

TITLE OF PROGRAMME: ILE DE LA PASSE RESTORATION PROJECT

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



PROJECT TECHNICAL SHEET

Project Type	Habitat Restoration
Start of Project	1994
Location	Ile de la Passe, Mahebourg Bay, Southeast of Mauritius
Priority Area	Environmental & Sustainable development - Biodiversity
Status	Ongoing

OBJECTIVES

Restore an ecosystem appropriate to the island and support initiatives to enable Mauritians to learn about, appreciate and protect the natural and historical heritage of Ile de la Passe.

ACTIVITIES BEING IMPLEMENTED

- Remove or control invasive species present on the islet and ensure the islets biosecurity.
- Plant appropriate native species to create an ecosystem to support birds, reptiles and invertebrates.
- Monitor the flora and fauna and manage the threatened population of Bojer's skinks.

- Support the creation of structured visits to the islet and organise group visits to share about history and conservation.
- Conduct activities to support cleaning, weeding, planting and monitoring.
- Work with the National Heritage Fund to produce appropriate signage and other educational material.
- Make advances on the management plan of the islet.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

- Islet reptiles and seabirds populations, Mauritius endemic plants, 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).



View of Ile de la Passe, with Mauritius in the background.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

L'Ile de la Passe is a 2.4 ha islet located in Mahebourg Bay. On the edge of the reef, at the entrance to the main pass that leads to the Grand Port Lagoon, this islet is of extreme historical importance both locally and internationally and may warrant the status of UNESCO's World Heritage Site due to its history, existing fortifications and scenic beauty.

The islet formerly held a lowland dry coastal ecosystem, supporting an assemblage of native/endemic seabirds, land birds, reptiles, invertebrates and native plants, similar to that of Ile aux Aigrettes. The assemblage on Ile de la Passe has been severely reduced due to clearing of its original vegetation, development of the island for strategic military purposes, introduction of predators (now removed) and uncontrolled visitor activities. The existing native biodiversity (some coastal plants, Bouton's skink, Bojer's skink, White-tailed Tropicbird, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, amongst others) needs to be protected and enhanced.

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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In 2012, the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation signed an Agreement with the National Heritage Fund for the protection, maintenance and restoration of the fauna and flora on Ile de la Passe. Following the agreement, the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation has helped prepare a draft management plan in order to manage the island for the protection of the historical remains, tourism and biodiversity. MWF actions since 2016 involved removing litter from the island, implementing a flora restoration programme while monitoring and managing the fauna, as well as organising and supporting education and awareness initiatives. The cleaning of the island is required on a regular basis as uncontrolled visitor activities result in littering and fire hazard; severe threats to the native species on the island.



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 Biologists, Guides, Labourers and Supervisor.
- Infrastructure: Use of Plant nursery.
- Equipment: Motorised boat, use of laptop, GPS units, mobile phones, planting and weeding tools, and nursery equipment.
- Other: Consumables.

BUDGET 2020-2021

Description	Budget (Rs)
Project Staff Cost	160,000
Transport and Travel	62,000
Equipment and Materials	72,000
Other Operation Costs	20,000
Total Operational Cost	314,000
Administration Cost	30,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	344,000

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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