CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Ebony Forest Ltd
Project Title:	Restoring Native Forest at Chamarel: Ecological Restoration, Species Reintroduction, and Reconnecting the Public with Nature
Grant Number:	65743
CEPF Region:	Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands
Strategic Direction:	2 Enable civil society to mainstream biodiversity and conservation into political and economic decision-making.
Grant Amount:	$77,707.00
Project Dates:	February 01, 2016 - March 31, 2019
Date of Report:	May 30, 2019

Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

The following partners contributed to the projecct implementation.
Forestry Service: were responsible for providing a permit to allow us to do restoration work in the mountain reserve and also donated plants to plant in the mountain reserve.
Alumno Astralis: recommended international interns and volunteers to be involved in the restoration and marketing activities at Ebony Forest.
IBL Ltd: is a private partner pledging to support the restoration of 1 ha. of forest over 2 years.
MCB Ltd: is a private partner that funded the development and production of a total of 4000 primary and secondary school education pack consisting of books in English or French and card games relating to the native biodiversity, awareness of exotic species and forest restoration activities.

Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

The project had three major impacts:

1. **Forest restoration: weeding of 16 hectares of forest, including the first weeding of 3.05 hectares and planting of more than 20,000 native plants grown in our nursery. The private sector and school children particpated in these restoration activities.**
2. **Education of the importance of protecting the island's native biodiversity among all visitors to Ebony Forest, including primary, secondary and tertiary students. The communication of what the forest once looked like, what has been lost and what can be done to conserve and rebuild native biodiversity. The greatest result is the feedback from visitors on their awareness of the enormity of the task and their connection with the forest and the native flora and fauna. This can be as simple as visitors realizing how many native and endemic species have gone extinct, when they look at the wall on the museum depicting the diversity of extinct and extant vertebrate fauna that once occupied ebony forests throughout Mauritius.**
3. **Development of partnerships with the private sector: finance and pledge to sponsor restoration work for 2 hectares of forest and the participation of volunteers from the the companies in the weeding and planting work. The development and production of 4000 education packs which will be given freely to primary and secondary school children visiting Ebony Forest. The communication generated about such partnerships and the need to protect native biodiversity will help raise awareness.**

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
? Expansion of high-quality native forest in the south-west of Mauritius.	The project has increased the area of high-quality native forest. Ongoing maintenance weeding is needed to ensure that native rather than exotic plants establish. As the exotic forest is replaced by native forest, this will accelerate the restoration of the remaining exotic forest as there will be greater potential for natural regeneration and reduced risk of invasion of exotic seeds.
? Greater civil society involvement in and awareness of the conservation and restoration of native flora and fauna.	Working with schools and particularly companies, with a strong interest in sustainability and environmental goals, has lead to a greater involvement of civil society. The CEPF project enabled us to do a lot of ground work with a variety of companies, which is now becoming fruitful. We currently have two companies sponsoring the restoration of 1 hectare of forest each. These partnerships involve more than 600 persons from these two companies participating in forest restoration activities in the next year. This involvement is not only beneficial in raising awareness and creating an ownership and opportunity for people and companies to take concrete action, but it also helps generate sustainable funding. We are now providing team-building activities, with a focus on weeding and planting, to such organisations. As they often visit for a day, revenue is generated from the restaurant, which can be reinvested in the conservation work.

