CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization's Legal Name:	Ebony Forest Ltd
Project Title:	Restoring Forest and Conserving Threatened Birds in Mauritius
Grant Number:	CEPF-109554
Hotspot:	Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands
Strategic Direction:	3 Strengthen civil society capacity at local and regional levels through training, exchanges and regional cooperation.
Grant Amount:	$201,219.56
Project Dates:	August 01, 2019 - June 30, 2022
Date of Report:	August 30, 2022

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

The deliverables were implemented by Ebony Forest. There were no sub-grantees. Permits and approvals were needed by the National Parks & Conservation Service for activities relating to native birds and the Forestry Service for permission to weed and plant in the mountain reserve.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Best-practice manual on cost-effective restoration practices for semi-dry intermediate forest used by at least three other organizations involved in restoration activities	The best-practice manual is being written. Once it has been completed it will be shared among other organisations implementing or wishing to implement forest restoration. The target audiences for the manual are environmental NGOs and private landowners whom have expressed an interest to restore forest or parts of their land, but have limited experience and are unclear on how to start. We are producing a more user-friendly manual as a technical manual was developed as part of a UNDP funded project overseen by the Forestry Services. We received feedback that this 100 page technical manual was overwhelming and deterred potential actors.

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Establishment and maintenance of 10 ha. of low predator density forest for native bird populations	We created a 19 ha low predator density forest for native bird populations in November 2020 (Goodnature + Timm's traps). The A24 Goodnature traps placed every 25 m to form the 19 ha. grid are checked every 3 months to change the bait and gas canister, if needed. The Timm's traps placed every 75 m are checked every 2 days. There has been a decrease in the number of rats, mongooses and cats present in the grid as detected from our bimonthly monitoring comparing predator numbers in the grid and in an area with no predator management. Due to delays in other activities, we amended the project and directed funds to expand the predator control grid to cover 50 ha. The traps arrived in May and the 50 ha. grid will be operational from September 2022.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Strengthened capacity of Ebony Forest Ltd in avifauna conservation, as demonstrated by the number of Ebony staff benefitting from a training linked to avifauna conservation	The Conservation Manager trained a total of 11 staff as a result of this project: Denis Li, Christelle Ferriere, Adisha Sewdyal, Dominique Baho, Elisa Laverdant, Antoine Riviere, Jean-Luc Casimir, Laurent Ayady, Kentish Bundhoo, Helene Bertille and Estelle de Sornay. Three have left the company; Jean-Luc Casimir emigrated after a year of training; Antoine Riviere went to work as a Sustainability Officer and Dominique Baho joined a commercial plant nursery. The staff were trained in a wide variety of avifauna conservation, including how to differentiate the birds, identification of birds from colour rings, bird ringing, bird handling, bird morphometrics, territory searches, nest watches, nest access, mist-netting, bird collection, bird translocation and bird release. In addition, associated skills such as data collection, reporting and statistics were gained. All the staff are now able to train new staff and volunteers in avifauna conservation and this is enabling greater capacity to be built. By building the capacity of the team, this CEPF grant has also contributed to long-term benefits as such skills are limited in the local workforce.
Increase in population size of the Echo Parakeet by 10 birds by June 2022	We only received permission from the National Park and Conservation Services to collect 10 Echo Parakeet chicks from the Black River Gorges National Park to release at Ebony Forest in December 2021. The number of birds was limited to ten as a near approach was being pioneered. On the

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	27th December 2021, 8 Echo chicks ages between 35 and 45 days old were collected from the Black River Gorges National Park and translocated to Ebony Forest. Two more chicks were collected on the 4th January 2022. Upon arrival at Ebony Forest, the chicks were placed in nest boxes in the Echo Parakeet release aviaries. The chicks were tube fed in the aviaries until they fledged and became independent. Once independent i.e. able to feed on their own and fly well, they were released in Ebony Forest on the 10th February 2022 increasing the population of Echo Parakeet in Ebony Forest to 10 birds. The birds are regularly seen feeding at the aviaries or around the area. Nine nest boxes have been installed at Ebony Forest, but none have been used yet by the Echo Parakeet.
Establishment of a new sub-population of Mauritius Kestrel by June 2022.	During the grant period, the installation of nest boxes attracted two pairs of Mauritius Kestrel that subsequently bred at Ebony Forest. One pair laid 4 eggs, but they were all infertile as the female is a young bird. The second pair had 3 eggs, but only one hatched and developed into a chick. The first time that a Kestrel chick was born at Ebony Forest was in January 2020, and subsequently in December 2020 when two chicks were born and ringed and successfully fledged. As the Kestrels have started to breed annually in the boxes, we can now say that we have establish a new sub-population. A total of ten Mauritius Kestrel nest boxes have been installed. We also liaised with the Mauritius National Park and Conservation Services (NPCS) for permission to collect and release more Kestrels so as to increase the sub-population. Following the signature of the MOU in April 2022 and discussions with the NPCS, we hope to release birds in October 2023.
Establishment of new sub-populations of Mauritius Fody, Mauritius Olive White-eye and Mauritius Cuckoo-shrike by June 2022.	As the MOU was only signed in April 2022, we were unable to reintroduce these passerines during the grant period. However, we worked on the diet, aviaries design and release protocols, submitted methodologies to and had multiple meetings with the National Park & Conservation Service for these three species. In June 2022, we were granted permission to hand rear and release Mauritius Olive White-eye in Ebony forest. The collection and hand-rearing of birds will start in September 2022. Approval was also given to collect Mauritius Fody from February 2023. Mauritius Cuckoo-shrike will be considered for September 2023.
Improved biodiversity management of 20 ha of Chamarel - Le Morne priority site, through	A total area of 7.56 ha. was first weeded and 10,026 native plants planted. To ensure that the sites that

