

# TITLE OF PROGRAMME: MAURITIUS KESTREL CONSERVATION PROJECT

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



## PROJECT TECHNICAL SHEET

Project Type	Species Conservation
Start of Project	1973
Scientific name	<i>Falco Punctatus</i>
Species	Small bird of prey
Location	Bambous Mountains, Gerald Durrell Endemic Wildlife Sanctuary, Black River Gorges National Park and surrounding areas
Priority Area	Environmental & Sustainable development - Biodiversity
IUCN status	Vulnerable

### OBJECTIVES

Prevent population decline of the Mauritius Kestrel by attaining a viable, stable or increasing population and increase the distribution of the birds.

### ACTIVITIES BEING IMPLEMENTED

- Scientific research of forest habitat, agriculture, bird numbers, effects of climate change, food provisioning, predation, territory selection, genetics.

- Provide Predator-proof nest-boxes and erect boxes in new areas for birds to lay their eggs in.
- Ring a maximum number of wild birds in both populations.
- Monitor the breeding activity of the wild population.
- Hand-rear birds at the Gerald Durrell Endemic Wildlife Sanctuary for release in suitable habitats in the West coast area.

### PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

- Mauritius Kestrel, 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 2006-15) and fulfilling obligations towards international biodiversity conventions (e.g. Rio Conventions, Aichi Targets, Millennium Development Goals).



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Mauritius Kestrel *Falco punctatus* is unique to Mauritius and is one of the nine endemic bird species still left on the island. The species was saved in-extremis with an increase from just four birds in 1974, including a single breeding female, to a peak of about 600 individuals. It has become a world conservation icon, recognised as the most successful recovery programme in the world for an animal species and the programme remains MWF's proudest achievement.

However, because of the degradation of the Mauritian native forests, the kestrels are now found only on the eastern and western part of the island - where they continue to face the effects of habitat degradation and predators. The eastern population has been monitored constantly since the re-introduction of birds from 1988 to 1993 and has been healthy and stable for the past decade.

For CSR activities and more information please contact the Fundraising Manager or email [fundraising@mauritian-wildlife.org](mailto:fundraising@mauritian-wildlife.org)

Thank you for considering our appeal.

# TITLE OF PROGRAMME: MAURITIUS KESTREL CONSERVATION PROJECT

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



However, the western sub-population suffered a decline and, after an island wide survey found a drastic reduction in kestrel numbers from the estimated 600 to around 300 birds, MWF resumed monitoring on the West Coast in 2008. The findings sadly confirmed the disappearance of introduced kestrels from the Moka Mountain Range.

The current monitoring has enabled us to identify the management which is required to reverse the downward trend in numbers and secure the population. Measures include placing more nest boxes in suitable habitats to increase breeding pairs, studying the genetics of the populations to identify if certain bird's genes need to be introduced into the other sub-population, hand-rear birds to boost population numbers and to re-introduce birds into new nesting areas.

The field team harvest eggs and/or chicks from nest-boxes in the eastern population. The eggs and chicks are hand-reared at the Gerald Durrell Endemic Wildlife Sanctuary in Black River (GDEWS) under the supervision of London Zoo staff, and then moved to nest boxes in the new release sites for a period of adaptation before leaving the box to go into the forest. In 2016, 2017 and 2018 a total of 47 Kestrel chicks were hand-reared in GDEWS and released in Bel Ombre and in 2019 15 birds were released in Brise Fer, both sites in the Black River Gorges National Park.

The latest scientific findings illustrates that there is no room for complacency and we still need to look after the Mauritius Kestrels.



## 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 project coordinator, four conservation biologists, one releaser and two hand rearers.
- Infrastructure: Use of two equipped field stations.
- Equipment: Use of one jeep, five motorbikes, four sets of climbing equipment, two laptops, four GPS units, bird ringing equipment, blood sampling equipment incubators and brooders.
- Other: Consumables, food for hand rearing and laboratory tests on blood samples.

### BUDGET 2020-2021

Description	Budget (Rs)
Project Staff Cost	1,338,560
Transport and Travel	446,000
Equipment and Materials	242,250
Handrearing Costs	137,700
Other Operation Costs	97,290
<b>Total Operational Cost</b>	<b>2,261,800</b>
Administration Cost	300,000
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>2,561,800</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.**

For CSR activities and more information please contact the Fundraising Manager or email [fundraising@mauritian-wildlife.org](mailto:fundraising@mauritian-wildlife.org)

Thank you for considering our appeal.