



Darwin Initiative Main Project Annual Report

Important note: To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders:

it is expected that this report will be no more than 10 pages in length, excluding annexes

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2017

Darwin Project Information

Project reference	23-006 ref 3304
Project title	<i>Translocating conservation success and skills-exchange across four Indian Ocean countries</i>
Host country/ies	Seychelles, Mauritius, Comoros, Madagascar
Contract holder institution	University of Kent
Partner institution(s)	Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA), Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF), Dahari, Durrell Conservation Training Ltd. (DCT), Rachel Bristol (RMB)
Darwin grant value	£306,364
Start/end dates of project	01 April 2016/31 March 2019
Reporting period (e.g., Apr 2016 – Mar 2017) and number (e.g., Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2016 – March 2017, Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Jim Groombridge
Project website/blog/Twitter	https://www.kent.ac.uk/sac/research/projects/jg_darwin_initiative.html https://www.facebook.com/Translocating-conservation-success-and-skills-exchange-across-the-WIO-318569868505836/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel
Report author(s) and date	Compiled by Project Officer Rachel Bristol with contributions from Veronique Couttee, Christelle Ferriere, Jim Groombridge, Floriot Randrianarimangason, Misbahou Mohammed, Richard Lewis, Vikash Tatayah, Anselm Barra and Paul Uzice, April 2017

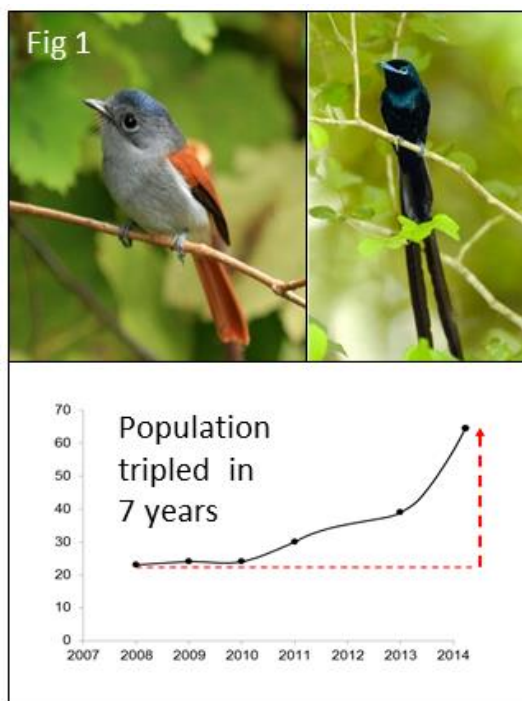
1. Project rationale

BUILDING ON SUCCESS: A previous Darwin-funded project on **Seychelles** (Project 15-009) reintroduced 23 critically-endangered Seychelles Paradise-Flycatchers from La Digue Island to Denis Island, successfully establishing a 2nd population alongside intensive habitat restoration.

That reintroduced population has grown to 70+ birds (Fig. 1) and is now breeding in 100% replanted habitat. Seychelles' Government wishes to replicate this success to additional islands to galvanise whole-island ecosystem restoration elsewhere and to secure the species' down-listing. Elsewhere in the Indian Ocean, the Mascarene Paradise-Flycatcher on **Mauritius** is prioritised by MWF for habitat restoration and reintroduction. Combining these parallel intentions provides a novel, highly effective, collaborative opportunity for **galvanising conservation success elsewhere** and fostering much-needed skills-exchange across international boundaries.

GALVANISING REGIONAL IMPACT ACROSS INDIAN OCEAN:

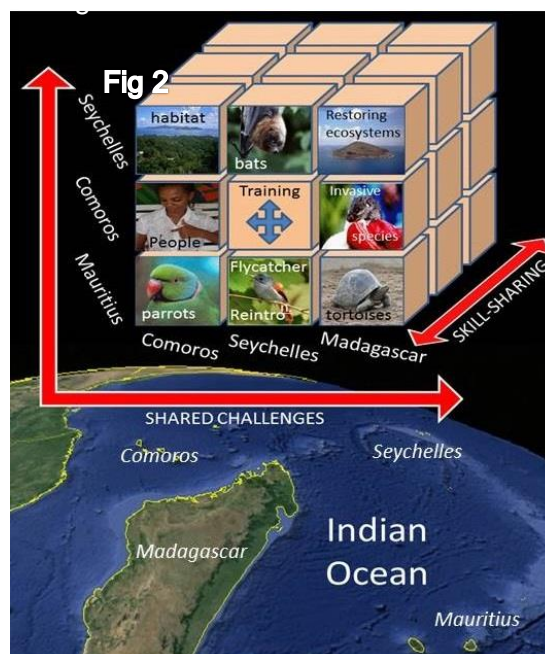
OCEAN: Low-income and island nations, such as Madagascar and Comoros, are less able to benefit from neighbourhood success, as a consequence of their poverty and isolation which, together with language barriers can profoundly limit skills-exchange opportunities. Fortuitously, an international conservation academy has recently been set up on Mauritius as a world-class 'training hub', providing a timely mechanism for facilitating regional/international impact.



PROPOSED PROJECT: Embracing both these opportunities this project will;

- (i) **Implement three flycatcher reintroductions** on Seychelles and Mauritius, and facilitate **network-building exchange-visits** between Comoros/Madagascar/Mauritius/Seychelles (Fig. 2) linked to associated habitat/ecosystem restoration aspects of these and other 'live' field projects (all four countries host highly evolutionarily distinct endemic flycatchers and also have active recovery-programmes for several other threatened endemic species).
- (ii) Compliment this *in-situ* skill-sharing (Fig. 2) with **regional capacity-building** by funding citizens from Comoros/Madagascar/Mauritius/Seychelles on DCTs *Postgraduate Diploma in Endangered Species Recovery* (at newly-established conservation 'training hub' on Mauritius) and DICES UK-based *MSc in Conservation Science and Management*.

Our **dual approach**, combining exchange of **key conservation skill-sets** and **formal training**, will build lasting capacity and crucial employment opportunities for LDC citizens.



2. Project partnerships

This project is very regional with host country partners in four Indian Ocean countries. Project activities were developed in close collaboration with host country partners to ensure the project was designed to include their priorities and to ensure maximum benefit for host country partners. Partners were also selected strategically based on ability to both benefit from and to implement activities and achieve project outcome.

The mutually beneficial working relationship between the PO, the PL and MWF has developed during the reporting period due to the close collaboration involved in designing, planning and implementing the Mascarene paradise flycatcher reintroduction, a first with many obstacles to surmount.

Relationships are forming between the PL the PO and Dahari Comoros as a direct result of collaboration on project activities. Dahari technical Advisor Hugh Doulton and the PL met in UK in October 2016 and the PO is organising a visit to Dahari Comoros during project year 2 in order to further develop this relationship/partnership and to conduct project M&E.