Impact Description	Impact Summary
effective participation of private landowners in weeding and planting of native trees by June 2022	had been opened and planted were not overcome with exotic weeds, we focused efforts on maintenance weeding. When we originally calculated our capacity to achieve 20 ha., we used figures provided by our previous Site Supervisor. These numbers have proved erroneous and despite efficiency and productivity increasing following the recruitment of the Conservation Manager, we were unable to achieve this 20 ha. target given that much of the forest requiring to be weeded is highly degraded. Two lockdowns meant that more time was directed towards maintenance weeding to control the invasive weeds that had taken over when there was no management. We also received other grants and sponsorship to implement forest restoration work and so in total during the three years a total of 11.43 ha. was first weeded.
Involvement of at least 6 private sector companies in forest restoration activities such as weeding, planting, nursery work and bird conservation activities, 1000 children planting native trees, and at least 1500 children involved in awareness activities about native birds, forest restoration and the impact of predators.	Six private sector companies (Mauritius Commercial Bank, Ireland Blyth Ltd, Lottotech, Ecovardis, Livestock Feed Ltd and Currimjee Jeewanjee) and their staff were involved in forest restoration activities such as weeding, planting and nursery work. Activities by existing partners ceased due to Covid. Schools cancelled visits during March-September 2020 and March 2021 and March 2022 due to Covid-19. 2,419 children were involved in awareness activities about native birds, forest restoration and the impact of predators, but only 294 children were able to plant trees as covid restrictions during planting season limited this activity.

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?
The predator grid was set up mainly to protect the birds and enable the reintroduction of passerines, which are particularly sensitive to predation. A positive impact, albeit not so unexpected, is that the grid has been beneficial for other taxa such as plants, insects, reptiles and snails. More plant seedlings, insects and reptiles have been observed within the grid. This gave us an idea of the magnitude of impact that invasive predators have on the fauna and flora. Thus controlling predators has had an ecosystem-wide positive impact.

Furthermore, the removal of invasive plants had an unexpected positive impact for certain plants species (Homalium, Chassalia) that started to flower and have more fruits when exotics invasive species were removed close to them.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:
A total of 11 staff were trained as a result of this project: Denis Li, Christelle Ferriere, Adisha Sewdyal, Dominique Baho, Elisa Laverdant, Antoine Riviere, Jean-Luc Casimir, Laurent Ayady, Kentish Bundhoo, Helene Bertille and Estelle de Sornay. The staff were

trained in a wide variety of avifauna conservation, including how to differentiate the birds, identification of birds from colour rings, bird ringing, bird handling, bird morphometrics, territory searches, nest watches, nest access, mist-netting, bird collection, bird translocation and bird release. In addition, associated skills such as data collection, reporting and statistics were gained. All the staff are now able to train new staff and volunteers in avifauna conservation and this is enabling greater capacity to be built.

We established a 19 hectare predator grid composed of GoodNature traps A24 and A18, Timm's traps, caged traps and Larsen traps. It is effective in reducing the number of predators (rats, cats, mongoose, tenrecs), as shown by comparison with the control area. Additional traps were purchased to expand the grid to 50 hectares. They will be installed in September 2022. The 19 ha. predator control grid is currently the largest such grid in Mauritius.

10 kestrel boxes were installed in Ebony Forest and two pairs of Mauritius Kestrel bred at Ebony Forest. Five chicks were produced and ringed. As this is the second year that Mauritius Kestrel have bred annually in the boxes, we can now say that a new sub-population has established at Ebony Forest.

10 Echo Parakeet chicks were collected from the Black River Gorges National Park to release at Ebony Forest in December 2021. On the 27th December 2021, 8 Echo chicks ages between 35 and 45 days old were collected from the Black River Gorges National Park and translocated to Ebony Forest. Two more chicks were collected on the 4th January 2022. Upon arrival at Ebony Forest, the chicks were placed in nest boxes in the Echo Parakeet release aviaries where they were tube fed in the aviaries until they fledged and became independent. Once independent i.e. able to feed on their own and fly well, they were released in Ebony Forest on the 10th February 2022 increasing the population of Echo Parakeet in Ebony Forest to 10 birds. The birds are regularly seen feeding at the aviaries or around the area. Nine nest boxes have been installed at Ebony Forest, but none have been used yet by the Echo Parakeet. This was the first time that this method was used and its success has meant that future translocations will adopt this method.

The MOU for the long term management of the native bird species at Ebony Forest with the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security was signed on the 28th April 2022. It has been a long process involving lots of meeting, but the signing of the MOU enables the Director of National Parks & Conservation Service to authorize the bird reintroductions. It was subsequently agreed that the Olive White-eye can be translocated to Ebony Forest in October 2022. This will be the first translocation of a passerine on mainland Mauritius and has been enabled due to the presence of the predator control grid.

94 birds were ringed; 9 Pink Pigeon, 44 Mauritius Grey White-eye, 10 Mauritius Black Bulbul, 7 Mauritius Kestrels and 24 Mauritius Paradise Flycatcher. We are still finding unrung birds and new territories and at this stage cannot estimate how much of the population has been ringed, with the exception of the Pink Pigeon population where we know nearly all birds are ringed.

A total area of 7.56 ha. was first weeded and 10,026 native plants planted. Five new species were propagated in the nursery (Psiadia lithospermifolia, Crinum mauritianum, Trochetia blackburniana, Distephanus populifolius and Hyophorbe revaughanii).

A total of 2,419 children were involved in awareness activities about native birds, forest restoration and the impact of predators.

Ebony Forest organised and hosted three day conferences during the project:
3rd September 2020, "Conservation in Mauritius". The objective of the conference was to introduce and share the actions implemented by the main terrestrial conservation organizations in Mauritius so that future collaborations and networks can be created.
11th November 2021, "Young Researchers". The objective was to introduce and promote the young researchers in the field of Ecology and Conservation in Mauritius and to give them the opportunity to present their work to the public.
22nd June 2022, "Environmental Education in Mauritius". The aim of the conference was to share approaches used to raise awareness about the importance of the environment, monitor the effectiveness of activities, find solutions to common challenges and discuss how to collaborate to improve terrestrial and marine education.