	Furthermore, this civil society involvement helps market Ebony Forest, which hopefully will bring more visitors and hence generate more funds for conservation.
? Shift in the use of non-native to native plants in landscaping.	While we have not measured, nor quantified, whether there is a shift in the use of non-native plants for landscaping, we have noted an increase in requests for the provision of native plants to landscaping companies and a growing interest in the public in planting native plants in their garden. We have also started discussions with a local nursery to provide native and endemic plants and raise awareness about their importance in their shop stores. This has occurred post the CEPF project period and hence is not recorded. There is a need to further expand the variety of native plants that the public associate with as this is limited to a small number of species commonly used by landscapers.
? Conservation of threatened indigenous snail species. ? Improved ecosystem conditions to allow long-term conservation of native birds and reintroduction of locally extinct bird species.	Forest restoration has helped increase the area and distribution of native forest, providing more microhabitats and food available for native fauna. As native forest contains a higher species diversity and structural composition, these areas support a greater diversity and abundance of birds, invertebrates and reptiles. In 2018, 50 Pink Pigeons and 50 Echo Parakeets were reintroduced to Ebony Forest as part of another CEPF funded project for the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation. The Paradise Flycatcher and Grey white-eye are regularly seen feeding among the vegetation around the visitor centre. The project has also raised awareness of the need for a more concerted effort to be made towards the conservation of native snails. The project has also increased awareness among school children and other visitors about native fauna and the importance of conserving them.
? Sustainable long term financing secured for restoration, conservation and environmental education activities.	The project has significantly helped us to secure financing, in part because of the positive reputation of being associated with the CEPF and from financial support of a Communication and Sustainability Officer, whom will continue to be employed after this project. The development of relationships with other private sector companies is a long-term process and has taken time to identify the needs and desires of each individual company. Our aim is to develop more partnerships and to maintain satisfied partners, whom will continue to support us in the long term. The creation of partnerships has helped integrate companies with whom previously may not have know how they could contribute to biodiversity conservation,

	beyond just providing financing. We aim to continue to offer an integration of our partners in the restoration and conservation activities.
? Capacity building for future conservation projects.	Training staff and volunteers in restoration, conservation and education has increased capacity. Only one other staff had an academic background in conservation, and another with experience in conservation. Now, five staff have an understanding and passion for communicating with visitors and each other about conservation.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
1. Weeding of 6 ha. of invaded high-quality native forest and weeding and planting of 2 ha. of low quality indigenous forest at Ebony Forest.	A total of 16 hectares of forest were weeded during the project period, of which 2.65 hectares were of low quality and 1.4 hectares of high-quality native forest were weeded for the first time. Maintenance weeding of all 16 hectares was done regularly to prevent fast-growing light-loving exotic vegetation from suppressing the native vegetation. In the areas where there were few native trees remaining following the first weeding, generally this was the low quality native forest, 22,982 native plants grown in our onsite plant nursery were planted to accelerate the native forest canopy recovery process. This contributed to the CEPF strategy by expanding native flora abundance and distribution, which directly benefits the native fauna.
2. Propagation and planting of threatened plant species, with a total of 20,000 indigenous plants planted at Ebony Forest.	A total of 22,982 plants have been planted since the start of the project in 2016. Planting has been done by the conservation team, school children and staff from corporate companies. The involvement of the public has helped raised awareness and also increase involvement in nature conservation.
3. Increase in distribution and subpopulations of endangered snail species (Pachystyla bicolor, Erepta odontina, Gonospira modiola, Gonospira palanga, Gonospira nevilli, Tropidophora michaudi).	We failed to achieve this impact with the aforementioned species. Only Pachystyla bicolor and Tropidophora eugeniae snails were found for captive breeding. While captive breeding colonies were introduced to the rat-proof enclosure, there were no signs of the snails breeding. In fact many of the snails were not seen again. The realization that the snails are harder to breed and even find now in the wild has lead us to make more concerted efforts to breed them and secure their populations in the wild. A project proposal is being submitted to the Mohammed Bin Zayed Foundation to focus on the protection of an in situ population. The snails are now being held in captivity at La Vanille Nature Park with the hope that they will breed under the supervision of snail expert Owen

