos on the island in 2010, where a population has now established.

The recovery and replanting of native habitat for the gecko has made them more resilient to cyclones and the establishment of a second island population has further reduced their extinction risk. The number of geckos continues to gradually increase allowing it to be downlisted to a Vulnerable threatened status.

Decades of conservation actions led by the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and the Ministry of Agro Industry through the National Parks and Conservation Service have reduced the risk of having the Keel-scaled boa going extinct.

The population of this unique Mauritian snake once restricted to Round Island (a Closed Island Nature Reserve) by the mid-1800s, was impacted by rats. Introduced goats and rabbits on Round Island were destroying its habitat and by 1976, approximately 60 boas remained and were in decline, making it the rarest snake on the planet.

By the early 1980s, a captive population of the snake had been established at Durrell's Jersey Zoo in case it went extinct in the wild. By 1986, the invasive goats and rabbits had been removed with help of pioneering techniques from New Zealand. The protection of Round



Island, the recovery of the vegetation and replanting efforts allowed the abundance of boas to increase by more than 2,600% by 2012.

The removal of rats and other threats from Gunner's Quoin (a Closed Island Nature Reserve) allowed conservationists to start restoring the reptile community from 2007,

permitting the re-introduction of the boa by 2012. The abundance of the snakes continues to grow on both islands and with two island populations rather than just one, the risk of extinction has been reduced permitting the downlisting from Endangered to Vulnerable.



## CULLING OF MAURITIUS FRUIT BATS



3 bat culls in 4 years! The cull of 2018 aimed to kill 13,000 bats from an estimated 65,000, i.e. 20% of the population.

The culls of 2015 and 2016, where over 38 000 bats were officially killed (not including probably 1000s more killed by members of the public in orchards, backyards and hunting as well as electrocution on power lines), has weakened the population and rendered the species less resilient to natural calamities. As a result of the 2015 and 2016 killings, the species has been uplisted to endangered in 2018 <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/18743/86475525>. It is expected that the cull in 2018 will drive a re-evaluation of the species to Critically Endangered. The cull has caused a further loss of resilience of an already weakened population to natural factors such as cyclones. Mauritius is under great development pressures, and is losing forest both in area and quality due to invasive alien species. The Mauritius Fruit Bat

is a natural partner in maintaining flower pollination and fruit and seed dispersal across the island, and should have been provided further protection in order to save threatened Mauritian plants and forests. Instead, the bat is being killed by the tens of thousands. The cull of 2018, as well as 2015 and 2016, are unprecedented in the history of culling of native animals worldwide. There is no evidence worldwide that fruit bat culling reduces fruit loss see <https://bit.ly/2JE9364>.

The Mauritian Wildlife Foundation has conducted studies to show that many other factors affect fruit loss including birds, rats and monkeys. Bats are responsible for 20-25% of damage to lychees, the damage is greater on tall trees (> 6 m), and that correctly installed netting can reduce the damage to near zero. Netting will also remove damage from birds. We have also been a major partner in conducting multi stakeholder workshops on Mauritius in 2017 on netting (<https://bit.ly/2ANsd70>) and in 2018 on scientific research strategy. These workshops were attended by fruit growers, exporters, government extension and conservation officers, animal welfare organisations, academic and experts from Mauritius and abroad (e.g. Australia, Thailand, UK, USA). These recommendations now need to be put into practice.

Bat culls go against all commitments to international conventions adhered to by the Government of Mauritius e.g.

Convention on Biological Diversity, Sustainable Development Goals, Aichi Targets, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan etc. It also goes against IUCN Resolution 019 of 2016 (<https://bit.ly/2OorVH6>), which has been supported by 94% of national and international NGOs and 97% of Governments.

This Resolution 'URGES governments to not authorise or sanction culls of wild bat populations unless there is peer-reviewed evidence of the significant impact of bats on food security or public health, all nonlethal solutions have been exhausted, there is clear scientific evidence and opinion that a cull will resolve the issue and not threaten species survival, and any decision to authorise a cull is underpinned by rigorous scientific evidence regarding the population structure and dynamics of the species and understanding of the impact of the proposed cull.'

We appreciate the issue is complex, that fruit bats affect people beyond eating their fruit and we will continue to work with all stakeholders, including farmers and the Government of Mauritius to find sustainable nonlethal solutions based on sound science and agricultural practice.

