

TITLE OF PROGRAMME: MAURITIUS FODY CONSERVATION PROJECT

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



PROJECT TECHNICAL SHEET

Project Type	Species Conservation
Start of Project	1987
Scientific name	<i>Foudia rubra</i>
Species	Mauritius Fody
Location	Focusing on Black River Gorges National Park and surrounding areas, and Ile aux Aigrettes
Priority Area	Environmental & Sustainable development - Biodiversity
IUCN status	Endangered

OBJECTIVES

- Decrease the risk of extinction of the species from Endangered to Vulnerable in the next decade.
- Study the population dynamics of the Fody and the limiting factors, and address these.
- Identify suitable sites for a new subpopulation.

ACTIVITIES BEING IMPLEMENTED

- Provide supplementary food to support the reintroduced population on Ile aux Aigrettes.

- Keep a fully ringed population on Ile Aux Aigrettes to enable monitoring of the population.
- Monitor the survival and breeding of the birds on Ile aux Aigrettes.
- Collect feeding observations from all birds.
- Identify a suitable place to create a new subpopulation.
- Investigate methods to control predators on a mainland site for future translocations and set up a new mainland population.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

- Mauritius Fody, 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).



Male Mauritius Fody during the breeding season.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The *Foudia rubra*, Mauritius Fody, is a small charismatic weaverbird endemic to Mauritius, once distributed all over the island and was most likely on several offshore islets. The number of Fodies had fallen drastically since the early 1970s, coinciding with the last large-scale forest clearance on Mauritius. In 2002, conservation action was considered essential to decrease the risk of extinction of this attractive small bird whose habitat had dwindled to a small known area in the Black River Gorges National Park.

Having identified predators as the main threat to the species, concrete action was undertaken as from 2002 to establish a population on the predator-free island of Ile aux Aigrettes. From 2002 to 2006, the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation biologists rescued eggs and chicks from failing wild nests at Pigeon Wood, Black River Gorges National Park.

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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The eggs were incubated and chicks hand-reared at the Black River Aviaries, and fledglings released onto Ile aux Aigrettes. A second team of biologists monitored the progress of the birds on the island to understand the species biology and habitat requirements – this continues to do this day. This knowledge will inform future translocations to other protected areas.

Habitat restoration and supplementary feeding support the population of birds which has successfully developed on Ile aux Aigrettes, to a possible population of over 325 birds today. The best indicator of success was the down listing of the species from Critically Endangered to Endangered by BirdLife International and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature in 2009. It is now possible for the public to have a glimpse of the Mauritius Fody, the bird with one of the most successful conservation projects in the world, during all visits to Ile aux Aigrettes.



Female Mauritius Fody.

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: Two Conservation Biologists, and support from a project Coordinator, a Manager and Head Office.
- Infrastructure: One equipped field station.
- Equipment: Use of one jeep, one laptop, one GPS unit, bird ringing equipment and supplemental feeding equipment.
- Other: Food for the birds and consumables.

BUDGET 2023-2024

Description	Budget (Rs)
Project Staff Cost	981,900
Transport and Travel	87,000
Equipment and Materials	127,250
Other Operation Costs	26,600
Total Operational Cost	1,222,750
Administration Cost	175,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	1,397,750

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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