	Griffiths.
4. Increase in the number of trained restoration (minimum of 4) and education (minimum of 4) staff.	Restoration: Nine trained staff, of which five are women perform weeding, planting and nursery activities. Staff were recruited from the nearby villages of Chamarel and Baie du Cap where opportunities for other forms of employment are limited. Most of the staff are illiterate having not completed secondary school, hence the provision of jobs provides a vital source of income to support their families. Education A team of seven guides and educators (3 men and 4 women) were trained to communicate with the visitors of all ages, nationalities and backgrounds about the importance of biodiversity. The staff were employed from the nearby villages - La Gaulette, Chamarel, Baie du Cap, and further afield - Surinam. With the exception of two of the staff, the others had no experience in nature guiding or a biological background. Regular training and evaluation in the following activities: communicating with the public, hiking and bird-watching tours, leading youth and school groups of different ages and sizes, running nature kids club activities and engaging with corporate groups, has increased capacity and enabled Ebony Forest to be recognized as an ecotourism destination. All staff will remain in employment following the completion of CEPF funding.
5. Ecology centre with environmental education programme for primary and secondary school children, including involvement of groups in restoration activities.	The Ecology Centre was opened in June 2017. Environmental programmes for primary and secondary school children were delivered to 3764 school and youth groups, of which 598 children were involved in weeding, planting and plant nursery activities. These activities helped raise awareness about the importance of protecting biodiversity as indicated by pre- and post-visit surveys. It is hoped that this will also have a long term impact as children will gain an appreciation for nature and in future wish to protect and support its conservation.
6. Local and international volunteer and intern programme in conservation, restoration and education activities. Minimum of four a year. Sustainable funding	The hosting of volunteers has multiple different benefits from increasing awareness about Ebony Forest, raising awareness about the importance of biodiversity, increasing capacity in plant restoration and bird conservation techniques among the volunteers and interns, engaging with children in education activities and helping to market Ebony Forest. Beside Ebony Forest helping to transmit knowledge to volunteers, Ebony Forest has also benefited by such interactions as we have gained valuable insights from the volunteers whom come with and without experience. The potential to contribute to sustainable funding from such activities

	is possible and an eco-volunteer tourism programme has been developed as a result.
7. Research projects with local and international universities to guide habitat and species management. Minimum of two a year.	We have had a limited impact with regards to delivering on this impact as we have had fewer research projects than anticipated. However, this is starting to change as Ebony Forest becomes more widely known among universities and the conservation community. We have employed a Conservation Manager (May 2019), whose job will be to develop research projects and find suitable students and universities to collaborate with which will increase our knowledge capacity and make our decision-making process more science based and cost-effective.
8. Visitor centre with low-impact ecotourism activities at Ebony Forest.	The visitor centre incorporating the museum, ecology centre, shop and restaurant is important to cater for visitors, be they tourists, corporate companies or school children. These facilities enable our staff to engage with the public and to communicate the threats to forest biodiversity and showcase the importance of native biodiversity and what can be done to protect what species remain.
9. Funds raised for ongoing restoration and education activities. Target of a minimum of USD 25,000 over the 3 years.	A total of USD 42,072 have been raised over the 3 years, and additional USD 31,432 secured for the restoration of 1 hectare plots of invaded forest (MCB and IBL). Other partnerships are being negotiated that involve tree planting and carbon offsetting. In addition, the Forestry Service donated 3549 endemic plants. Private companies also financed youth associations and charity groups from Mauritius and Rodrigues to visit Ebony Forest. Requests are made to Ebony Forest and we find sponsors. To date, a total of Rs 33,400 ($ 937) has been supported. Besides the funds raised, the partnerships with different private sector companies is helping to raise awareness of the importance of forest restoration, encourage volunteering and developing sustainable financing. Such partnerships encourages private companies to involve their staff in activities, such as weeding and planting, and helps companies integrate more nature-based activities into their strategies.