The PO and PL already have an excellent working relationship with Durrell Conservation Training Ltd as we have all worked together and supported each other on numerous occasions before. However during this reporting period this relationship has led to the PO and PL forming a partnership with another arm of Durrell- Durrell Madagascar, which we will further develop during the course of implementing this project. The PO is planning to visit Durrell Madagascar during project year 2 in order to develop this relationship and to conduct project M&E.

The relationship between SNPA and the PO and PL is very positive. The PO works closely with SNPA as she is based in Seychelles and she line manages 3 project staff employed through SNPA. A mutual trust and respect has developed as a result of this this close working relationship and the clear benefit this project is having for SNPA.

All partners were involved in project development and planning and continue to be involved through the project steering group, project implementation, M&E and reporting.

In addition progress has been made on the envisaged regional training, skills-sharing and support network between host country partners as a direct result of regional skills- exchanges between host country partners and partner staff undertaking post graduate diplomas in endangered species restoration at the regional training hub in Mauritius. Evidence is provided in section 3.1 of this report.

3. Project Progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1. Increased regional capacity of WIO SIDs and LDCs (Seychelles, Comoros Mauritius, Madagascar) to research, monitor, manage and restore threatened terrestrial habitats and species

Activity 1.1. 2x Comorians successfully complete English language training course in Madagascar prior to embarking on PGDip in Mauritius

Ten Dahari staff have received English language training from a qualified English language teacher at Dahari during this reporting period. In addition Siti Mohamed, Dahari Comores Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, is completing intensive one-on-one English language training in Mauritius from a British High Commission recommended English language teacher to improve her English proficiency, to prepare her for sitting an IELTS qualification exam in Mauritius and to help her get the most out of the Post graduate diploma in Endangered Species Restoration course which she is undertaking and which is taught in English.

The English language has largely been carried out in the manner and timeframe planned. However Siti is continuing her English language training into project year 2 and will sit for the IELTS exam in project year 2.

Activity 1.2, 1x Mauritian national and 2x Comoros nationals successfully complete UKC accredited PGDip's in endangered species restoration at DCT regional training hub in Mauritius

Two local conservation practitioners Ms Siti Mohamed, Dahari Comores Monitoring and Evaluation Manager and Mr Sion Henshaw Mauritian Wildlife Foundation's echo parakeet coordinator have just started Postgraduate Diploma in Endangered Species Restoration at Durrell Conservation Training Ltd in Mauritius. The PGDip started 29 March 2017.

This activity is progressing in the manner and time planned.

Activity 1.3. 1x Madagascar national and 1x Seychelles national successfully complete MRes/MSc in biodiversity management at DICE, University of Kent/ UK

Two local Seychelles conservation practitioners Mr Allen Cedras Inner Island Manager, Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA) and Mr James Mougat a terrestrial biologist, Research Section, SNPA, are currently ½ way through their MSc's in Conservation Science and Management at DICE, UKC. We would like to highlight that this project intended to ensure 2 local conservation practitioners completed MSc/MRes, at DICE, however the project, by providing a scholarship for one SNPA staff member to undertake an MSc at DICE facilitated a scholarship for a second SNPA staff member. Mr Allen Cedras was, via an application and interview process, selected as the recipient of our project funded MSc scholarship. However during the interview process to select the candidate for the project scholarship, two strong candidates emerged and SNPA did not want to turn either one down, so SNPA worked to source funds to enable James Mougat to pursue an MSc at DICE too. This project provided the impetus,

logistical and technical support from the Project Officer (PO) and the Project Leader (PL) to make this happen. This is an excellent example of Darwin Project funds leveraging extra funds and outputs that will benefit host country partners.

This activity is proceeding to the timeframe planned and exceeding the manner planned (see email from Professor Jim Groombridge, Head of School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent providing an update on Allen and James's progress to date on their MSc's in annex 4 as evidence).

Activity 1.4. *11x regional skills transfer and x-fertilisation exchange visits undertaken by local field staff between Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar to actively participate in live in-situ project activities including bird translocations and habitat restoration*

Eight regional skills transfers and cross fertilisation exchanges have been undertaken during this reporting period:

Misbahou Mohammed Strategic Advisor at Dahari and Hugh Doulton, Technical Advisor at Dahari Comores visited Fanamby, Feedback Madagascar, WWF Madagascar, Blue Ventures, Vahatra, Vatosoa and Durrell Madagascar in February 2017 to share skills, experience and to learn from these organisations. See exchange visit report in annex 5 for details and as evidence.

Floriot Randrianarimangason and Mahazaka Ratsimalandy from Durrell Madagascar visited Mauritian Wildlife Foundation in March 2017 to learn from the MWF's considerable experience in the area of threatened bird conservation introductions and reintroductions. Floriot and Mahazaka are Durrell Madagascar's Madagascar pochard captive management and hand rearing staff and they will be conducting their first reintroduction of pochard into lake Alaotra in 2018. During their visit to MWF we organised a Mini Symposium on "Avian reintroductions-what works and what does not" where reintroduction practitioners from MWF, DCT, the PO and Floriot and Mahakaza all presented. In addition participants from the wider Mauritius conservation community were invited to attend the workshop including from the Mauritius National Parks and Conservation Service. See for details and as evidence the skills exchange report in annex 6 and Invitation and image of workshop participants in annex 7. See also Activity 1.5 below.

Elsie Pierre, SNPA Conservation Officer at the Seychelles paradise flycatcher (Veuve) Special Reserve visited Mauritius and participated in the Mauritius paradise flycatcher reintroduction to Ferney. She also visited several other MWF conservation projects including Mauritius Pink pigeon, Mauritius echo parakeet, Mauritius cuckoo shrike, Mauritius fody, Mauritius Olive white eye, as well as seabirds and reptile reintroduction projects an Ile aux Aigrettes to get an overview of the methods used by MWF to recover threatened bird species. Elsie largely works alone in the Veuve Special Reserve on La Digue Island Seychelles with little line management or support and this skills-exchange was hugely beneficial in giving her an injection of ideas on techniques available for managing and monitoring threatened birds and helped her to establish a network of "friends" and fellow conservation managers to contact for help, ideas and feedback. The Project Officer Dr Rachel Bristol notes "the importance of skills exchanges like this for isolated conservation staff such as Elsie cannot be over-stated, not only as a learning and sharing platform to share skills and knowledge, but also as a motivational experience to see there are others working on similar projects with similar problems to overcome elsewhere in the region. Elsie had never been out of Seychelles before and this experience has clearly expanded her skills, knowledge, motivation and confidence in her work".