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
9.0	Evaluation of Ebony Forest's contribution to Civil Society as specified by CEPF	9.1	CSTT report submitted	CSTT report done and submitted
1.0	Creation a 10 ha. predator grid	1.1	10 ha. area with a low predator density targetting rats, mongooses, cats, monkeys, pigs and dogs and area suitable for bird re-introductions as indicated by monthly and annual reports	We created a 19 ha low predator density grid composed of A24 Goodnature traps and Timm's traps. We measured a decrease in the number of rats, mongooses and cats present in the grid. We were delayed by the fabrication of traps for the pigs, dogs and monkeys as there was an issue with the supplier. As these animals are at low density, the delay in the receipt of the traps is not an issue. The traps were received in June and will be installed by September 2022 together with the expansion of the grid. Due to delays in other activities, funds remained and these have been diverted to expanding the predator control grid to 50 ha. across Ebony Forest. The expanded trapping grid will be operational from September 2022.
1.0	Creation a 10 ha. predator grid	1.4	Monthly reports on the predator control efforts	Monthly reports are written for the 19 ha predator control grid. We conducted a predator survey before activating the A24 Goodnature traps to assess the predator levels pre-control and to monitor the effectiveness of the trapping grid. For the Timm's trap and A24 Goodnature traps, we have a no-grid/trap area (i.e. control) that we monitor bimonthly

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				so we can compare with the grid and evaluate the effectiveness of the grid.
1.0	Creation a 10 ha. predator grid	1.3	Five persons (staff, volunteers, interns, people from other organisations) trained in how to establish and monitor a predator control grid as demonstrated by training and evaluation sheets	The Conservation Manager continued to train the staff in how to establish and monitor a predator control grid. All staff partake in the bimonthly monitoring of the grid effectiveness. A total of 10 staff have been trained: Denis Li, Christelle Ferriere, Adisha Sewdyal, Dominique Baho, Elisa Laverdant, Antoine Riviere, Jean-Luc Casimir, Laurent Ayady, Kentish Bundhoo and Estelle de Sornay. Eight volunteers (Allison Burgos, Ophelie Dupre, Laeticia Lebrette, Arcadie Fihney, Luke Voisey, Baptiste Fredouiel, Martin de Billy and Alban Nove-Josserand) were trained in predator control and assisted in monitoring the effectiveness of the grid.
2.0	Reduce the extinction risk of existing bird species at Ebony Forest: Mauritius Paradise Flycatcher, Mauritius Merle, Mauritius Grey white-eye, Pink Pigeon, Echo Parakeet	2.1	Increase population sizes of the Mauritius Paradise Flycatcher, Mauritius Merle, Pink Pigeon and Echo Parakeet as indicated by the monthly and annual reports, pictures, maps and minutes of meetings	Monthly surveys are conducted for all the bird species, as recorded in the monthly reports. We have not recorded a population increase in the Mauritius Paradise Flycatcher, Mauritius Merle and Mauritius Grey white-eye. There was an increase in the Echo Parakeet population from zero to 10 birds as a result of the hand-rearing and release of 10 birds. The number of Pink Pigeon increased from 16 to 29 birds. 85 birds were rung from mist-netting during the funding period, and 9 Pink Pigeons, refer to deliverable 2.8 for more details. Details are provided in the Ebony Forest 2020 and 2021 Annual Fauna Report.

Component		Deliverable		
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2.0	Reduce the extinction risk of existing bird species at Ebony Forest: Mauritius Paradise Flycatcher, Mauritius Merle, Mauritius Grey white-eye, Pink Pigeon, Echo Parakeet	2.2	Eight feeding stations in operation for the 5 species: 2 pink pigeon, 2 Echo Parakeet, 2 White-eyes (Olive & Grey), 2 Paradise Flycatcher/Mauritius Bulbul along raised walkway as indicated by photographs and a map	All feeding stations have been installed.
2.0	Reduce the extinction risk of existing bird species at Ebony Forest: Mauritius Paradise Flycatcher, Mauritius Merle, Mauritius Grey white-eye, Pink Pigeon, Echo Parakeet	2.3	Five trained local and international persons in (staff, people from other organisations) survey and monitoring of bird species as indicated by training and evaluation forms.	The Conservation Manager trained 11 staff (Denis Li, Christelle Ferriere, Adisha Sewdyal, Dominique Baho, Elisa Laverdant, Antoine Riviere, Jean-Luc Casimir, Laurent Ayady, Kentish Bundhoo, Helene Bertille and Estelle de Sornay). Eight international volunteers (Allison Burgos, Ophelie Dupre, Laeticia Lebrette, Arcadie Fihney, Luke Voisey, Baptiste Fredouiel, Martin de Billy and Alban Nove-Josserand) were subsequently trained by the staff in how to survey and monitor bird species.
2.0	Reduce the extinction risk of existing bird species at Ebony Forest: Mauritius Paradise Flycatcher, Mauritius Merle, Mauritius Grey white-eye, Pink Pigeon, Echo Parakeet	2.4	Five volunteers trained per annum in bird monitoring and conservation work as demonstrated by a signed training sheet.	Since the start of the project, 18 volunteers (French: Shivany Dagah, Florian Mattras, Arcadie Fineh, Baptiste Fredouiel, Martin de Billy, Alban Nove-Josserand ; British: Luke Voisey, Harrie Bickle; American: Allison Burgos; German: Vivien Grothe; Mauritian: Kelly Donald, Kenhi Yip Tong, Irfan Ellaheebuksh, Divya Bhookhun, Praveshika Tooree, Ophelie Dupre, Winifred Casimir and Laeticia Lebrette) participated in bird