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives

The greatest challenge in obtaining the project impacts in a timely manner has been human resource limitations at the management level as components of the project where linked to the development of the education and ecotourism aspect. The management of the education, conservation and ecotourism was the responsiblity of the General Manager, whom at the start had limited staff with

experience to whom different tasks could be delegated. Developing the ecotourism and education components,which were new at Ebony Forest, meant that there was a lot of trial and error to identify the best approaches. All with limited experienced support staff. An inital delay in the opening of the visitor centre meant that implementation of some of the components were late. Nonetheless, most of the impacts have been achieved and will continue to be replicated in the long-term as well as post-CEPF funding.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

There were no unexpected impacts.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Restoration of 8 ha. of degraded forest at Ebony Forest.	1.1	Weeding of 6 ha. of invaded high-quality native forest.	Between January and March, a total of 0.87 ha. of high quality native forest was weeded for the first time. Since the start of the project a total of 1.4 ha was weeded for the first time: 2016 - 969 m2 2017 - 510 m2 2018 - 0 m2 2019 - 8773 m2 Note that the above does not include maintenance weeding of all 16 hectares done during this time.
1	Restoration of 8 ha. of degraded forest at Ebony Forest.	1.2	Weeding of 2 ha. of low-quality native forest.	Maintenance weeding of the sites were maintained during this period, but no additional areas were weeded. The target of 2 ha. for the project period was attained as a total area of 2.65 ha. was weeded, planted and being maintained through regular maintenance weeding.
1	Restoration of 8 ha. of degraded forest at Ebony Forest.	1.3	Planting of 2 ha. of low-quality native forest with indigenous species.	More than 20,000 native and endemic plants were propagated and planted. 2016: 9413 plants 2017: 6877 plants 2018: 4063 plants 2019: 1200 plants (Jan-Mar) Planting was done mainly by the conservation team, with support from schools, university students and corporate companies.
1	Restoration of 8 ha. of degraded forest at Ebony Forest.	1.4	Annual restoration reports (2016, 2017, 2018).	All three annual reports were written and submitted.
1	Restoration of 8 ha. of degraded forest at Ebony Forest.	1.5	Raised awareness of community youth in forest conservation. Evaluation with questionnaires and tests pre- and post- visit to Ebony	Between January - March 2019, a total of 248 children visited Ebony Forest as part of a school or youth outing. Of these, 140 children completed the pre and post survey questionnaires. A total of 358 surveys were completed during the CEPF project. A total of 3764 children visited with schools or youth groups. This number does not include children visiting with families or other excursions. 2016 - na - Ebony Forest not open to the public. 2017 - 504 children visited, of which 168 completed the survey.

			Forest. Target aim 200 people per annum.	2018 - 3012 children visited, of which 50 completed the survey. 2019 - 248 children visited, of which 140 completed the survey. Prior to the visit, children answered between 46-76% answers correctly. Post-visit, this increased to 59 to 92%.
2	Forest education programme.	2.1	Ecology centre open.	Ecology Centre was opened to the public on the 23rd June 2017.
2	Forest education programme.	2.2	Education and Community Officer in position.	Christabelle Duhamel has been employed full time since 1st March 2016 and has occupied these responsibilities.
2	Forest education programme.	2.3	Forest education programme developed for primary and secondary pupils.	During this period, a pre-primary programme was developed following the request for visits from two pre-primary groups. From 11th February to 25th March 2019, courses were provided by the Education Officer to the trainee teachers from the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE). Ebony Forest explained the need and benefits to reconnect students to the forest and shared experience of field trips in nature reserve like Ebony Forest. Primary and secondary programmes were developed at the start of the CEPF project and continue to be refined with feedback from the pupils, guides, and teachers. The activities available have also been expanded in response to what school teachers want to teach the children. Bespoke activities were offered to different schools.
2	Forest education programme.	2.4	Guides proficient in engaging children and the public in nature education.	In February and March, guides received training to improve communication skills within team and with visitors, and they reviewed and modified Kids Club activities in response to previous experiences. Throughout the project, guides were trained and evaluated on a regular basis in the different school programmes, kids clubs and how to engage with children.
2	Forest education programme.	2.5	Website with teacher and pupil packs online.	The text for the website for primary, secondary and tertiary was written and reviewed. The new website is to go live at the start of June. Teacher and pupil packs were not placed online as we wanted the schools to contact us directly and liaise with the Education Officer so the expectations of the activities were clear. An education pack for primary and secondary school children was developed instead. The primary school pack included a set of playing cards and a colouring book, while the secondary school pack contained a book,