Rachel Bristol the Project Officer (PO) has undertaken 3 regional skills-exchange and cross-fertilisation visits to Mauritius during this reporting period. The first in April 2016 was to work with Mauritian Wildlife Foundation to plan for a Mascarene Paradise flycatcher (MPF) reintroduction. The visit included site visits to select the most suitable location for reintroduction, the most suitable areas to source individuals for reintroduction, to determine best capture methods for MPF, to collect basic MPF biometrics to determine ring sizes and body weight in order to determine acceptable weight range for transmitters, and to prepare a feasibility study and reintroduction proposal for submission to Mauritian government seeking permissions to undertake the reintroduction. See trip report and feasibility study in annex 8 as evidence. The PO then returned to Mauritius for 3 weeks in December 2016 to help MWF secure permissions from Mauritius Government National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS) to undertake the MPF reintroduction to Ferney and to begin the actual reintroduction. The PO made a third visit to Mauritius in March 2017 order provide further practical help and support to MWF field staff to catch juveniles and translocate to Ferney, to help MWF to secure NPCS support for the continuation of the MPF reintroduction to Ferney and to conduct project M&E. Agreement was secured from NPCS to continue with the reintroduction of up to 60 individuals as per the submitted reintroduction proposal – so we are now free to continue with the reintroduction incorporating our trials of different age classes, release timing and group composition to determine best practice. See MPF reintroduction progress report in annex 9 as evidence.

This activity is progressing to the timeframe and likely exceeding the manner planned.

Activity 1.5. *10x presentations on terrestrial habitat and species restoration to local partner staff, stakeholders, government officials & wider conservation community in Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros*

This activity is scheduled for project years 2&3.

However during this reporting period nine speakers from the region, many with considerable avian reintroduction experience, presented and their knowledge and experience of threatened bird reintroductions including what worked and what did not, with insight into why and best practice to c. 50 people from both the region and the wider Mauritian conservation community. This symposium was organised to maximise the opportunity for our Madagascar skills exchange participants Floriot and Mahazaka to learn about reintroduction techniques for threatened birds in preparation for their upcoming Madagascar pochard reintroduction. See annex 7 as evidence.

The project officer (PO) made 3 presentations on Seychelles paradise flycatcher reintroduction and the Mascarene paradise flycatcher reintroduction –lessons learned and can one inform the other? to both the 2016 and the 2017 PGDip students and to a group of over 30 MWF conservation staff.

Output 2. Improved conservation status of two WIO threatened paradise flycatcher species (SPF in Seychelles and MPF in Mauritius) through habitat restoration, conservation reintroductions, and refined management practices.

Activity 2.1. *Restore c.20 hectares of lowland native broad-leafed woodland habitat on Curieuse (Seychelles), c.60ha on Felicite (Seychelles) and c.20ha at Ferney (Mauritius)*

Two project habitat rehabilitation staff Anselm Barra and Paul Uzice have been employed full time on this project since August 2016 rehabilitating lowland native forest habitat on Curieuse Island Seychelles. They have repaired an existing nursery including building a giant tortoise –proof fence enclosing c. 2500m² to protect the nursery and surrounding area from giant tortoises who would, given ½ a chance, eat all the nursery plants; dug a well to source water; stocked the nursery with lowland native tree species (c.1500 individuals of 13 different native species) cleared c.5 ha of invasive vegetation and started planting out native trees produced in their nursery. A major challenge is the giant tortoises – each seedling must be protected with a solid barrier preventing the tortoises from reaching and eating them and Anselm and Paul have trialled several different versions – and are still working to achieve total tortoise protection for seedlings. See annex 10 for images demonstrating Anselm and Paul's progress.

Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF) and Vallee de Ferney staff (co-financed) continue to restore native forest habitat in Ferney Valley in Mauritius including controlling invasive mammalian predators (cats, mongooses, rats) and introduced invasive vegetation in c.10ha. .

The Félicité Island Ecology team continue to rehabilitate native forest on Felicite (co-financed).

Habitat rehabilitation works are progressing in the manner and timeframe planned.

Activity 2.2. *Survey of remnant flycatcher populations in Mauritius and Seychelles to estimate current population sizes and identify suitable areas to source individuals for translocations*

Census and territory mapping of SPF on western plateau on La Digue (stronghold of the SPF on La Digue) completed. Find survey report in annex 11 as evidence and for details.

Survey of MPF population size completed and current population size estimated at c.800 individuals (MWF). Combo field site in the Black River Gorges National park was identified as a hotspot for MPF with a high density of territories. Project MPF field biologist Veronique Couttee surveyed Combo and identified areas for sourcing individuals for translocation. In addition Veronique has been monitoring a subset of SPF territories (pairs) in Combo in order to collect vital baseline information on MPF behaviour, breeding biology and breeding success at the source population in order to have baseline information for the species and in order to have data to compare our reintroduced population against. See the MPF reintroduction progress report authored by Veronique in annex 9 for evidence.

This activity is progressing in the manner and timeframe planned.

Activity 2.3. *Translocate 25 SPF to Félicité Island*

This translocation is scheduled for year 2. The PO has met with government officials from Seychelles Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC) in January 2017 to present the draft SPF conservation assessment and action plan, to discuss the way forward and to discuss requirements for requesting/ obtaining government permissions for reintroduction. Preparations are well underway including detailed data collection of habitat variables believed to be important for flycatchers for inclusion in feasibility study and reintroduction proposal (scheduled to be completed and submitted to MEECC in July 2017). Please see email in support of this meeting from Minister Didier Dogley, Seychelles Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and email confirming meeting had taken place in annex 12.

Activity 2.4. Translocate 25 SPF to Curieuse Island

This activity is scheduled for year 3. Preparations are underway including data collection for feasibility studies (to be completed and submitted to MEECC by July 2017); and 1 meeting with MEECC to get the ball rolling re government permissions for reintroduction and to ensure we provide all the necessary information to MEECC in the feasibility study and reintroduction proposal.

Activity 2.5. Translocate c.30 MPF to Ferney

Reintroduction of MPF to Ferney underway. Permissions were sought and obtained from Mauritius government National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS) and regular progress updates are provided to NPCS. To date 23 MPF have been released at Ferney. Due to the real possibility of individuals leaving the release area (as there are no significant barriers to dispersal in this mainland reintroduction) we have built in experimental trials of different release group ages and compositions in order to determine if certain ages groups of release group composition influences post release dispersal behaviour. We are trialling 3 release groups (family groups with dependent juveniles; independent juveniles; adults just prior to the breeding season). We are also attaching radio transmitters to a cohort in each trial group in order to monitor post release dispersal. See annex 9 for reintroduction progress report, annex 8 reintroduction proposal notes and letter from IUCN SSG reintroduction specialist group chair Dr Axel Moehrensclager in support of our reintroduction in annex 13.

The reintroduction will continue in project year 2 and is progressing in the manner and timeframe planned with small revisions -we initially planned to start the reintroduction in September 2016 and the first trial group would have been adult pairs right at the start of the breeding season, however a foot and mouth outbreak in Mauritius resulted in most Chasses closing for c. 3 months and in addition we did not gain official permissions to start the reintroduction until December 2016 so we changed the order of our reintroduction trials to adapt as our timing must suit the birds first and foremost.

