

TITLE OF PROGRAMME: GRANDE MONTAGNE NATURE RESERVE RESTORATION PROJECT

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



PROJECT TECHNICAL SHEET

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

OBJECTIVES

To create a viable long-term safeguard for unique plants and animals, whilst engaging the local population in conservation, and running a visitor programme.

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 *in-situ* nurseries.
- Plant endemic and native saplings in active restoration plots.
- Training of 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'.

- Monitor the Aldabra Giant Tortoises and their impact on vegetation.
- Provide free educational visits of the nursery and nature reserve to local school and village groups.
- Create educational materials such as posters, booklets, brochures, flyers and signage.
- Continue capacity building of the Eco tour guides to maintain a professional level.
- Maintain & improve amenities such as the Information centre, as well as paths, steps, benches, viewpoint platforms and signage in the reserve.
- Promote conservation with a wider audience (Mauritians and foreign tourists).

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

- Endemic wildlife and ecosystems of Rodrigues, Rodriguan Biodiversity.
- Village of Grande Montagne 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

The Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF) has been working in the Grande Montagne Nature Reserve for nearly 40 years and visitors are now able to enjoy areas of maturing forest while witnessing other more recently restored areas or view restoration underway. Around 95% of the 25.5 ha fenced area at Grande Montagne has been restored to date and our aim is to complete the initial restoration of this reserve within the next few years.

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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Over 208,733 plants have been planted in the reserve by the MWWF so far and 42 rare Rodriguan plant species are successfully conserved on Grande Montagne. The forest is a habitat to the surviving endemic animals and insects of Rodrigues. From about only 30 birds, the population of the Rodrigues Fody reached an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 individuals in 2016, whilst that of the Rodrigues Warbler increased to an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 individuals over the same period - in part due to habitat restoration on Grande Montagne, where they are regularly seen. Their numbers are likely to have increased further since 2016. The reserve also supports Rodrigues Fruit Bats.

This project involves the local community, providing employment to restoration labourers from the nearby villages and organising 'restoration working days' with grassroots associations to sensitise and empower the local people in habitat restoration. The reserve is included in the Rodrigues Environmental Education Programme (REEP) where students visit and are taught about the reserve and its importance. The reserve is also open to the public for guided tours.



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.
- Transport: One vehicle.
- Infrastructure: Office, visitors centre and plant nursery.
- Equipment: Nursery and restoration equipment (such as chainsaw, up-rooters, secateurs, machetes, plant trays and potting bags), laptop and GPS.
- Other: Educational material and signage, volunteer lunches and consumables.

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

BUDGET 2023-2024

Description	Budget (Rs)
Project Staff Cost	3,062,194
Transport and Travel	477,200
Equipment and Materials	479,000
Other Operation Costs	100,080
Total Operational Cost	4,118,474
Administration Cost	458,735
TOTAL PROJECT COST	4,577,209

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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