# PROJET ASTIRIA, LE PARTAGE CONTINUE



Après deux rapatriements de plantes endémiques en voie de disparition à Maurice et à Rodrigues, les représentants du Conservatoire botanique national de Brest (CBN Brest) sont de retour sur l'île. Ils transféreront cette fois-ci, pas uniquement des plantes, mais aussi leurs connaissances.

C'est lors d'un atelier organisé ce vendredi 22 mars dans les locaux de la Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, que les experts internationaux Sylvie Magnanon et Stéphane Buord se sont penchés sur les leçons retenues de 25 ans d'expérience dans la conservation végétale. Cet échange de savoir avec les divers acteurs locaux de la conservation s'insère dans le cadre du projet ASTIRIA - projet conjoint entre le CBN Brest et la Mauritian Wildlife Foundation pour la conservation de la flore menacée de l'archipel de Maurice et de Rodrigues, soutenu par le Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).



# ST BRANDON EXPEDITION

## *PRESENTING THE FINDINGS IN A WORKSHOP*

The Mauritian Wildlife Foundation conducted an expedition to St Brandon in March 2019. The expedition collected terrestrial and marine ecological data (seabirds, turtles, flora etc), as well as gathered information on invasive alien species as part of a proposed eradication of rats, mice and other introduced invasive animals from these islands. An officer from the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping also participated in the expedition.

A presentation of the findings was held on Thursday 23rd May 2019 at Gold Crest Hotel. A very animated and active participation from representative(s) of the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund, Vallée de Ferney, University of Mauritius, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Forestry Services, National Parks and Conservation Services, Outer Islands Development Corporation, Continental Shelf Unit, Raphael Fishing, Les Amis de St Brandon, REEF Conservation, Durrell Conservation Training Ltd, EcoSud, National Coast Guard, Mauritius Police Force, Mauritius Meteorological Services, Marine Megafauna Conservation Organization (MMCO)/ Mauritian Scuba Diving Association and the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation. The project is funded by the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund.



# GOOD-BYE GABRIEL D'ARGENT



well versed forest ecologist and was a reference to endless researchers and visitors.

Gabriel retired from the Forestry Service in 1984 at the age of 60. He received the 'President's Meritorious Service Medal' in 1984. He had, since 1982, met Ms (later Dr) Wendy Strahm (Plant Conservationist of the World Wildlife Fund seconded to the Forestry Service; she was one of the founders of the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation in 1984). Wendy received funds to employ Gabriel in 1984 and he joined the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation. He was instrumental in supporting Wendy's work in Mauritius to relocate rare plants, create Conservation Management Areas (CMA's eg Brise Fer,

Mare Longue, Petrin, Florin --; native patches of forest fenced against deer and pigs and weeded of invasive alien species), and improve the management of Nature Reserves (Ile aux Aigrettes, Perrier, Vaughan's Plot) and private forests (Emile Series, Mondrain). Gabriel has been intensively involved with the restoration of the Mondrain reserve, an area owned by the Medine Sugar Estate, and previously leased to the Royal Society of Arts and Science. Gabriel has, on behalf of MWF, worked tirelessly, most often on his own, to restore this reserve, which is a gem in our floral landscapes and inseparable from himself.

Gabriel enjoyed good health (cycling several kms to Mondrain four times a

Mr Gabriel D'Argent was born on 17th July 1924 in Union Vale. His father worked at the electricity company at Tamarind Falls, and his mother was a house-wife. He had 3 brothers and 3 sisters. Gabriel grew up amidst nature and learnt his plants and animals from Mr Brunette, a local forester, who he followed everywhere. Therefore, he heard the call of nature at a very early age, and a career in forestry appealed to him. He went to school at Glen Park up to 'la Petite Bourse', and due to financial circumstances could not attend secondary school. However, he helped his brothers and sisters with their homework. He joined the Forestry Service at the age of 17. And worked at several places eg Camp Thorel, Plaine Sophie, Gouly, Mare Longue. Regrettably, he witnessed the logging of native forest during his career, which was conducted at an accelerated pace.