Activity 2.6. Produce updated participatory species conservation assessments and action plans for SPF and MPF (including realistic management recommendations for both remnant and reintroduced populations) and gain relevant government endorsements

SPF conservation assessment and species action plan has been updated and presented to the MEECC for their input and endorsement. The document is provided as evidence in annex 14.

This activity is progressing in the manner and timeframe planned.

Output 3. Improved understanding of paradise flycatcher resilience and adaptability in partially restored habitats

Activity 3.1. Undertake intensive post-release monitoring of survival and breeding success of released individuals + other environmental/habitat variables at all 3 release sites and at source populations, and analyse to provide quality M&E data to inform current and future reintroduction best practice and interventions if necessary

Intensive post-release monitoring of the Mascarene paradise flycatcher reintroduction to ferney is underway. The seven individuals released with transmitters attached were regularly located to provide info on post-release dispersal and survival. All sightings of released individuals are recorded and GPS points taken. The transmitters have been a valuable investment in enabling released birds to be tracked and located. Indeed almost all re-sightings of individuals without transmitters are due to individuals meeting up with birds fitted with transmitters! Our radio tracking data show, for the first 2 weeks post-release-which is the life span of the tiny 0.39 gram transmitters, that while released individuals moved around a lot, they generally did not move too far from the release area in the short term. Initial results show juveniles strayed less from the release site than adults. One adult female (who did into have a transmitter) returned to her capture site at Combo c.22 km straight line distance.

Surveys of the wider Ferney area are planned during the upcoming breeding season (August – December/January time) when MPF are more detectable and more responsive to playback, to locate birds, monitor for breeding and determine success of the reintroduction. Post release monitoring will continue through-out and post project.

This activity is progressing in the manner and timeframe planned.

Activity 3.2. Two open access publications on project research and findings accepted for publication in high quality peer reviewed journals (eg: Biological Conservation and Biodiversity and Conservation)

This activity is scheduled for project year 3; however we are already collecting project data for these publications.

Output 4. Projects restoring critical habitats and/or species initiated in Comoros and Madagascar as a direct result of this project

Activity 4.1. *Design and start implementing a project restoring critical habitat and/or species in Madagascar led by Madagascar project partner Durrell and recipient of project MRes scholarship*
Scheduled for year 3

Activity 4.2. *Design and begin implementing a project restoring critical habitat and/or species in Comoros led by Comoros partner Dahari and the Comorian recipients of project PGDip scholarships*
Scheduled for year 3

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. *Increased regional capacity of WIO SIDs and LDCs (Seychelles, Comoros Mauritius, Madagascar) to research, monitor, manage and restore threatened terrestrial habitats and species*

Real on-the-ground progress has been made to increase regional capacity of WIO SIDs and LDCs (Seychelles, Comoros Mauritius, Madagascar) to research, monitor, manage and restore threatened terrestrial habitats and species. Two local conservation practitioners Siti Mohamed Dahari Comoros Monitoring and Evaluation Manager and Sion Henshaw MWF's echo parakeet coordinator have just started PGDiploma's in Endangered Species Restoration at DCT in Mauritius

Two local conservation practitioners, Mr Alan Cedras and Mr James Mougale from SNPA are currently ½ way through completing MSc's in Conservation Science and Management at DICE, UKC and are about to embark on research projects that will benefit (i) this project directly- by undertaking useful research on Seychelles paradise flycatchers and on Curieuse National Park visitor experience and management, (ii) their employer SNPA –through undertaking priority research for SNPA, and (iii) their professional development and research abilities. See email communication from Professor Groombridge, Head of the School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent regarding James and Allen's progress to date in annex 4.

Eight regional skills transfers and cross-fertilisation exchanges have been undertaken during this reporting period (four from Seychelles to Mauritius, two from Madagascar to Mauritius and two from Comoros to Madagascar).

One mini symposium on Avian Reintroductions – what works and what does not, and three presentations on Mascarene paradise flycatcher and Seychelles paradise flycatcher reintroductions have been undertaken to audiences of 20-50 conservation practitioners.

The baseline situation regarding capacity of implementing partners and host countries in the WIO is that there is an identified lack of capacity to conduct meaningful research and monitoring and to manage threatened species and habitats. This lack of capacity is noted in the respective countries NBSAP's: the Seychelles' National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2020 pages 59-61; Comoros Strategie Nationale et Plan d' Action Actualises pour la Diversite Biologique-V2 June 2016 page 17; and the Mauritius NBSAP identifies a "lack of training of Mauritians and lack of capacity at all levels" as a major GAP to biodiversity Conservation (<https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/about/latest/>). By providing a combination of academic and practical training to a group of local conservation practitioners we are addressing this underlying deficit at its core.

Indicators for this output are easily measured as they involve either solid UK University endorsed postgraduate qualifications or exchange visit reports and feedback from line managers/ CEO's. Indicators remain appropriate.

Output 2. *Improved conservation status of two WIO threatened paradise flycatcher species (SPF in Seychelles and MPF in Mauritius) through habitat restoration, conservation reintroductions, and refined management practices*

Progress towards achieving improved conservation status of two WIO threatened paradise flycatcher species through habitat restoration, conservation reintroductions and refined management practices is progressing in year 1 in the form of increased area of good flycatcher habitat in both Mauritius (c. 10 ha year 1) and in the Seychelles (c.15 ha in year 1), expansion of the MPF range by reintroducing 23 individuals to Ferney Valley in eastern Mauritius in year 1, and by the production of a new conservation assessment and Species Action Plan for the SPF in year 1 which provides priority actions for improving SPF conservation status. Evidence is provided in section 3.2 and in annexes 9 and 14.

We are measuring output indicators by quantifying the area of habitat rehabilitated under this project, by undertaking reintroductions of a known number of individuals and closely monitoring reintroduction success via ongoing monitoring of released individuals. Indicators for this output remain appropriate.

Output 3. *Improved understanding of paradise flycatcher resilience and adaptability in partially restored habitats*

Progress is already being made towards improving understanding of paradise flycatcher resilience and adaptability in partially restored habitat as evidenced by the trials we have designed and are undertaking to determine best practice (best age, timing and release group composition) for MPF reintroductions. Habitat variables have also been quantified at release and source sites to aid in interpretation and post release monitoring of all 3 reintroductions is underway/will be undertaken in order to quantify success in habitats with differing levels of restoration. Evidence is provided in section 3.2 of this report and in annexes 8 &9.

We are measuring output 3 indicators by incorporating research trials into our reintroduction plans and via intensive monitoring of the reintroductions we undertake to enable quantification of success and development of best practice. Indicators for this output remain appropriate.

