

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Francois Leguat Ltd
<b>Project Title:</b>	Expanding Rodrigues Dry Coastal Forest at Plaine Corail in Mauritius to Protect Threatened Biodiversity
<b>Grant Number:</b>	65991
<b>CEPF Region:</b>	Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	2 Enable civil society to mainstream biodiversity and conservation into political and economic decision-making.
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$58,954.00
<b>Project Dates:</b>	April 01, 2016 - May 31, 2019
<b>Date of Report:</b>	October 05, 2019

### Implementation Partners

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

#### 1. The Rodrigues Regional Assembly ( RRA)

a. Granted authorisation to Francois Leguat Reserve to create A Garden Corner of endemic and indigenous plants in the primary and secondary schools. So far, this project has been completed in 8 establishments, namely: La Ferme and arechal Colleges, Araucaria, Mont Charlot, Montagne Goyave and Anse Quitor Community primary Schools and Oyster Bay and Grand La Fouche Corail Government Primary Scholols

b. The RRA sees the Francois Reserve as a model and an example for the implementation of sustainable development project . Whenever possible, it includes a visit of its distinguished guests to visit the Reserve. For instance, the Secretary General of UNWTO visited briefly the Reserve accompanied by the Mauritian and the Seychelles Tourism Ministers, the Head of Tourism in Reunion and the Vice- President of Air Mauritius Ltd in August 2017. Furthermore the RRA included the Francois Leguat Reserve in the program of l'Universite Rurale de l'Ocean Indien in June 2019

#### 2. The Rotary Club de Rodrigues

a. Partner in the project of greening the yard of the community centre of Anse Aux Anglais

b. Project write-up addressed to the Commission for Tourism to rgree the surrounding of Caverne Patate - a prized tourism site on the island.

### Conservation Impacts

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

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 Rodrigues.	Francois Leguat Reserve is already an extension of the conservation area in the south west as it is situated adjacent to the Anse Quitor Nature Reserve. Francois Leguat Ltd has submitted an application to the local authority for the extension by at least 6 hectares of the Reserve either south or north bound and is awaiting a positive reply. Furthermore, Francois Leguat Ltd is in the for front to help mitigate the impact of a new runway at Plaine Corail. The proposal is that the local authority includes in the project a compensatory measure to reforest at least an area of 9hectares , the size of the new runway on the limestone plaine in the surrounding of Plaine Corail.
? Greater civil society involvement and awareness of the conservation and restoration of native biodiversity.	The partnership with the Rotary, Rotaract, Interact clubs whose motto is Service Aboveself, the Association of Women Entrepreneur, the schools and colleges, has directly and indirectly helped to create a greater awareness through a wide range of the local population. The local population now perceive the Reserve as a place to acquire knowledge and an example of what could be achieved in the field of conservation and restoration of native biodiversity
? Shift in the use of non-native to native plants in landscaping.	The creation of endemic plants garden corners in the schools, public garden, yards of village community centres has spearheaded the use of natives plants in landscaping on the island. We are having more and more requests to support this endeavor.
? Capacity building for future conservation projects.	The number of youngsters who received training (1000) and the number of children, parents, teachers, decision makers, private sector employers and owners , both women and men that have been directly sensitized have enabled the Francois Leguat Reserve to build capacity to ensure the success and sustainabilityof future conservation projects. The CEPF investment has increased the visibility of the Francois Leguat Reserve as successful model of integrated and sustainable development project. The local people are more motivated because Francois Leguat Reserve is a proof that men and women of today have the capacity, knowledge and the resources necessary to create a better world.