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				monitoring but only Allison Burgos, Arcadie Fineh, Baptiste Fredouiel, Martin de Billy and Alban Nove-Josserand stayed long enough to be trained completely.
2.0	Reduce the extinction risk of existing bird species at Ebony Forest: Mauritius Paradise Flycatcher, Mauritius Merle, Mauritius Grey white-eye, Pink Pigeon, Echo Parakeet	2.5	Monthly and annual reports on the work done and on the abundance and distribution of the 5 species at Ebony Forest	Monthly and annual reports completed and attached.
2.0	Reduce the extinction risk of existing bird species at Ebony Forest: Mauritius Paradise Flycatcher, Mauritius Merle, Mauritius Grey white-eye, Pink Pigeon, Echo Parakeet	2.6	A partnership established with the Government of Mauritius for the long term management of the native bird species at Ebony Forest as indicated by a Memorandum of Understanding.	The MOU for the long term management of the native bird species at Ebony Forest with the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security was finally signed on the 28th April 2022. The signing of the MOU enables the Director of National Parks & Conservation Service to authorize the bird reintroductions. It has been a very long process with lots of meeting, but we finally got the MOU signed and this is going to help for the conservation and the long term management of multiple endemic fauna at Ebony Forest, starting with the Mauritius passerines.
2.0	Reduce the extinction risk of existing bird species at Ebony Forest: Mauritius Paradise Flycatcher, Mauritius Merle, Mauritius Grey white-eye, Pink Pigeon, Echo Parakeet	2.7	15 nest boxes installed in trees for Echo parakeets as indicated by photographs and maps	All 15 boxes have been made, of which 11 were installed. The remaining four boxes are being used in the release aviaries to host the Echo Parakeets chicks until they fledge and leave the nest. Once the releases are done the four boxes will be placed in areas favoured by the birds and where they will potentially want

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				to nest. Details are provided in the Ebony Forest monthly Fauna Report.
2.0	Reduce the extinction risk of existing bird species at Ebony Forest: Mauritius Paradise Flycatcher, Mauritius Merle, Mauritius Grey white-eye, Pink Pigeon, Echo Parakeet	2.8	At least 50 % of the population of the 5 species at Ebony Forest ringed as demonstrated in monthly reports.	During the funding period a total of 94 birds were ringed; 9 Pink Pigeon, 44 Mauritius Grey White-eye, 10 Mauritius Black Bulbul, 7 Mauritius Kestrels and 24 Mauritius Paradise Flycatcher. Details are provided in the Ebony Forest 2020 and 2021 Annual Fauna Reports. We are still finding unrung birds and new territories and at this stage cannot estimate how much of the population has been ringed, with the exception of the Pink Pigeon population where we know nearly all birds are ringed.
3.0	Release of Mauritius kestrel and provision of nest boxes at Ebony Forest	3.1	15 Mauritius Kestrel released at Ebony Forest as demonstrated in reports	No Mauritius Kestrel were released at Ebony Forest as we were waiting for the MOU to proceed with the translocation. Nevertheless, we prepared everything needed for the release, e.g. the hand-rearing room and food. Originally we had planned to import mice as this was standard procedure. Covid and the ensuing issues of importing things forced us to rethink the diet and we found a supplier of locally produced organic quail. Following the signature of the MOU on the 28th April 2022, we expect to start the releases in August 2023. The installation of the nest boxes however did lead to Mauritius Kestrel naturally colonizing Ebony Forest.

Component		Deliverable		
#	**Description**	**#**	**Description**	**Results for Deliverable**
3.0	Release of Mauritius kestrel and provision of nest boxes at Ebony Forest	3.2	Monthly and annual Monitoring & Evaluation Reports	Monthly and annual reports completed and attached.
3.0	Release of Mauritius kestrel and provision of nest boxes at Ebony Forest	3.3	10 kestrel boxes installed at Ebony Forest as indicated by reports	We have installed 10 nest boxes at Ebony Forest. Details are provided in the Ebony Forest 2020 and 2021 Annual Fauna Reports. We installed all the boxes, even though we have not done the release, because since the start of the project Mauritius Kestrel have naturally colonized Ebony Forest and are prospecting for potential nesting sites. As demonstrated by two pairs who nested and bred in the boxes.
3.0	Release of Mauritius kestrel and provision of nest boxes at Ebony Forest	3.4	5 persons per annum trained in kestrel bird monitoring and conservation work as demonstrated by signed training sheets.	Eleven staff have been trained in how to monitor and conserve kestrels. Eight are receiving ongoing training (Denis Li, Christelle Ferriere, Adisha Sewdyal, Elisa Laverdant, Estelle de Sornay, Laurent Ayady, Helene Bertille and Kentish Bundhoo). The other three persons are no longer employed by Ebony Forest.
3.0	Release of Mauritius kestrel and provision of nest boxes at Ebony Forest	3.5	3-5 persons trained per annum in hand-rearing and husbandry of the Mauritius Kestrel as demonstrated by signed training sheets. This deliverable is dependent on whether hand-rearing is needed to obtain Kestrel young.	No staff were trained in hand-rearing and husbandry of the Mauritius Kestrel. When the hand-rearing and husbandry of the Mauritius Kestrel starts we will train the staff. This is anticipated for October 2023.

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3.0	Release of Mauritius kestrel and provision of nest boxes at Ebony Forest	3.6	A partnership established with the Government of Mauritius for the long term management of the native bird species at Ebony Forest as indicated by a Memorandum of Understanding.	The MOU for the long term management of the native bird species at Ebony Forest with the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security was finally signed on the 28th April 2022. The signing of the MOU enables the Director of National Parks & Conservation Service to authorize the bird reintroductions. It has been a very long process with lots of meeting, but we finally got the MOU signed and this is going to help for the conservation and the long term management of multiple endemic fauna at Ebony Forest, starting with the Mauritius passerines.
4.0	Release of Mauritius Fody, Mauritius Olive White-eye and Mauritius Cuckoo-shrike at Ebony Forest	4.1	Increased global population of Mauritius Fody, Mauritius Olive White-eye and Mauritius Cuckoo-shrike as demonstrated in reports.	As the MOU was only signed in April 2022, we were unable to reintroduce these passerines during the grant period. However, we worked on the diet, aviaries design and release protocols, submitted methodologies to and had multiple meetings with the National Park & Conservation Service to finalise the procedures for these three species. In June 2022, we were granted permission to hand rear and release Mauritius Olive White-eye in Ebony forest. The collection and hand-rearing of birds will start in September 2022. Approval was also given to collect Mauritius Fody from February 2023. Mauritius Cuckoo-shrike will be considered for September 2023.
4.0	Release of Mauritius Fody, Mauritius Olive White-eye	4.2	16 feeding stations in total in operation for olive white eye (OWE), fody and cuckoo	The feeding stations have not yet been installed. It took time to refine and test multiple prototypes that will allow the target