Output 4. *Projects restoring critical habitats and/or species initiated in Comoros and Madagascar as a direct result of this project*

It is planned that two projects to restore critical species and/or habitats in Comoros and Madagascar will be designed and led by the recipients of project academic scholarships to complete MRres or PG Diplomas. To date progress towards this output has started with a Comoros national currently undertaking a Post- graduate diploma in endangered species restoration in Mauritius. This Output will be achieved later in the project in year 3. Indicator remains appropriate.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Project OUTCOME. *Increased capacity to conserve Indian Ocean species and habitats through skill-sharing, capacity-building and in-situ learning on three reintroduction and habitat restoration initiatives for two endemic birds enabling their reduced extinction-risk.*

Progress towards achieving our project *Outcome* during year 1 of this project implementation includes: ten local conservation practitioners (3 Comorian, 4 Seychellois, 1 Mauritian, 2 Madagascan) have increased their capacity to conserve Indian ocean species and habitats through skills-sharing, capacity building and *in-situ* learning. In reality the number is greater as the knowledge and skills exchange is 2-way. The planned MPF reintroduction to Ferney Valley is underway and progress to date is very promising and exceeds our expectations. Progress has been made in terms of preparing for both SPF reintroductions: the Species Action Plan has been updated and represented to Government; detailed habitat assessments and feasibility studies for reintroduction to Félicité and Curieuse are almost complete and habitat restoration on both islands is progressing to schedule.

Outcome indicator 1.1. Two additional Seychelles paradise flycatcher (SPF) populations established and breeding (productivity exceeding mortality) on Curieuse and Félicité islands, Seychelles by end of year 3 is still relevant and adequate for measuring project outcome and also largely achievable by project close, although only early success will be measured as it will require monitoring over a longer period than the project duration to determine the longer-term success of each reintroduction. Monitoring will be continued by project partner organisations post project close.

Outcome indicator 1.2. One new Mascarene paradise flycatcher (MPF) population established and breeding (productivity exceeding mortality) at Ferney, Mauritius by end year 3 is still relevant and adequate for measuring project outcome and also largely achievable by project close, although as it will likely require monitoring over a longer period than the project duration to determine the longer-term success of this reintroduction. Monitoring will be continued by project partner organisations post project close.

Outcome indicator 1.3. SPF recommended for down-listing from Critically Endangered to Endangered on the IUCN red-list at the next assessment (by end year 3) is still relevant and likely achievable by end of year 3, though the actual downlisting will take longer as it will need to wait until the next IUCN red list SPF status assessment. Downlisting will be followed and information provided to IUCN/BirdLife International by the PL and the PO both within and outside the project timeframe.

Outcome indicator 1.4. Government reports to CBD. Information on project progress and outcomes will be provided to compilers of host country reports to CBD for inclusion. Indicator is relevant, adequate and achievable within project timeframe.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Project Outcome level assumptions (i) relevant governments remain stable and continue to view habitat and species conservation as a priority and provide the necessary permissions (and island access) to undertake project activities and (ii) no adverse climatic/stochastic events (e.g. cyclones) preventing timely completion of this project still hold true and there have been no changes in assumptions during year 1 of this project.

Output 1 assumption: Trained staff (MSc/PGDip/ skills exchange participants) remain with local partners throughout and after the project finishes, to continue to implement what they have learned and to form an initial alumni who foster a learning network across Indian Ocean. **Output 2 assumption:** Relevant Governments and NGO's continue to collaborate to rehabilitate and protect relevant species and habitats **Output 3 assumption:** Editors accept papers for publication. **Output 4 assumption:** Relevant government permissions are granted enabling project implementation. All output level assumptions still hold true and there have been no changes in assumptions during project year 1.

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

This project is DEFRA financed and therefore we will comment on achievement of positive impact on biodiversity we expect to achieve by project close and provide evidence of progress during the current reporting year. The impact this project is having on poverty alleviation is detailed in sections 4 & 6 of this report.

Short-term impact on Biodiversity Conservation:

1. **1** critically-endangered (CR) species and **1** recently-prioritised highly-endangered sub-species of paradise flycatcher will have extinction risk reduced via:
 - (a) **3** reintroductions implemented to establish additional populations, fulfilling Species Action Plan recommendations by Seychelles' and Mauritius government authorities. In this reporting year we have reintroduced 23 Mascarene paradise flycatchers to Ferney on the east coast of Mauritius. If this reintroduction is successful it will significantly increase the range of this species, thereby significantly reducing their reintroduction risk, and we will have pioneered successful mainland flycatcher reintroduction methodology (see annex 9).
 - (b) **100** hectares of habitat restored-providing new habitat for **80-100** more flycatcher pairs. Approximately 25 hectares of flycatcher habitat has been restored during this reporting year.
 - (c) Management plan for flycatcher habitat on La Digue to (i) reduce current habitat loss and (ii) enhance state owned habitat management has been drafted and presented to Seychelles government during this reporting year (see annex 14).
 - (d) Increased awareness by local Seychellois and Mauritian public of the value of their endemic biodiversity and enhanced national pride in their nations' conservation successes.
2. **5** people from **4** LDC/middle income countries will receive:
 - (a) University postgraduate training and internationally-recognised qualifications (PGDip, MSc/MRes) in biodiversity conservation. See annex 4 and report section 3.1- *Activity 1.3* for progress during project reporting year).
 - (b) Total **22** months *in-situ* field experience and exposure to cutting-edge techniques in habitat restoration and reintroduction ('situated learning' via **11** regional exchange-visits + PGDip training) disseminated by field experts. Nine regional skills sharing and cross fertilisation exchanges have taken place during this reporting year between host countries conservation practitioners from Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles (annexes 1, 5 and 6 as evidence).

Long-term impact on Biodiversity Conservation:

1. **2** flycatcher species substantially closer to down-listing due to reintroduction and habitat restoration (if the **2** SPF reintroductions are successful SPF will be downgraded on IUCN red-list from CR to Endangered at next species assessment).
2. Seychelles: enhanced track-record in flycatcher conservation, from **1** to **3** successful reintroductions, with increased government commitment to long-term habitat restoration programmes on **3** islands (Felicite, Curieuse and La Digue).
3. Mauritius: enhanced skills in flycatcher reintroduction and habitat restoration, and enhanced eco-tourism prospects for local landowners. During this reporting period we have been trialling and fine tuning MPF reintroduction methods (detailed in annex 9 and in section 3.1 -*Activity 2.5* in this report).
4. Sustainable legacy of **7** people (involving **2** LDCs) with increased capacity, employment prospects and skill-sets to recover endangered species and habitats and to apply these qualities to precipitate further conservation success stories in recipient home countries. During this reporting period one

Mauritian flycatcher biologist recruited and trained in flycatcher monitoring, research and translocation methods and two Seychellois habitat restoration staff recruited and trained in habitat rehabilitation methods.

5. 4 Indian Ocean countries (including 2 LDCs) with 15 local personnel each with substantial field conservation experience outside their home country. Progress this year covered in point 2 (short term) above.

4. Contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

This project contributes to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDG) **#4 Quality Education**, **#8 Decent Work and Economic Growth** and **#15 Life on Land** as detailed below:

Alleviating poverty in Comoros (LDC) and Madagascar (LDC):

- 1x low income Comorian national Siti Mohamed is studying for internationally recognised Postgraduate Diploma in Endangered Species Recovery from renowned conservation training organisation Durrell Conservation Academy (validated by the University of Kent) (SDG 4)
- 1x low income Comorian national Siti is receiving English language lessons in Mauritius in preparation for sitting IELTS internationally recognised English proficiency examination (SDG 4)
- 10x Dahari Comoros staff have received English language training lessons from qualified English language teacher in Comoros.
- 3x low income Comorian nationals and 2x low income Madagascar nationals with increased capacity, employment prospects and skill-sets to recover endangered species and habitats and to apply these skills to precipitate further conservation success stories back home in the Comoros and Madagascar (SDG 4,8,15). Siti Mohamed (Dahari Madagascar) is undertaking a PGDip in Mauritius; Hugh Doulton and Misbahou Mohamed (Dahari Madagascar) participated in a skills-exchange visit to several conservation and sustainable development organisations in Madagascar and Floriot Randrianarimangason and Mahazaka Ratsimalandy (Durrell Madagascar) participated in a skills exchange visit to Mauritian Wildlife Foundation in Mauritius to increase skills and knowledge in reintroduction techniques for threatened birds.
- Evidence for project contributions to SDG's described above can be found in section 3.1.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

All four implementing countries are signatories to the CBD and Nagoya Protocol. This project is contributing substantially to the objectives of the CBD by contributing to **Aichi Strategic Goal C**: 'To improve the status of biodiversity...' specifically **Aichi Biodiversity Target 12** and **Strategic Goal D** 'Enhance the benefits...' specifically **Aichi Target 15** by restoring 100 hectares of threatened & degraded lowland-forest habitat and undertaking three reintroductions of two Critically-Endangered paradise-flycatcher species to increase their numbers and conservation status (identified as priorities in the Seychelles and Mauritius NBSAP's [Mauritius SO 2(c); Seychelles SG 3-Objective 3.2; SG 4-Objective 4.2].

We are contributing to **Aichi Strategic Goal E**: 'Enhance implementation...' specifically **Aichi Target 19** by galvanising knowledge-exchange across 4 WIO countries via formal [5x MSc/PGDiploma's] and informal [11x regional skills-exchanges] training to c.15 individuals from Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius & Seychelles [Seychelles SG5-Objectives 5.3&5.4].

This project assists in supporting implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, specifically **Article 21** 'Awareness -raising' and **Article 22** 'Capacity' by providing targeted-training via taught modules to all 5 recipients of Scholarships on MSc/PGDiploma courses on: the importance of the Nagoya Protocol and its Objectives; modern DNA techniques; taxonomic skills for assessing genetic resources; facilitation of inclusive stakeholder participation in decision making (particularly indigenous/local communities).

This project proposal was developed in close collaboration with the then CBD national focal point for Seychelles Mr Denis Matatiken, who is no longer the CBD national focal point, but who is now the ABS (Nagoya Protocol) national focal point for Seychelles. Mr Matatiken is regularly provided with project updates by the PO, is on the project steering committee, and was a member of the interview and selection panel to choose the recipient of the project MSc scholarship to DICE, UKC. The Seychelles CBD national focal point is now Mrs Marie-May Jeremie-Muzungaile who is a Director General in the Ministry of Environment. The PO has met with Mrs Jeremie-Muzungaile to discuss Seychelles paradise flycatcher conservation priorities and the upcoming SPF reintroductions to Curieuse and Félicité islands (see annex 12).

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

This project is funded by DEFRA and the main aim of the project is to benefit threatened biodiversity. We have detailed our project efforts in the past 12 months to alleviate poverty in Madagascar and Comoros (2 LDC's) in section 4 of this report.

This project contributes to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDG) **#4 Quality Education**, **#8 Decent Work and Economic Growth**, **#15 Life on Land** and **#5 Gender Equality**.

By providing fully funded scholarships for academic qualifications (2x Postgraduate diplomas and 1x MPhil from UK university) to LDC citizens from Madagascar and Comoros we fully expect to directly increase their employability and ability to avoid poverty. In addition we firmly believe that by protecting biodiversity (species and habitats) we are positively impacting poverty alleviation as people, whether we like to believe it or not, are totally dependent on biodiversity for survival. The majority of people employed or receiving scholarships on our project (5 of 9) are female -our project PO is female (Seychellois) our Mauritius team (flycatcher biologist and passerine coordinator) are both female, our Seychelles flycatcher research assistant is female, our scholarship recipient for PGDip from Comoros is female.

7. Project support to gender equality issues

Answered in section 6 "project support to poverty alleviation" above.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

Project Steering Group (PSG) consisting of the the Project Leader (Dr Jim Groombridge), PO (Dr Rachel Bristol) and key representatives from each host country partner (Jamie Copsey-DCT, Hugh Doulton-Dahari, Flavien Joubert-SNPA, Dr Vikash Tatayah and Debby de Chazal -MWF) was set up right at the start of the project to guide implementation and to monitor and evaluate project progress (Logframe activity 0.1). This steering group met in Mauritius in April 2016 – where all members bar 2 were present in person to plan implementation and to kick-start the project. Sub-sets of the PSG meet regularly via Skype and email with the PO to plan different parts of this regional project's implementation and to monitor and evaluate progress. In addition the PL and the PO continually monitor and evaluate progress against the project logframe, logic and SMART indicators. Project staff (field biologists and habitat restoration fieldworkers) are line managed and mentored by the PO in Seychelles (x3) and by the passerine coordinator in Mauritius (x1) in close consultation with the PO.

Data to ensure SMART M&E is collected by the PO and the two project field biologists (Veronique and Indira) 10% of these 3 project staff's time is allocated to M&E data collection, analysis and interpretation and as such 10% of their salaries is allocated to the project M&E budget line.

During the reporting year the PO made one M&E visit to Mauritius in March 2017 to monitor and evaluate project progress of the Mascarene paradise flycatcher reintroduction to Ferney and to plan the next steps in this reintroduction.

The project M&E approach involving a steering committee and close monitoring by the PO is working well. However the PO feels there is no substitute for actually meeting all project partners in person and to this end she plans to visit Durrell Madagascar and Dahari Comoros in project year 2. Meeting in person will help both the PO to gain a fuller understanding of the activities of these NGO's and of the problems they face in implementation, and will also benefit host country partners as it is always easier to communicate by Skype and email more effectively if you have already met the recipient in person. The PO and the PL know all other project partner key personnel personally and have done so for many years.