<p>? Reduce the risk of extinction of threatened flora such as <i>Zanthoxylum paniculatum</i>, <i>Antirhea bifurcata</i>, <i>Scolopia heterophylla</i>, <i>Dictyopserma album</i>, <i>Hibiscus liliiflorus</i>, <i>Poupartia castanea</i>.</p>	<p>The young <i>Zanthoxylum paniculatum</i> which is found in the Francois Leguat Reserve is closely monitored whereas the others are being propagated successfully.</p>
<p>? Improve habitat and food available for the Critically Endangered Rodrigues golden bat (<i>Pteropus rodricensis</i>), which roosts on site and in the adjacent Anse Quito Nature Reserve.</p>	<p>the number of bats feeding in the Reserve have considerably improved since the start of the project and the improved habitat of the Reserve offers not only food but shelter to them particularly during extreme weather conditions such as violent cyclones. Interestingly after a cyclone, the number of bats feeding and sheltering in the Reserve increases considerably.</p>
<p>? Provide suitable habitat for the Near Threatened Rodrigues warbler (<i>Acrocephalus rodericanus</i>) and fody (<i>Foudia flavicans</i>). The dry forest of Anse Quito Nature Reserve and FLL is believed to contain suitable habitat to support populations of both species. The absence of forest corridors connecting their current range in Grande Montagne is believed to prevent these species from moving to the lowland forest. Translocations of these species to Anse Quito are proposed conservation actions (BirdLife International 2013).</p>	<p>As the restoration works progress, the likelihood of the two passerines colonizing the Francois Leguat Reserve and the Anse Quito Nature Reserve is becoming more and more obvious. One female Rodrigues warbler was spotted by the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation staff in Anse Quito in 2018. According to a recent survey, the passerines have reached Grand and Camp Pintade, two villages respectively east and west of the project site.</p>
<p>? Increase in, once abundant, white-tailed tropic birds (<i>Phaeton lepturus</i>) by increasing the number of suitable nesting trees. The population at the Reserve has doubled to 60 pairs since the reforestation programme began (pers. obs.).</p>	<p>The rehabilitation of the forest is conducive to the increase of the wildlife particularly the white tropic bird. There is less interference by humans and other exotic introduced animals. The population is therefore on the increase. We still have to set up a proper scientific monitoring mechanism to measure the progress of the population of Tropic Birds and also the setting of traps to control feral cats. Also we need to devise a control method to control the population of feral pigeons who are increasingly competing for nesting ground with the tropic birds.</p>

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

<b>Impact Description</b>	<b>Impact Summary</b>
<p>? Establishment of a nursery for the propagation of indigenous plants. ? Propagation and planting of indigenous plant species.</p>	<p>This has been fully achieved and Francois Leguat Reserve has taken the necessary steps to continue the management of the nursery to supply plants for future projects in the remaining schools of Rodrigues, private companies, the local authority and public places.</p>
<p>? Creation of 6 ha. of native forest involving the planting of more than 100,000 native plants.</p>	<p>The production of 100,000 plants has been achieved but due to unforeseen circumstances which are beyond our control, for instance the weather, only 85% of the seedlings have been planted in the Reserve. The target is to reach the 100000 plants planted by the end of 2019 provided there is no unexpected variations in the weather pattern</p>

? Attain plant survivorship rate of more than 60%.	The area under cultivation has increased by 6 hectares and the estimated survival of plants is around 65%
? Increase in the number of persons trained in native plant propagation.	Two persons ( one woman and one man) who were employed full time on the project are now fully trained. 30 youngsters have had basic training in plant propagation. The creation of 8 endemic plants' gardens, have given the opportunity to an estimate 1500 students, 130 teachers and non teachers to familiarise with native plants propagation.
? Local (30 persons) and international (15 persons) volunteer programme in conservation and education activities.	40 local youngsters and 37 internationals volunteered since 2016 to 2019. Three international volunteers have produced a presentation on the work of the Francois Leguat Reserve in Germany, Russia and Reunion Island. Four local volunteers presented a project to their respective training Eestablishmement on different aspects of the Reserve.
? Workshops with women and youth groups on biodiversity conservation and need to reforest Rodrigues.	The CEPF project has enabled targeted youth groups and women to become more aware of the importance of increasing the forest cover of the island. This is a long term project and the feedback on future projects to be undertaken by beneficiaries of the CEPF support is very encouraging.

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

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

## Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Propagation of 100,000 indigenous plants.	1.1	Plant propagation nursery	Though the Plant propagation nursery took some time to set up, we were able to catch up so that the targeted production of 100,000 plants have been achieved in 2019. Francois Leguat Ltd will continue to manage the plant nursery for future conservation projects and also to continue servicing the school endemic garden project. Furthermore, we have applied to the local government for an extension of the Reserve by at least 9 hectares. If the application is considered and approved, the plant nursery will be fully operational.
1	Propagation of 100,000 indigenous plants.	1.2	Two trained nursery staff in position.	This has been achieved. The two persons, Mr. Liraud Flore and Mrs Sharone Ismael were employed on a contract, trained and now they are fully conversant with the plant nursery management. Their contract came to an end in May 2019. Unfortunately, the Reserve could not keep them but for future projects, we shall give them priority of employment.
1	Propagation of 100,000 indigenous plants.	1.3	Annual nursery report.	The annual nursery reports will be attached.
2	Recreation of 6 ha. of native forest at Francois Leguat Reserve.	2.1	6 ha. of degraded land replanted with native species (maps and pictures in annual restoration report)	The maps of the restoration project will be attached
2	Recreation of 6 ha. of native forest at Francois Leguat Reserve.	2.2	Annual restoration report.	
2	Recreation of 6 ha. of native forest at Francois Leguat	2.3	Raised awareness about the importance of	The awareness campaign has largely gone beyond the target