				stickers and a set of playing cards.
2	Forest education programme.	2.6	Booking system for school excursions.	Currently all bookings are done via the Education Officer who assesses the number of staff needed in relation to the size of the school and activity. This is done in respect of the staff roster.
2	Forest education programme.	2.7	School children and community groups involved in the restoration activities. One group of 20 + persons involved in either weeding, planting or nursery work per month.	During this period, a total of 121 children from 4 schools participated in planting and nursery activities: Forena (39 children), Zenfants Mascareignes with Paul et Virginie primary school (48 children) and DAV Morcellement Saint André (20 children) participated in planting activity. Fourteen students from RCA St-Jacques school Chamarel were invited to plant on the International day of Forest. Twelve CEPF students planted and weeded and did nursery work from 15th January to 8th February 2019. In January, Ebony Forest provided plants and participated in the inauguration of an endemic garden at Notre Dame de la Confiance RCA school, an eco-school. A total of 598 children from 19 different schools and groups were involved in restoration activities since the start of the CEPF project: 2016 - na (not open) 2017 - 173 children from 5 schools/groups, opened in June 2017 2018 - 309 children from 10 schools/groups 2019 - 121 children from 4 schools/groups
3	Funds raised for ongoing restoration, conservation and education activities.	3.1	Marketing Consultant in position.	Lone Raffray was employed as Comunication and Sustainability Coordinator in August 2017. She works 2-3 days a week on developing relationships with private sector companies and sustainability partnerships.
3	Funds raised for ongoing restoration, conservation and education activities.	3.2	Assessment of marketing opportunities from private sector partnerships with Ebony Forest to contribute to carbon offsetting and/or native tree planting.	Further discussions were held with LUX hotel group regarding Ebony Forest as a potential site to offset carbon. These discussions are ongoing with their sustainability team. An agreement was drawn up between MCB and Ebony Forest to sponsor the restoration of 1 ha. of forest for 1 year for the amount of Rs770,000 (USD 21,653). An advert placed in the local newspaper for International Day of Forest also attracted a new partner - Yuni. This furniture company wishes to plant trees for the sale of specific pieces of furniture. Discussions are ongoing. Previously, a 2 year agreement with IBL was signed for

				the restoration of 1 ha. of invaded forest for an amount of Rs 250,000 per annum (USD 7030). A partnership with the tour operator, Kreola, known as Elf in the Forest (https://www.kreola.mu/web/aboutUs) attracted funding of Rs 23,581 ($688).
3	Funds raised for ongoing restoration, conservation and education activities.	3.3	Proposal to the Protected Area Network for funds to weed 5 ha. of forest at Ebony Forest.	The PAN project stopped in 2018. Despite a request for additional funding, we were refused. No other private sector company received additional funding from the PAN.
3	Funds raised for ongoing restoration, conservation and education activities.	3.4	Proposal to Forestry Services for the donation of indigenous plants to plant in mountain reserve.	During this period, not additional plants were obtained from Forestry Service . Since the start of the project, a total of 3159 plants were donated from the Forestry Service 2019 - 0 2018 - 0 2017 - 2519 plants 2016 - 1000 plants
3	Funds raised for ongoing restoration, conservation and education activities.	3.5	Publicity of private sector-Ebony Forest partnerships to raise awareness about civil society involvement in forest restoration and species conservation.	During this period, IBL advertised internally to its staff about the partnership between Ebony Forest and IBL. An event was organised, including weeding and planting activities at Ebony Forest in May. MCB also advertised internally about their partnership with Ebony Forest. The launching of the education packs is scheduled for June 2019. Throughout the CEPF project, publicity about partnerships have been made via social media. Such partnerships include those with trail running courses, sponsorship of schools, and for events to whom Ebony Forest donate plants for as prizes, E.g. Dodo Trail, Ocean Active Festival, Tou Korek Kite Event, Colin Mayer.
3	Funds raised for ongoing restoration, conservation and education activities.	3.6	Sale of indigenous plants to the public to promote greater awareness of their use in landscaping. Expected minimum of	Between January and March 2019, a total of 358 native plants were sold. Overall, a total of 2710 have been sold since the project first started. 2019 - 358 plants 2018 - 1217 plants 2017 - 477 plants 2016 - 658 plants A partnership is under discussion with a large nursery for the propagation and supply of native plants to raise awareness of the importance of planting natives instead