He was married to Rita D'Argent, of Reunionese origin, and they raised 3 children, all born whilst Gabriel was based at forest sites. Gabriel climbed the ranks of the Forestry Service from forest guard to Forest Inspector. He met the eminent Dr Reginald Vaughan in the early 1970s, and became an assiduous student of the latter. Gabriel cycled between Plaine Sophie and Phoenix, where Dr Vaughan lived, to study botany! Dr Vaughan taught Gabriel plant identification and ecology and they became very close colleagues. Gabriel became a



week) and had a very sharp memory for dates, plants and their locations. He was often referred to as an 'encyclopaedia'. He has been a trainer for several local and international botanists who are now in key positions in Mauritius and abroad. He continued to train the future generation of botanists up to the age of 94 when he retired from the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation due to ill-health. Nevertheless, he remained available to share his knowledge to field biologists and visiting scientists. He was a great narrator and shared his knowledge freely to researchers, and was highly respected for his wisdom and work ethics. He has co-authored or supported several key publications, in particular what is now a reference for conservationists – the Page and D'Argent report (1997). On the occasion of his 90th birthday, Gabriel was appointed by the President of the Missouri Botanical Garden, Dr Peter Wyse-Jackson, to the prestigious position of 'Research Associate', in recognition for his 'valuable collaboration and outstanding contribution to botany and conservation in Mauritius through many years'.

Mr Gabriel d'Argent was the longest serving and eldest member of staff of the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, and yet in many ways the youngest by his strength, determination, and lucidity. We will all miss you so dearly. Rest In Peace.



# SEYCHELLES & MAURITIUS

## *Birdlife Mag*

Two Indian Ocean island states famously illustrate how dedicated action can reverse the fortunes of the world's rarest birds. Thanks to the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (BirdLife Partner), the legendary salvation of the Mauritius Kestrel (*Falco punctatus*) has been used as a model to save other species, including ongoing population increases since 2008 for Echo Parakeet (*Psittacula eques*), Rodrigues Warbler (*Acrocephalus rodericanus*), Mauritius Fody (*Foudia rubra* (pictured) and Rodrigues Fody (*Foudia flavicans*).

In Seychelles, many species have seen similar recoveries through innovative conservation action by Nature Seychelles (BirdLife Partner).

Most remarkably, in 2015, Seychelles Warbler (*Acrocephalus sechellensis*) was re-categorised as Near Threatened – an astonishing turnaround from the nadir of 30 birds exactly 50 years ago.



Mauritius  
Kestrel



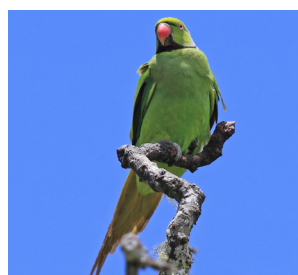
Rodrigues  
Fody



Mauritius  
Fody



Rodrigues  
Warbler



Echo  
Parakeet



Seychelles  
Warbler

## BROADER CONSERVATION STRATEGIES NEEDED - *Science Mag*

Over the past 3 years, the Mauritian flying fox (*Pteropus niger*), a Mascarene endemic and threatened island fruit bat, has been culled to half its global population in attempts to increase fruit producers' profits. As a result, its Red List status was recently reassessed from Vulnerable to Endangered. Culling of flying foxes has been shown to be ineffective in boosting profits of commercial fruit producers; lychee production dropped by some 70% after the previous mass culling campaigns. Despite the risks, the lack of benefits, and the existence of effective alternatives, Mauritius is planning a new mass cull for 2018.

The fruit bat is the last survivor of three *Pteropus* species and of other large frugivores such as Dodos and giant tortoises that used to inhabit the island. By eating fruits and potentially disseminating seeds of about half of the native trees of the island's

forests, the species fulfills a keystone ecological role in Mauritius's remnant native habitats. Only 5% of these habitats remain, and they harbor one of the most threatened biota worldwide.

Mauritius's biodiversity protection law was weakened in 2015 specifically to enable mass culls, which are supported by National Parks and Conservation Service resources that were originally intended to conserve the country's threatened biodiversity. Events unfolding in Mauritius are exposing the limitations to the approach local and international conservationists and conservation organizations have used as they call for reasonable management. Evidence, appeals, petitions, articles, street protests, and the missions of international experts such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature have been largely ignored.

Conservationists should diversify and intensify their approaches for tangible results by incorporating litigation that stalls unnecessary biodiversity destruction. For example, the 2015 mass cull breached the law in place at the time and therefore may have been prevented by an injunction. In the longer term, conservationists should apply marketing persuasion principles to conservation. They should focus on educating the public, fruit producers, and ministry advisers and technicians about the ineffectiveness of culling and the nonlethal alternative solutions. Conservationists should also identify and address barriers to the implementation of evidence-based policy, including the focus on short-term goals driven by election cycles at the expense of long-term environmental interests.

