

# TITLE OF PROGRAMME: RARE PLANTS CONSERVATION PROJECT

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



*Critically Endangered Pandanus vandermeeschii growing in the wild.*

## 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.

- Critically Endangered species grown in nurseries and Field Gene Banks.
- Monitoring and maintenance of reintroduced plants
- Exchanges of expertise and skills with Rodrigues and other countries for plant conservation.
- Update the 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).

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Mauritius is home to 644 native species of flowering plants; 287 are endemic to the island, of these over 90% are considered to be threatened and about 100 species have less than 100 individuals in the wild. The project undertakes to propagate and plant the rarest species to increase their numbers and protect them from extinction. The Mauritian Wildlife Foundation horticulturalists 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.

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.

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The plants, when grown, may be planted 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 Mauritian Wildlife Foundation 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 2017-2020. 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 Scolopia heterophylla grown in the nursery for field reintroduction.*

## 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: Horticulturists.
- 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 2020-2021

Description	Budget (Rs)
Project Staff Cost	856,610
Transport and Travel	249,000
Equipment and Materials	368,000
Other Operation Costs	72,000
<b>Total Operational Cost</b>	<b>1,545,610</b>
Administration Cost	207,000
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>1,752,610</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**