			50 plants per month when visitor centre is open in July 2016.	of exotics.
4	Endangered and Critically Endangered snails protected	4.1	Breeding population of snails in predator-proof enclosures.	The breeding of snails, Pachystyla bicolor var. mauritiana and Tropidophora eugeniae has not progressed significantly during the project period. There have not been any signs of predation and so it is suspected that conditions are not favourable for the development of the snails in their current enclosure. As both snails are rare, it was decided to increase their numbers in captivity and then trial releases in different locations in predator-free areas. Both species are now being kept in captivity at La Vanille Nature Park, under the supervision of Owen Griffiths, a snail expert. The snails have not bred yet and it is suspected that this is because the individuals are old.
5	Collaboration with universities to conduct research, and volunteer and intern programme on restoration and conservation activities.	5.1	Research projects on habitat and species management at Ebony Forest.	There were no research projects hosted during this period. A total of 14 research projects were hosted: 2019 - 0 2018 - 4 MSc students for 1 week 2017 - 1 intern + 6 MSc students (1 week) 2016 - 3 interns
5	Collaboration with universities to conduct research, and volunteer and intern programme on restoration and conservation activities.	5.2	Volunteer and intern programme in conservation and restoration activities.	No volunteers or interns were hosted during January - March 2019. A total of 14 individual local and international volunteers have helped from 1 week to 4 months + 1 family. On the new website, six pages have been created to attract and encourage volunteers and interns to become more involved in our activities, for different periods of time. Volunteers contacted us either directly having seen us on our social media pages, website or word-of-mouth or indirectly through Alumno Astralis, a company who finds organizations for volunteers. The number of local and international volunteers post CEPF project has grown as Ebony Forest becomes better known.
6	Herbicide management plan implemented.	6.1	Herbicide management plan.	A Herbicide Management Plan was written and submitted in December 2015. The plan was shared with the staff and the protocols addressed are respected.

6	Herbicide management plan implemented.	6.2	Staff competent in herbicide use.	All conservation staff utilizing herbicide are trained bi-annually and evaluated once per annum.
6	Herbicide management plan implemented.	6.3	Evaluation report of staff competency in using herbicide.	Staff competency based on the results of the evaluation improved following training and annual assessments show that there was no decline in knowledge or awareness.

Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Two education packs were developed. The primary school education pack (4-7 years) includes a colouring book of native fauna and conservation activities and a mermory card game to raise awareness of native biodiversity, invasive species and forest restoration approaches. The secondary education pack (11-15 years), consists of a 20 page booklet in either English and French about ebony forests, a set of stickers, and a card game in English and French. Both book and card game are to raise awareness of the importance of native biodiversity, specifically the endemic flora and fauna related to ebony forests, the value of ebony, and the impact of humans and species extinctions.

