

TITLE OF PROGRAMME: MAURITIUS OLIVE WHITE-EYE CONSERVATION PROJECT

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



PROJECT TECHNICAL SHEET

Project Type	Species Conservation
Start of Project	2005
Scientific name	<i>Zosterops chloronothos</i>
Species	Passerine
Location	Focusing on Black River Gorges National Park and surrounding areas, and Ile aux Aigrettes
Priority Area	Environmental & Sustainable development - Biodiversity
IUCN status	Critically Endangered

OBJECTIVES

- Decrease the risk of extinction of the species from Critically Endangered to Endangered in the next decade.
- Study a method of predator control, GoodNature traps, which enable a large area of forest to be protected from rats – they have a significant impact on the breeding success of the species.

ACTIVITIES BEING IMPLEMENTED

- Trial GoodNature self-setting traps to plan for introduction of the Olive White-eye to a “mainland island”, an area on the mainland where predators are reduced.

- Monitor the wild population of birds at Combo and mist net to ring birds.
- Provide supplementary food to support the reintroduced population on Ile aux Aigrettes.
- Experiment with changes in supplementary food provided to the birds on Ile aux Aigrettes to attain minimum management.
- Collect feeding observations from birds on Ile aux Aigrettes.
- Monitor the survival of released birds and fledglings on Ile aux Aigrettes.
- Implement the National Conservation Plan 2023 to 2027.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

- Mauritius Olive White-eye, 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 *Zosterops chloronothos*, Mauritius Olive White-eye, is thought to be the rarest and most threatened of the endemic Mauritian birds. The number of Olive White-eyes has fallen drastically since the early 1970s, coinciding with the last large-scale forest clearance in Mauritius. In 2005, 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.

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 Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF) aims to save the Olive White-eye by protecting the area they live in and maintaining a population of birds on the predator-free island of Ile aux Aigrettes. From 2005 to 2009, MWF rescued eggs and chicks from failing wild nests, incubated eggs, hand-reared chicks and released fledglings 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 this day. This knowledge will inform future translocations to protected areas. Habitat restoration and supplementary feeding support the population of birds which has successfully developed on Ile aux Aigrettes, to a probable carrying capacity of around 55 birds today.

It is now possible for the public to have a glimpse of the Olive White-eye, one of the most threatened birds in the world, during visits to Ile aux Aigrettes.



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 and two Conservation Biologists, and support from a Manager and Head office.
- Infrastructure: Two equipped field stations.
- Equipment: Use of one jeep, two laptops, two GPS units, bird ringing equipment, mist netting equipment and supplemental feeding equipment.
- Other: Vet tests, food for the birds and consumables.

BUDGET 2024-2025

Description	Budget (Rs)
Project Staff Cost	1,401,230
Transport and Travel	294,500
Equipment and Materials	234,650
Veterinary Costs	25,000
Other Operation Costs	84,600
Total Operational Cost	2,039,980
Administration Cost	250,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	2,289,980

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.