	Reserve.		protecting Rodrigues' flora. Evaluation with questionnaires and tests pre- and post- visit to FLR. Target aim 200 people in the first year, 400 in the second year and 400 in the third year.	
3	Raised awareness of community youth and women in forest conservation.	3.1	3 workshops for 180 local people about conservation. Minutes and participants lists .	The participants lists attached
3	Raised awareness of community youth and women in forest conservation.	3.2	Involvement of 180 children over three years from the Interact Club of Rodrigues College and Community Interact Club of Rodrigues in plant propagation and planting and monitoring of 60m <sup>2</sup> at the Reserve. Minutes and participants lists.	This has been achieved and the relevant documents are attached
3	Raised awareness of	3.3	Participation of 3 school	This activity has been achieved and has gone beyond target

	community youth and women in forest conservation.		groups (30 pupils and 2 teachers per group) in planting activities and raising awareness about the need to safeguard Rodrigues' biodiversity. Minutes and participants lists.	
3	Raised awareness of community youth and women in forest conservation.	3.4	Provision of >100 indigenous plants to school, youth or community groups for planting in public places. Signed certification.	This activity has been achieved
4	Conservation booklet produced and distributed.	4.1	Booklet about conservation efforts at Francois Leguat Reserve.	The production of the booklet has been delayed to lack of resources. However, it is now ready and we are currently going through the proof reading to ensure that there is no grammatical mistakes. The deadline for the printing is the end of July and the distribution to all the schools of Rodrigues and other stakeholders is scheduled for the end of August 2019..
5	Presentation of project to other grantees at CEPF organised workshop	5.1	Powerpoint presentation of CEPF project at Francois Leguat Reserve.	Francois Leguat Reserve has now a small video Room where visitors could see the power presentation. This has been updated to reflect the full contribution of CEPF to the conservation effort that is an on going activity. A copy of the Powerpoint presentation will be attached in the report. The short film supported by MCB is now available to visitors.

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

## 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 main aim of the project has been achieved namely the reforestation fo the 6ha at Francois Leguat Reserve, thus increasing the surface area under conservation on the island of Rodrigues. The awareness campaign went beyond our expectations and will continue well beyond the project's life time.**

**The support of CEPF has enabled Francois Leguat Ltd to be more proactive and influential both locally and internationally. For instance, Francois Leguat Ltd ha made a number of proposal to mitigate the impact of the construction of a new runway at Plaine Corail, namely to compensate the ecological impacts by creating a new area of natural biodiversity conservation. Francois Leguat Ltd has applied for the extension of the Reserve.**

**The training of young people particularly school children is critical to the conservation of the natural biodiversity.**

**The initiation of a new project, "Conservation of rare Rodrigues Crickets at Anse Baleine, namely: Metioche sp. Ebony CR and Metioche sp. read head CR by proecting and restoring an area of about 10,000 metres sqaure.**

## 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 setting up the nursery and the production of endemic and indigenous seedling was a great success. Now we are confident that we could undertake bigger reforestation project all over the island. Please note that already, we are working of restoring a plot of land at Anse Baleine to protect two rare insects and our acquired knowledged will be very handy. There is therefore no doubt whatsoever that the support of CEPF has helped us to build capacities to ensure that all our conservation of the natural biodiversity of the island of Rodrigues is not only sustained but replicated in Rodrigues and in the neighbouring islands of the Indian Ocean. In fact, the contribution of CEPF has helped us to ascertain our aim to become a model of itergrated and sustainable development. The Conservation of Rare Crickets and the restoration of the area of Anse Baleine will esure the sustainability of the actions of Francois Leguat Reserve and will help to save critical ecosystems.**



## 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

**The project was developed very smoothly and therefore there was no social and environmental safeguard actions needed .**

## Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

**At the time of the application, the amount of work involved to administer the CEPF project was underestimated. Furthermore, Rodrigues being the most isolated and insular island, far away from everywhere, and bad internet connections added, there was a feeling of being ignored or left out of the mainstream. My recommendation is that CEPF allocate more funds for interactions among the regional projects and more emphasis on the training of the leaders of projects. Well to summarise it all, I will say that we should aim at creating a real community of all the stakeholders who endeavour and strive to ensure that the natural biodiversity/Hotspots continue to serve the populations of the region and the international community.,**

## 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\$)**

*\$10,500.00*

### **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)*



I guessed the grant of Air Mauritius (US\$700) falls in category B. The application was approved because of the contribution of CEPF. A billboard has been erected in the Reserve to acknowledge their support. A photo of the billboard is attached. Furthermore, the Air Mauritius Ltd's staff participated actively in the project. The production of a short Film(8 minutes)with the support of the Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd to increase the visibility of the conservation work carried out by the Francois Leguat Reserve. The funding amounted to US\$9800. A social media version of less than one minute is currently under production.

### **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](http://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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