9. Lessons learnt

Two lessons learned this year are:

1. Build adaptive management into project activities as for sure for one reason or another it will not always be possible to implement them in exactly the timeframe and manner originally planned. For example – we planned to begin the MPF reintroduction to Ferney in September 2016 to coincide with the very start of the breeding season. We planned to move adult birds at the very start of the breeding season. However a foot and mouth outbreak in Mauritius as well as delays in gaining permissions from the Mauritius government to start the translocation meant we were unable to start the reintroduction until December 2016 - which was 2/3 of the way through the breeding season. If it was essential that we started the reintroduction at the start of the breeding season- then we would have had to put the reintroduction back by a full year. Fortunately we had planned trial releases of different age groups at different times so we started the reintroduction

with family groups and independent juveniles in December 2016-March 2017. We will translocate a cohort of adults at the start of next breeding season in August-Sept 2017. We may have similar delays gaining permissions from the Seychelles government to reintroduce SPF to Félicité and Curieuse (known variable –see important assumptions in project log frame) but we build adaptive management into the project as best as we can to ensure the best project implementation possible under uncertain conditions.

2. Project managers, those responsible for overseeing project implementation should build into project design meetings in person with all project partners early on in project implementation if they do not already know project partners personally. As stated in section 8 above there is no substitute for meeting colleagues in person and for seeing first-hand the work, situation etc of host country partners.

10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

This is our first annual report and we have no issues to respond to.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

One assumption we noted in our project application/accepted project document was “We have assumed that (i) host country currencies and the host country-GBP exchange rates will remain relatively stable...” We noted in our ½ year report 1 that the GBP (£) has significantly decreased in value against host country currencies following BREXIT which has negatively impacted our project budget in the four countries where the project is being implemented resulting in less local currency when converting GBP to local currency than budgeted. This has reduced our project budget for all expenses in local currencies including local project staff salaries, travel and subsistence and equipment.

12. Sustainability and legacy

We have a project webpage on University of Kent website, and a project Facebook page where we put regular updates of project activities. As the project progresses and we complete major activities we will have further opportunities for publicity for example an official release of Mascarene paradise flycatchers with the Minister and government officials is scheduled for April 2017 (outside year 1 reporting period). Regarding our training programme financed by this project: we have strong evidence from previous projects with training components that once people are recruited into the conservation sector and receive training, they tend to stay for the long-term; therefore the risk of losing trained staff is minimal (e.g. of 6 project fellows recruited and trained on a recently-completed Darwin project in Seychelles, 5 are still employed with their host organisations some 2 years post project completion).

This project was devised in close collaboration with local organisations in each host country to ensure it includes their priorities, thereby building in sustainable end-points and a clear exit strategy; consequently it is highly likely project-trained staff will be kept on by these organisations post-project to continue to implement this priority work. For example:

- Mascarene paradise-flycatcher reintroduction is a priority for MWF who are committed to long-term monitoring/maintenance of this translocated population post-project.
- Seychelles paradise-flycatcher reintroductions are a high priority for Seychelles and SNPA, who are committed to SPF long-term recovery post-project.
- Dahari in Comoros and DWCT in Madagascar are selecting candidates for MSc/PGDip scholarships from amongst existing staff ensuring the staff are employed post-project and the organisation benefits from increased staff capacity.
- The skills transfer/exchange recipients are all existing staff within partner organisations thus maximising benefit and retention of new skillsets.

13. Darwin identity

The Darwin Initiative logo is included in all presentations related to this project, and the Darwin Initiative is named and credited for its contribution (see for example annexes 7,8,9). We have a project Facebook page where the Darwin Initiative logo is prominent and we have linked it to the Darwin Initiative Facebook page.

The Darwin Initiative funding for this project is generally recognised as a distinctive project with a clear identity. For example a sign board is currently being produced for Curieuse Island habitat rehabilitation and the Darwin Initiative is recognised as the funder and as a distinct project on this sign board which will be very visible to the 46,000 + visitors the park receives annually. Within the 4 host countries the Darwin

Initiative is well known to all conservation organisations both government and NGO as the Darwin Initiative has financed projects in all countries and has a very good reputation for funding useful projects. Outside the conservation sector of society we are less certain how well the Darwin Initiative is known, despite the fact that we include the logo and state that project are financed by the Darwin Initiative, through Defra, the UK government, as we have not undertaken any survey to quantify this.

14. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2016/17 Grant (£)	2016/17 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs	0			
Overhead Costs	0			
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Monitoring & Evaluation				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

Highlighted changes have been requested and approved by Darwin. See annex 15 for confirmation.

We apologise that his expenditure summary has not been completed. Our research project accounts manager at the University of Kent, Rob Goldsmith, has recently started in this position and had already planned his annual leave before changing jobs. He has informed Eilidh Young at Darwin and received the OK for him to complete this expenditure table and the project finance reporting in May when he returns form annual leave -see annex 16 for confirmation.

We expect however that our actual expenditure will closely match our allocated budget for this reporting period.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2016-2017

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2016 - March 2017	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Four Indian Ocean countries including two LDC's and three SIDS expertly restoring their endemic biodiversity with continual improvement sustainably supported by a regional network of training and skill-sharing opportunities.</p>		<p>It is early days to see the <i>Impact</i> of this project, however progress to achieving <i>Impact</i> is to schedule (as evidenced in this annual report and annexes)</p>	
<p>Outcome Increased capacity to conserve Indian Ocean species and habitats through skill-sharing, capacity-building and <i>in-situ</i> learning on three reintroduction and habitat restoration initiatives for two endemic birds enabling their reduced extinction-risk.</p>	<p>1.1 Two additional Seychelles paradise flycatcher (SPF) populations established and breeding (productivity exceeding mortality) on Curieuse and Félicité islands, Seychelles by end of year 3</p> <p>1.2 One new Mascarene paradise flycatcher (MPF) population established and breeding (productivity exceeding mortality) at Ferney, Mauritius by end year 3</p> <p>1.3 SPF recommended for down-listing from Critically Endangered to Endangered on the IUCN red-list at the next assessment (by end year 3)</p> <p>1.4 Government reports to CBD</p>	<p>Progress towards achieving our project <i>Outcome</i> during year 1 of this project implementation includes: 10 local conservation practitioners (3 Comorian, 4 Seychellois, 1 Mauritian, 2 Madagascan) have increased their capacity to conserve Indian ocean species and habitats through skills-sharing, capacity building and <i>in-situ</i> learning- (though in reality the number is greater as the knowledge and skills exchange is 2 way); MPF reintroduction is underway and progress to date is very promising and exceeds our expectations; progress has been made in terms of preparing for both SPF reintroductions (Species Action Plan updated and represented to Government; detailed habitat assessments and feasibility studies for reintroduction to Félicité and Curieuse are almost complete and habitat restoration on both islands is progressing to schedule.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPF reintroduction to Félicité Island, Seychelles • 1st detailed survey of wider Ferney area to locate reintroduced birds and monitoring of first breeding season. • 2 MSc's in Conservation Science and Management and 2 Postgraduate Diploma's in Endangered Species Recovery successfully completed by local conservation practitioners from Seychelles, Mauritius and Comoros. • Minimum of 3 regional skills transfer and x-fertilisation exchange visits completed by local practitioners
<p>Output 1. Increased regional capacity of WIO SIDs and LDCs (Seychelles, Comoros Mauritius, Madagascar) to research, monitor, manage and restore threatened terrestrial habitats and</p>	<p>1.1 Three local conservation practitioners complete Postgraduate Diploma in Endangered Species Restoration at DCT regional training hub in</p>	<p>Real on-the-ground progress has been made to increase regional capacity of WIO SIDs and LDCs (Seychelles, Comoros Mauritius, Madagascar) to research, monitor, manage and restore threatened terrestrial habitats and species. Two local conservation practitioners Ms Siti Mohamed (Dahari Comores Monitoring and Evaluation Manager) and Mr Sion Henshaw (MWF's echo parakeet</p>	