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	and Mauritius Cuckoo-shrike at Ebony Forest		shrike as demonstrated by the monthly reports	species to feed, while excluding exotic competitors. The feeding stations will produced and will be installed in September 2022 in preparation for the release of the Olive white-eye and in February 2023 for the Mauritius fody.
4.0	Release of Mauritius Fody, Mauritius Olive White-eye and Mauritius Cuckoo-shrike at Ebony Forest	4.3	Monthly and annual reports on the bird releases	Monthly and annual reports completed and attached.
4.0	Release of Mauritius Fody, Mauritius Olive White-eye and Mauritius Cuckoo-shrike at Ebony Forest	4.4	Five trained local and international persons in survey and monitoring of birds as demonstrated by signed training sheets	The Conservation Manager trained a total of 11 staff (Denis Li, Christelle Ferriere, Adisha Sewdyal, Dominique Baho, Elisa Laverdant, Antoine Riviere, Jean-Luc Casimir, Laurent Ayady, Kentish Bundhoo, Helene Bertille and Estelle de Sornay) whom subsequently trained 8 volunteers (Allison Burgos, Ophelie Dupre, Laeticia Lebrette, Arcadie Fihney, Luke Voisey, Baptiste Fredouiel, Martin de Billy and Alban Nove-Josserand) in how to survey and monitor bird species.
4.0	Release of Mauritius Fody, Mauritius Olive White-eye and Mauritius Cuckoo-shrike at Ebony Forest	4.5	A partnership established with the Government of Mauritius for the long term management of the native bird species at Ebony Forest as indicated by a Memorandum of Understanding.	The MOU for the long term management of the native bird species at Ebony Forest with the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security was finally signed on the 28th April 2022. The signing of the MOU enables the Director of National Parks & Conservation Service to authorize the bird reintroductions. It has been a very long process with lots of meeting, but we finally got the MOU signed and this is going to help for the conservation

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				and the long term management of multiple endemic fauna at Ebony Forest, starting with the Mauritius passerines.
5.0	Restoration of 20 ha. of degraded forest at Ebony Forest.	5.1	Copy of Employment Contracts and TOR and 20 ha. of invaded native forest weeded as indicated by reports.	A total of 11 staff (6 men and 5 women) were employed during the grant. The total area first weeded since the start of the project is 7.56 ha (2019 = 1 ha; 2020 = 2.9 ha; 2021 = 1.46 ha; 2022 = 2.2 ha) first weeded. To ensure that the sites that had been opened and planted were not overcome with exotic weeds, we focused efforts on maintenance weeding, a total of 29.4 ha was maintenance weeded. There were two lockdowns totalling 4.5 months due to Covid, which delayed the weeding and meant resources had to be directed to maintenance weeding. When we originally calculated our capacity to achieve 20 ha., we used figures provided by our previous Site Supervisor. These numbers have proved erroneous and despite efficiency and productivity increasing following the recruitment of the Conservation Manager, we are unlikely to be able to achieve this 20 ha. target given that much of the forest requiring to be weeded is highly degraded.
5.0	Restoration of 20 ha. of degraded forest at Ebony Forest.	5.2	Herbicide Management Plan implemented as demonstrated by reports and signed training sheets	The new members of staff in the weeding team were trained in the use of herbicide. Procedures continue to be regularly checked. The Herbicide Management Plan was implemented.

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5.0	Restoration of 20 ha. of degraded forest at Ebony Forest.	5.3	Planting of a minimum of 24,000 indigenous species and those favoured by bird species.	A total of 10,026 plants planted. Details are provided in the Annual Flora Conservation Report 2020 and 2021 and monthly reports.
5.0	Restoration of 20 ha. of degraded forest at Ebony Forest.	5.4	5 additional species propagated in the nursery as demonstrated by the monthly and annual reports	A total of nine new species were propagated in the nursery to-date (Psiadia lithospermifolia, Diospyros melanida, Syzigium guehoi, Crinum mauritianum, Trochetia blackburniana, Distephanus populifolius, Pouzolzia laevigata, Urena lobata sinuata var multifida and Hyophorbe vaughanii).
5.0	Restoration of 20 ha. of degraded forest at Ebony Forest.	5.5	Monthly and annual reports documenting the plant restoration activities at Ebony Forest	Monthly reports were written and data compiled in a database. Monthly reports are attached.
5.0	Restoration of 20 ha. of degraded forest at Ebony Forest.	5.6	Best-practice manual on restoration approaches for a semi-dry forest	The best-practice manual is being written. Once completed it will be shared among other organisations implementing or wishing to implement forest restoration. The target audiences for the manual are environmental NGOs and private landowners whom have expressed an interest to restore forest or parts of their land, but have limited experience and are unclear on how to start. We are producing a more user-friendly manual as a technical manual was developed as part of a UNDP funded project overseen by the Forestry Services. We received feedback that this 100 page technical manual was overwhelming and deterred potential actors.

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6.0	Public awareness about forest restoration, impact of predators and bird conservation	6.1	Evaluation report on capacity of the nursery supervisor, coordinators and field staff trained to interact with school children and the public	Training and evaluations were ongoing as materials continue to evolve and activities adapted. The nursery supervisor, coordinators and field staff received mostly positive reports on their interactions. Constructive feedback was provided when needed.
6.0	Public awareness about forest restoration, impact of predators and bird conservation	6.2	Evaluation report documenting how five Ebony Forest guides were trained in predator control and bird identification and their results	Training and evaluations were ongoing. The five Ebony Forest guides were trained in predator control and bird identification and had positive results. Constructive feedback was provided when needed.
6.0	Public awareness about forest restoration, impact of predators and bird conservation	6.3	1000 children contribute to planting one native species each as demonstrated by education report	Due to the Covid restrictions, limited school visits and two lockdowns and restrictions being imposed during the planting season, only 294 children were able to plant trees.
6.0	Public awareness about forest restoration, impact of predators and bird conservation	6.4	Awareness activity with at least 500 school children per annum about the impact of predators on native biodiversity, native birds and forest restoration: at Ebony or on school outings as demonstrated by education report	A total of 2,419 children were involved in awareness activities about native birds, forest restoration and the impact of predators.
6.0	Public awareness about forest restoration, impact of predators and bird conservation	6.5	Nine native bird stickers designed and 500 distributed per annum	The format from individual stickers to posters was changed so that children could see all the birds at once and compare between native and exotic birds. We felt that there would be more educational value in the poster than individual stickers. The two posters (native

