

# TITLE OF PROGRAMME: ILE AUX AIGRETTES HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

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



## PROJECT TECHNICAL SHEET

Project Type	Habitat Restoration
Start of Project	1985
Location	Ile aux Aigrettes, Mahebourg, Republic of Mauritius
Priority Area	Environmental & Sustainable development - Biodiversity
Status	Ongoing

### OBJECTIVES

- Create an ecosystem to support populations of plants, birds, reptiles and insects.
- Support conservation work in general and also enable Mauritians to learn about conservation and appreciate their natural heritage and the importance of biodiversity.
- Raise national pride and international profile - Ile aux Aigrettes is an internationally recognized model of island conservation in the world and a genuine ecotourism destination.

### ACTIVITIES BEING IMPLEMENTED

- Removal of invasive alien species.
- Applying bio-security measures to prevent the entry of unwanted animal and plant species.

- Forest rehabilitation: planting of rare native species and reconstitution of the pristine environment suitable for native fauna reintroduction.
- Educate Mauritian school children of all ages and students through support to a structured visit to the island called 'Learning with Nature' (LWN).
- Raising awareness of the local community and tourists through guided visits.
- Produce high quality educational material on biodiversity.

### PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

- Mauritian Ecosystems, Mauritian Biodiversity.
- Decision makers, scientific community including local and international university students, 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

Ile aux Aigrettes is a 26-ha low coralline island and has been declared a Nature Reserve since 1965 due to its remnant Mauritian dry coastal forest. Ecological restoration started in 1985 with the aim of restoring the coastal vegetation community and to replace the missing components of the flora and fauna.

Through weeding of introduced species and planting of native species, including rare and critically endangered plants that have been propagated and reintroduced on the island, the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation is restoring the ecosystem. Around 30,000 to 40,000 plants per season/year were planted from 1998 to 2003, although the forest is

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Thank you for considering our appeal.

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now regenerating naturally. Specialised planting still continues to enhance the species diversity, to provide food and habitat for the native species reintroduced on the island (Pink Pigeons, Mauritius Fodies, Olive White-eyes, Telfair's Skink, Gunther's Geckos) and to provide habitat for seabirds. Aldabra Tortoises have been introduced as ecological replacements to the extinct Mauritian tortoises and are helping in habitat restoration.

The island is also used to safeguard suitable lowland species that are critically endangered in the wild. Maintenance weeding continues through employment of a team of labourers living in the vicinity. As a part of a sustainable conservation programme, the island is open to visitors through our ecotourism and environmental education programmes. Students, tourists and the general public learn about the habitat restoration project, in order to raise their awareness of the conservation of the threatened Mauritian flora and fauna.



## 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 Horticulturist, one Nursery Helper, Labourers, one Supervisor and support from a Manager and Head office.
- Infrastructure: Field station and plant nursery.
- Transport: Use of a vehicle and motorised boat.
- Equipment: Laptop, GPS, mobile phones, planting and weeding tools, chainsaws, protective gear and nursery equipment.

### BUDGET 2024-2025

Description	Budget (Rs)
Project Staff Cost	2,765,495
Transport and Travel	222,000
Equipment and Materials	485,000
Other Operation Costs	144,000
<b>Total Operational Cost</b>	<b>3,616,495</b>
Administration Cost	500,000
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>4,116,495</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.**