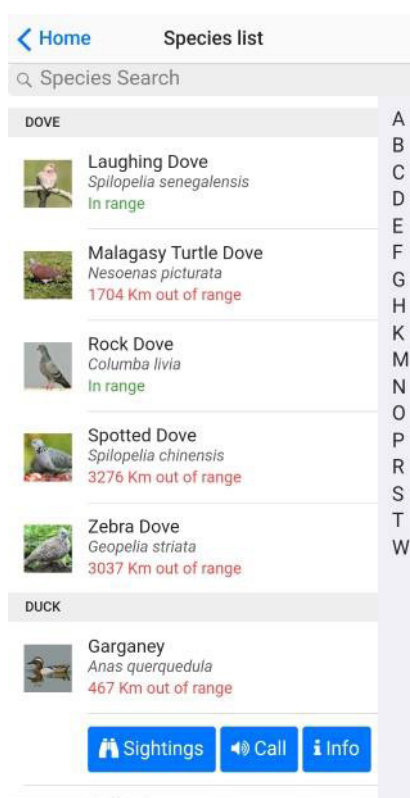
# SUPER U SALES KIOSK

Opened in December 2018, the Super U Sales Kiosk is a permanent sales booth selling Wildlife themed gifts and goodies. All purchases contribute to MWF's work on the protection of our ecosystem. It is situated within the Super U Grand Baie Coeur de Ville commercial centre.

A wide range of MWF products such as Tshirts, Tank Tops, Tote Bags, Caps and Plush Toys are available for sale. Opening hours are similar to Super U, i.e. Monday to Saturday from 9:00 to 20:00 and Sunday and Public Holidays from 9:00 to 14:00.



# BIRDS OF MAURITIUS APP



The African Bird Club has developed a new smartphone app which provides information about all the birds of Mauritius and its associated islands. The very interactive 'Birds of Mauritius' app provides you with wide options such as photographs, songs and calls, text and maps to help you enjoy and identify the special birds of the islands. Mauritius is the first country to use the African Bird Club App. It can be downloaded for FREE on Google Play Store and Apple iStore.



# WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

*Discover a few of the beautiful photos shared by our nature-loving Facebook friends.*



The Paradise Flycatcher by Frederic de Fleuriot



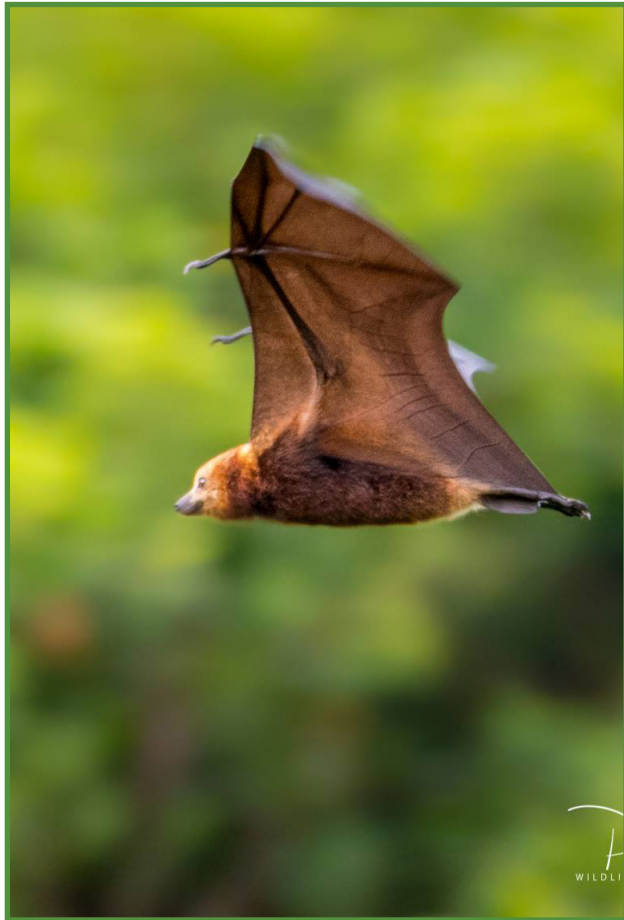
The Bois Mapou by Nawaaz Jameer



The Olive White-eye by Amélie Roberto-Charron



Round Island by Markus Roesch



Mauritius Fruit Bat and White-tailed Tropicbirds by Patrick Montocchio

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