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				and exotic) are distributed to visiting school children. As fewer schools visited due to covid-19, we did not attain our target of distributing 500 per annuum. The distribution of posters will continue beyond the project period.
6.0	Public awareness about forest restoration, impact of predators and bird conservation	6.6	Native and exotic bird checklist available for visitors	We created a digital checklist on Inaturalist.org to go paperless, reduce our carbon footprint and at the same time enable us to edit and modify it more readily. Visitors can log in and check for the birds they see on site. The link to our checklist is https://www.inaturalist.org/people/ebony_forest_reserve.
6.0	Public awareness about forest restoration, impact of predators and bird conservation	6.7	Online marketing via website and social media as demonstrated by 6 blogs and 30 Facebook posts per annum and up-to-date website	111 Facebook posts were broadcast during the span of the grant. 8 blogs were written but none posted as we are struggling with the responsiveness of the website provider. See link below to some of the Facebook post (character limited): https://www.facebook.com/EbonyForestChamarel/posts/pfbid02bbNDmFCVwin9en3H7eGLxt7hHdJmWD5wGohFbCHkedi8oFpewdx3JjMgEmfUXjNxl https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=538252304494050 https://www.facebook.com/EbonyForestChamarel/posts/pfbid02Q3G2QCju4YJqMwQ9qG6wJp2YhP3kUKstcb1LRmRDSPmkXS8TuP1QgYnyRyU4LBVQl

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				https://www.facebook.com/EbonyForestChamarel/posts/pfbid0hY3LtcdtuExQnu8nsHuoWigaAcWWoqDQLJFBcLg3yKMyiUVjkKUWZEVRKJskUhL6l https://www.facebook.com/EbonyForestChamarel/posts/pfbid024GTg6vaNA1F31EtgLeeZ9nvC1HTszVPCaidaZfxCqG3fHmKJcq6KminwLFmKq5V6l https://www.facebook.com/EbonyForestChamarel/posts/pfbid02SLAxBy1XSecZa9WF94ULLFP8RieZbBZo6pXH86Lio8PpFCj6riqSsYJn9nP9TfYEl https://www.facebook.com/EbonyForestChamarel/posts/pfbid09iVvsjNUPHcxbdocDo923vxyFWjLH4rihcWb8zz2KgSmYC1ZKnRzveGQzqs12tu5l https://www.facebook.com/EbonyForestChamarel/posts/pfbid0hY3LtcdtuExQnu8nsHuoWigaAcWWoqDQLJFBcLg3yKMyiUVjkKUWZEVRKJskUhL6l https://www.facebook.com/EbonyForestChamarel/posts/pfbid0dCfZDRFr1TdVAj345bLJR8Pios6hKcvgGnkk6Q2rq1Tase5UT18AQaV
6.0	Public awareness about forest restoration, impact of predators and bird conservation	6.8	Six private sector companies participating in weeding, planting, nursery and bird conservation activities as demonstrated by attendance sheets, photographs, and marketing reports.	Six private sector companies (Mauritius Commercial Bank, Ireland Blyth Ltd, Lottotech, Ecovardis, Livestock Feed Ltd and Currimjee Jeewanjee) were involved in forest restoration activities such as weeding, planting and nursery work. Activities ceased as a result of covid.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
7.0	Capacity building with the private sector and non-governmental organizations on forest restoration, predator control and bird conservation	7.1	1 day conference annually with at least 6 private sector + NGO representatives to share results and discuss conservation practices concerning predator control, forest restoration + bird conservation as demonstrated by attendance sheet + programme summary	Ebony Forest organised and hosted three day conferences during the project: 3rd September 2020, "Conservation in Mauritius". The objective of the conference was to introduce and share the actions implemented by the main terrestrial conservation organizations in Mauritius, so that future collaborations and networks can be created. 11th November 2021, "Promoting our Mauritian Researchers". The objective was to introduce and promote the young researchers in the field of Ecology and Conservation in Mauritius, and to give them the opportunity to present their work to the public. 22nd June 2022, "Environmental Education in Mauritius". The aim of the conference was to share approaches used to raise awareness about the importance of the environment, monitor the effectiveness of activities, find solutions to common challenges and discuss how to collaborate to improve terrestrial and marine education. We had several NGO an private represenattive inthe conferences (ERAOI, MWF, FORENA, Ferney Valley, Vallee des Couleures, CSBO, Odysseo, Ecole du Centre, le Bocage, University of Mauritius, Linkby Net)
8.0	Sustainable financing sourced for planting work	8.1	Funding obtained from the private sector and visitors to plant 20,000 native plants	A total of 5003 plants have been sponsored by private companies (Currimjee Jeewanjee, Extension Interactive Ltd, IBL, Livestock Feed

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
			as demonstrated by the financial reports and agreements	Ltd, Mauritius commercial bank, Mediatiz Ltd, Offshore Services Ltd, Outdoor Furniture Ltd, Pimlico High School, Think Recruitment, Yarinde.nl) and visitors to Ebony Forest.
1.0	Creation a 10 ha. predator grid	1.2	Predator traps received and installed in the field	A total of 420 A24 Goodnature traps, 190 A18 Goodnature traps, 66 Timm's traps and 57 cage traps were purchased for the 50 ha. predator control grid. 320 A24 Goodnature traps and 40 Timm's traps were installed since November 2020. The remaining traps will be installed in September 2022. An additional 124 A24 traps purchased by a National Geographic Society grant will enable the implementation of the 50 ha. grid.
1.0	Creation a 10 ha. predator grid	1.5	Annual reports on the predator control efforts	Two annual reports (2020, 2021) were written for the 19 ha predator control grid.

Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:
We developed a new approach for the release of the Echo parakeet at Ebony Forest using much younger birds. Previous releases involved the translocation of older birds and these had no or limited success as the majority of birds returned to their original site of capture. This low site fidelity, reported also in the release of birds at Ferney Valley, is likely because older birds had developed spatial memory of their home. We hoped that translocating younger individuals without this cognitive memory could increase site fidelity and this seems to have been the case. There were concerns that the younger birds would be more stressed, but in fact, we noted that the juveniles were calm, didn't exhibit stress and didn't get PBFD as a result. In order to trial this new approach, we were only allowed to translocate 10 birds. The success has enabled the National Parks and Conservation Services to allow us to harvest and hand-feed 40 birds in the next season at the end of 2022.

We refined approaches used for the restoration of dry forest. The manual for this approach is attached.

PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
1.2	Awareness of the values of biodiversity and the nature of threats and drivers raised among local communities in at least 25 priority sites.			1	
1.3	Effective participation of local communities in the management of at least 10 new protected areas at priority sites.			0	
1.4	Mechanisms for effective participation of private landowners in improved biodiversity management on private lands for at least four priority sites.			1	If we, as Ebony Forest count.
2.2	At least three platforms or dialogues positively engaging stakeholders from development agencies, government and local authorities and			0	Unless social media such as Facebook and Instagram count

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	private sector, in place and delivering results for mainstreaming biodiversity in decision-making.				
2.5	At least five partnerships between civil society organizations and private sector companies or professional organizations lead to concrete actions benefitting biodiversity conservation.			1	If the MOU counts

GLOBAL INDICATORS

Protected Areas

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID*	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original Total Size (Hectares) **	New Protected Hectares ***	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion

*World Database of Protected Areas

**If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

*** This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management
Chamarel - Le Morne	MUS3		50

Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
Ebony Forest, Chamarel	57.37175	-20.43479	50	Forest restoration (weeding and planting) of parts of the site and implementation of predator control. Adoption of good practice forest restoration approaches to landscape management and control of invasive species, including mammalian predators.

Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
10	9	Staff were trained in a wide variety of avifauna conservation, including how to differentiate the birds, identification of birds from colour rings, bird ringing, bird handling, bird morphometrics,

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
		territory searches, nest watches, nest access, mist-netting, bird collection, bird translocation and bird release. In addition, associated skills such as data collection, reporting and statistics were gained. Staff were also trained in forest restoration, survey methods and plant propagation.

- **Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
5	4	Salary as employed in forest restoration activities. Following the training and improved skill set, staff also received a pay rise.

Benefits to Communities

View the **characteristics** column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the **benefits** column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	**Community Characteristics**							**Type of Benefit**								**Country**	**Number of Males Benefitting**	**Number of Females Benefitting**
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**a**	**b**	**c**	**d**	**e**	**f**	**g**	**h**	**i**			

Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

Policies, Laws and Regulations

View the **topics** column below with the following corresponding codes:			
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	**Name of Law**	**Scope**	**Topics**														
			A	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**I**	**J**	**K**	**L**	**M**	**N**	**O**	**P**

"Other" Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment

Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

A company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted

Networks and Partnerships

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/ Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
National Parks & Conservation Services (Government)	2017	Mauritius	No	NPCS is an implementing partner that approves all endemic and native fauna work. The fauna work is a long term commitment and this partnership will be maintained as long as the fauna is managed. The

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/ Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
				partnership was established during a prior CEPF project.
Forestry Services (Government)	2012	Mauritius	No	As part of the site falls within mountain reserve, we are required to obtain permits to weed in these areas. As the restoration of the sites will continue beyond this three year project, we will continue to maintain this partnership. We will also continue to assist in policy development and action plans related to forest and landscape management.
Goodnature	2020	New Zealand	Yes	Following the purchase of a large number of Goodnature traps, the company contacted us to obtain feedback on the efficiency of their traps and recommend design modifications. We provide information on operation and monitoring procedures. Goodnature have subsequently donated traps for our predator control grid.

Sustainable Financing

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/ Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?

Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Albizia	vaughanii		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Stable
Acanthophoenix	rubra		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Barleria	observatrix		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Hypsipetes	olivaceus	Mauritius Black Bulbul	VU	Species habitat protection and restoration, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Canarium	paniculatum		EN	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Coffea	macrocarpa		VU	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Coffea	mauritiana		VU	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Stable
Coffea	myrtifolia		EN	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Dictyosperma	album		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Diospyros	boutoniana		VU	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Stable
Diospyros	chrysophyllos		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Diospyros	egrettarum		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Diospyros	hemiteles		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Stable
Diospyros	leucomelas		VU	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Stable
Diospyros	neraudii		VU	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Stable
Diospyros	melanida		VU	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Diospyros	revaughanii		VU	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Stable
Diospyros	tessellaria	Black Ebony	VU	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Dombeya	acutangula		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Dracaena	concinna		EN	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Eugenia	crassipetala		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Eugenia	vaughanii		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Stable

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Ficus	lateriflora		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Stable
Gaertnera	truncata		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Stable
Hibiscus	fragilis		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Hyophorbe	lagenicaulis	Bottle Palm	CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Hyophorbe	vaughanii		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Latania	loddigesii		EN	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Olax	psittacorum		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Pandanus	pyramidalis		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Stable
Polyscias	dichroostachya		EN	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Polyscias	gracilis		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Stable
Polyscias	paniculata		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Stable

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Poupartia	borbonica		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Poupartia	pubescens		EN	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Senecio	lamarckianus		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Decreasing
Syzygium	guehoi		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Tabernaemontana	persicariifolia		EN	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Stable
Zanthoxylum	heterophyllum		CR	Plant propagation, planting, species habitat protection, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Ctenophila	vorticella		VU	Species habitat protection and restoration, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Unknown
Caldwellia	imperfecta		VU	Species habitat protection and restoration, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Unknown
Caldwellia	imperfecta		VU	Species habitat protection and restoration, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Unknown
Dupontia	nitella		VU	Species habitat protection and restoration, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Unknown
Erepta	odontina		EN	Species habitat protection and restoration, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Unknown

