

TITLE OF PROGRAMME: RARE PLANTS CONSERVATION PROJECT

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



PROJECT TECHNICAL SHEET

| Project Type | Habitat Restoration |
|------------------|--|
| Start of Project | 1982 |
| Location | Mauritius and offshore islets |
| Priority Area | Environmental & Sustainable development - Biodiversity |
| Status | Ongoing |

OBJECTIVES

- Propagating Critically Endangered plants and finding new sites for rare endemic plant species.
- Improving knowledge of the distribution of the rare plants, their ecology and propagation techniques.
- Transferring propagated species into Field Gene Banks, their original locations, secure forests or shared with other conservation institutions.

ACTIVITIES BEING IMPLEMENTED

- Search new locations for rare plant species.
- Micro-management of Critically Endangered Plants.
- Critically Endangered species grown in nurseries and Field Gene Banks.

- Plants reintroduced to the source locations, other restoration sites and islands.
- Monitoring and maintenance of reintroduced plants
- Exchanges of expertise and skills with Rodrigues and other countries for plant conservation.
- Updating the IUCN Red List of plants for Mauritius.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

- Mauritius endemic plants, Mauritian Biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Decision makers, local and international scientific community including university students, school children and the general public.
- 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).



Critically Endangered *Barleria observatrix*.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Mauritius is home to 671 native species of flowering plants; 311 are endemic to the island, of which over 90% are considered to be threatened and about 100 species have less than 100 individuals in the wild. Botanic Gardens Conservation International's (BGCI) *State of the World's Trees* report, stated that "On average, countries have 11% threatened species in their flora. However, some have much higher threat levels; St Helena (69%, n=11), Madagascar (59%, n=1,842) and Mauritius (57%, n=154) are the three most threatened countries..." ([State of the World's Trees](#), Sep 2021, BGCI).

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 project undertakes to propagate and plant the rarest species to increase their numbers and protect them from extinction. The Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF) horticulturists search forests and map the locations of these species and propagate the rarest plants by growing them from seeds, cuttings, and sometimes seedlings, in the nurseries at Pigeon Wood (Black River Gorges National Park), Ile aux Aigrettes and Round Island.

The plants, when grown, may be set in soil in the Field Gene Bank found at Pigeon Wood or on Ile aux Aigrettes. This safeguards the remaining genetic diversity of the species and will provide propagation material in later years. Plants are also re-introduced to their original locations or to protected forests. This project has increased numbers of very rare plants, rediscovered plant species that were thought extinct and found new populations of rare plants.

The MWF holds the co-chairship of the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) Mascarene Islands Plant Specialist Group, with an overview on Mauritius and Rodrigues from 2021-2024. The group brings specialists together and is working on completing the Red List of Mauritian plants. In 2019, the Specialist Group was awarded the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Chair's Citation of Excellence for its work.



Critically Endangered *Pandanus vandermeeschii* growing in the wild on 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: Coordinator, Horticulturists and support from a Manager and Head office.
- Transport: Four-wheel drive vehicle, two motorcycles and use of a motorised boat.
- Equipment: Two Laptops, GPS units, digital cameras, planting tools, nursery equipment, trimmers and protective gear.
- Other: Nursery materials and consumables.

BUDGET 2023-2024

| Description | Budget (Rs) |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Project Staff Cost | 1,093,575 |
| Transport and Travel | 402,300 |
| Equipment and Materials | 485,000 |
| Other Operation Costs | 175,500 |
| Total Operational Cost | 2,156,375 |
| Administration Cost | 300,000 |
| TOTAL PROJECT COST | 2,456,375 |

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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