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

Consider lessons that would inform:

- Project Design Process *(aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)*
- Project Implementation *(aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)*
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

The forest restoration work took longer than planned due to a variety of factors such as bad weather which prevented the team from weeding and increased the number of exotic plants and hence increased the need for maintenance weeding, a lack of close monitoring of the conservation team by the General Manager, and the need for a large amount of maintenance weeding of the other restoration sites already under management. The amount of maintenance weeding needed for the site exceeded the capactity of the conservation team to control all exotic vegetation. Hence, there was a reluctance to open new areas to be weeded, if they could not be maintained. Opening up such areas, without the proper aftercare, makes restoration management much more challenging as these areas act as a source of weeds for other areas. It was recognized that there is a need to adapt the

restoration approaches and to employ a larger team if we want to expand the area of forest that can be weeded and managed. Alternatively, the option would be to wait until the amount of maintenance weeding declined as the native forest canopy grew and reduced the rate of exotic plant invasion.
There is also a need to plan the restoration work in a more structured manner, have adaptive management strategies and have someone dedicated to overseeing this work in order to guide the conservation team on a more daily basis. There was a lack of administrative and clerical staff to assist in the financial management of the project. As the CEPF project was being implemented, the Visitor Centre was also being opened. This resulted in a large influx of new staff lacking experiencing, new activities and the necessity for capacity building across a wide variety of topics. This fell to the responsiblity of the General Manager and as a result the restoration activities were somewhat neglected, with the premise that the conservation team had many years of experience.
Other lessons learnt include the importance and value of trained and experienced staff for the implementation of the successful project.
There is a greater need to work with more international research groups to send students to do research projects at Ebony Forest as locally, there were insufficient students interested in doing such work. This in part was due to a lack of students at the University of Mauritius doing BSc projects.
The captive breeding of snails was not as easy as anticipated. Firstly, it was hard to find individuals in the wild. It was observed that the level of effort needed to find snails had significantly increased as the occurrence of the snails had dramatically declined over the last five years. It was thus decided that efforts are needed to protect the in situ snail population by reducing predation. An application to focus on the protection of snails is being submitted to the Mohammed Bin Zayed Foundation.
Secondly, it was decided that we should start captive breeding of all endemic snails, regardless of the risk of extinction, although all are threatened, so that we can learn more about the ecology of the snails and how best to captive breed them, and have a captive population before the situation becomes critical and it is hard to find stock. This will allow us in the future to use the most effective species-specific methods to breed these species.

Sustainability / Replication

Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

The restoration, conservation and education work will be sustained as this is part of our mission. The challenge is to find sustainable funding. Originally we anticipated that ecotourism could support the running costs of the project, however this is currently not the case after 2 years of opening to the public. This has given us the opportunity to seek ways in which we can diversify our revenue to include team-building events in nature, training, volunteer eco-tourism and strengthening our partnerships with corporate companies whom share similar values and want to support forest restoration or carbon offsetting. The project continues to develop as we learn innovative sustainable ways to engage with the public to raise awareness and to expand our capacity as an organization to have lasting and significant impacts on biodiversity.
It was a challenge initially to get schools to visit, but as we have become better known, we are steadily increasing the number of schools and associations visiting. This is important in our objective of raising awareness about the importance of native biodiversity. We currently mainly receive secondary schools, so the development of the education pack for primary school which will be given

to children for free will help attract more schools. This is important as we have noticed that schools are satisfied with their visit and send additional classes after the initial visit.

Safeguards

If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

Herbicide management plan is listed as a component. There were no other safeguards needing implementation.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

Na

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

Total additional funding (US$)
$588,944.00

Type of funding
Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:

A Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)
B Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)
C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)

A Project Co-financing *(other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of the project)*
TOTAL = $588,944

- **Plant donations received via the wall in the shop: Rs 52,500 ($1473);**
- **Ebony Forest Ltd: Rs 19,452,210, ($545,935) (February 2016 - March 2019);**
- **Jonathan Zaccaria expedition: Rs 60,385 ($1761);**
- **Elf in the Forest: Rs 23,581 ($688);**
- **Mauritius Commercial Bank Rs 1,162,569.50 ($ 32,628) for the education packs;**
- **Botanical Gardens Conservation International, Rs 45,000 ($1313);**
- **IBL Ltd Rs150,000 ($4,209), an additional Rs350,000 pledged;**
- **Private companies (Emcar Ltd, Swan Ltd) supported the visits of youth associations and charity groups who had requested us to find sponsorship (Rs 33,400, $ 937).**

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below

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