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Gonospira	teres		VU	Species habitat protection and restoration, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Unknown
Pteropus	niger	Black-Spined Fruit Bat	EN	Species habitat protection and restoration, species monitoring and removal of invasive flora.	Unknown
Nesoenas	mayeri	Pink Pigeon	VU	Species habitat protection and restoration, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Psittacula	eques	Mascarene Parrakeet	VU	Species habitat protection and restoration, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing
Falco	punctatus	Mauritius Kestrel	EN	Species habitat protection and restoration, species monitoring and removal of invasive fauna and flora.	Increasing

LESSONS LEARNED

When we planned the project for the letter of intent, we calculated that we would be able to weed 20 ha. in the three year period. We were unable to meet this target. Even without Covid impeding our work, it is unlikely we would have been able to attain this ambitious amount. In future, it would be better to be more conservative in our estimates.

The closure of borders and subsequent significant increase in freight costs forced us to rethink our supply chain. We had planned to import mice to feed to some of the bird species as these have been used for decades as part of their diet. The astronomical cost of importing mice caused us to review their diet. By doing so, we found that we could use local alternatives such as organic quail. It also resulted in us developing our own insect (cricket, cockroach, soldier fly larva) food. This helped us reduce our carbon footprint and ensured that we have our own sustainable food sources. This experience encouraged us to reflect and question other well-established procedures.

A major hindrance to our work was that our MOU with the Government, submitted in 2018, was not issued until April 2022. The MOU took much longer than anticipated and as a result we were limited in the activities that could be achieved. It would have been more logical to have been granted the permission before submitting the proposal. That said, the grant helped push for the MOU.

A key component of engaging the community in our project is enabling people to plant a tree. While volunteers help in terms of person-power, we have found that plant survivorship is lower in areas planted by volunteers, despite them always being accompanied by our team. One of the reasons is that volunteers are often focused on the quantity of trees they plant rather than planting saplings well. Volunteer planting days thus require a reasonable number of experienced staff to ensure the volunteers respect the protocols. Measuring plant survivorship across different sites enables such data to be collected and inform of the best methods.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

This project has significantly helped us take a massive step forward in conservation actions as we have been able to invest in materials and equipment that will continue to be utilized for many years to come. Without the support of CEPF, we would have taken a much longer time to implement these actions. For example, the purchase a large number of self-setting predator traps is a major investment, which has far-reaching benefits across multiple taxa and has enabled the first passerine translocation to occur to a mainland site in Mauritius. Previously passerine birds were only released on predator-free offshore islands. The success of the grid has encouraged the government to plan to establish another mainland grid that will help safeguard source populations. We will also establish a predator control grid at Vallee De L'Est, a forest site that we manage and plan to replicate the same bird releases as we have done at Ebony Forest. One of the reasons that the predator control grid has been so effective is that while one person is responsible for its management, all the other 6 conservation staff are involved in checking its effectiveness and changing gas canisters so as to facilitate monitoring, increase staff capacity and team-work, and ensure that everyone has a vested interest in it.

While we were not able to do all the bird releases planned, we have purchased and prepared all the equipment needed. Hence, like for the predator control grid, projected costs to maintain and implement these components will be primarily for staff salaries, transport costs and consumables. CEPF will thus continue to contribute to these projects beyond the project period. As a result of initiating new activities due to this CEPF grant (bird releases, predator control), we have attracted greater awareness among the public that we are a biodiversity conservation organisation as opposed to being previously only perceived as an ecotouristic site. This is helping us to attract local funding partners interested in supporting conservation. We do not see funding as a potential challenge to sustaining these projects. In 2021, we converted from a company limited by shares to one limited by guarantee and are currently trying to convert to an NGO in order to be able to benefit for a wider range of local funding opportunities.

The project has involved numerous meetings and frequent communication with the National Parks and Conservation Services helping us to strengthen and develop a good working relationship with them. This is critical for maintaining the actions at Ebony Forest and establishing new sites. They are encouraging us to replicate the actions at our other conservation site, Vallee De L'Est and we we are in discussions to obtain the rights to manage additional biodiversity-important areas where we would like to restore the flora and fauna, applying similar approaches used during this CEPF project. The Government has said that we will need to be an NGO to work on such sites.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

All other safeguards were listed at the start of the project except those relating to the bird translocations as the actual methods were not confirmed.
The Echo Parakeet fledglings were not stressed as chicks nor fledglings. Previously when older birds have been translocated, they are often stressed and this effects the success of the reintroduction. The decision was also taken to harvest only half the clutch so that the parents would not be stressed by the loss of their chicks and should the translocation fail offspring from the parents would still be produced.

The National Parks & Conservation Service were and will continue to be provided with monthly reports about any native fauna interventions. For the hand-rearing of the Echo Parakeets, NPCS and the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation were provided with daily reports on each bird.

The Forestry Service are provided with reports about restoration work in the mountain reserve.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	$320,019.00

Breakdown of Additional Funding	Details USD Counter-funder / in-kind Salaries 40,152 Gov. of Mauritius as part of the Government Wage Assistance Scheme (Covid subsidy) Salaries 131,054 Ebony Forest Salaries (HR, procurement, accounting, health & safety, IT) 12,038 Bioculture (in-kind) Levies 39,600 Ebony Forest Administrative fee (water, electricity, telephone, internet, cleaning, stationary) 9,504 Ebony Forest MV fuel (transport staff + materials) 16,500 Ebony Forest MV and equip. maintenance 7,920 Ebony Forest Herbicide 4,940 Ebony Forest Staff welfare and amenities 1,584 Ebony Forest Insurance 2,640 Ebony Forest Incubators 3,531 La Vanille Nature Park A24 traps 14,256 National Geographic Society Plants propagated for planting 36,300 Ebony Forest Total 320,019

INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

Ebony Forest, info@ebonyforest.com