species	<p>Mauritius (years 2 & 3)</p> <p>1.2 Two local conservation practitioners complete MSc/MRes in Conservation Science & Management at DICE, University of Kent, UK (years 1-2 & 2-3)</p> <p>1.3 Eleven regional skills transfer and cross fertilisation exchanges undertaken between Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Comoros to work for c. 1 month each on project activities including bird reintroductions and habitat restoration projects (throughout project)</p>	<p>coordinator) have just started PGDiploma's in Endangered Species Restoration at DCT in Mauritius. Their PGDip started 29 March 2017.</p> <p>Two local conservation practitioners, Mr Alan Cedras and Mr James Mougale from SNPA are currently ½ way through completing MSc's in Conservation Science and Management at DICE, UKC and are about to embark on research project that will benefit (i) this project directly- by undertaking useful research on SPF and on Curieuse National Park management, (ii) their employer SNPA –through undertaking priority research for SNPA, and (iii) their professional development and research abilities.</p> <p>Eight regional skills transfers and Cross fertilisation exchanges have been undertaken during this reporting period (four from Seychelles to Mauritius, two from Madagascar to Mauritius and two from Comoros to Madagascar).</p> <p>One mini symposium on Avian reintroductions – what works and what does not, and three presentations on MPF and SPF reintroductions. Evidence is provided in Section 3.2 of this report and in annexes 6 & 7</p> <p>Indicators remain appropriate.</p>
Activity 1.1 2x Comorians successfully complete English language training course in Madagascar prior to embarking on PGDip in Mauritius		<p>10 Dahari staff have received English language training from a qualified English language teacher at Dahari during this reporting period. In addition Siti Mohamed is completing intensive one-on-one English language training in Mauritius from a qualified and British High Commission recommended English language teacher to improve her English proficiency, to prepare her for IELTS qualification exam and for her PGDip course which is taught in English.</p>
Activity 1.2, 1x Mauritian national and 2x Comoros nationals successfully complete UKC accredited PGDip's in endangered species restoration at DCT regional training hub in Mauritius		<p>Two local conservation practitioners Ms Siti Mohamed (Dahari Comoros Monitoring and Evaluation Manager) and Mr Sion Henshaw (MWF's echo parakeet coordinator) have just started PGDiploma in Endangered Species Restoration at DCT in Mauritius. Their PGDip started 29 March 2017 and will end in October 2017.</p>
Activity 1.3. 1x Madagascar national and 1x Seychelles national successfully complete MRes/MSc in biodiversity management at DICE, University of Kent/ UK		<p>Two local Seychelles conservation practitioners (Mr Allen Cedras and Mr James Mougale from SNPA are currently ½ way through their MSc in Conservation Science and Management at DICE, UKC. We would like to highlight that this project intended to ensure 2 local conservation practitioners completed MSc/MRes, at DICE, however the project –by providing a scholarship for one SNPA staff member to undertake an MSc at DICE managed to facilitate a scholarship for a second SNPA staff member. Mr Allen Cedras was, via an application and interview process, selected as the recipient of our project funded MSc scholarship. However during the interview process to select the candidate for the project scholarship, two strong candidates emerged and SNPA did not</p>

	<p>want to turn either one down - so SNPA worked to source funds to enable James Mougat to pursue an MSc at DICE too. This project provided the impetus, logistical and technical support from the PO and the PL to make this happen. This is an excellent example of Darwin Project funds leveraging extra funds and outputs that will benefit the host country partners. See annex 4 for MSc progress report for Allen Cedras and James Mougat.</p> <p>During the next reporting period (project year 2) Allen and James will complete their MSc's (in September 2017) and a Madagascar conservation practitioner (to be selected by Durrell Madagascar) will start an MRes at DICE, UKC.</p>
<p>Activity 1.4. 11x regional skills transfer and x-fertilisation exchange visits undertaken by local field staff between Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar to actively participate in live <i>in-situ</i> project activities including bird translocations and habitat restoration</p>	<p>Eight regional skills transfers and cross fertilisation exchanges have been undertaken during this reporting period (4 from Seychelles to Mauritius, two from Madagascar to Mauritius and 2 from Comoros to Madagascar). This exceeds the four planned regional skills exchanges for this reporting period. These include 2x Dahari staff to Madagascar; 2x Durrell Madagascar staff to MWF Mauritius, 1x SNPA staff to MWF in Mauritius and the PO x2 visits to Mauritius- refer to annexes 5 & 6 & 8 for details and evidence.</p> <p>Four regional skills transfer and x-fertilisation exchange visits are scheduled for year 2.</p>
<p>Activity 1.5. 10x presentations on terrestrial habitat and species restoration to local partner staff, stakeholders, government officials & wider conservation community in Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros</p>	<p>This activity is scheduled for project years 2&3.</p> <p>However during this reporting year we ran one Avian Reintroduction mini Symposium in Mauritius in March 2017 where 9 speakers from our host country partners presented to an invited audience of c.50 people from the wider Mauritius conservation community. See annex 7 for verification. This symposium was organised to maximise the opportunity for our Madagascar skills exchange participants Floriot Randrianarimangason and Mahazaka Ratsimalandy to learn about reintroduction techniques for threatened birds in preparation for their upcoming Madagascar pochard reintroduction.</p> <p>PO gave 3 presentations on the SPF and MPF reintroductions to both the 2016 and the 2017 PGDip students and to a group of about 30 MWF conservation staff.</p> <p>Two meetings (involving the PO, Senior MWF staff and Senior Mauritian government National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS) officials to secure permissions to begin and then to continue with the Mauritian paradise flycatcher reintroduction to Ferney.</p> <p>One meeting with Seychelles government officials to present draft Seychelles paradise flycatcher conservation strategy and recovery plan and to define requirements and prerequisites for gaining government permissions to reintroduce flycatchers to Curieuse and Félicité islands (see annex 12).</p>

<p>Output 2. Improved conservation status of two WIO threatened paradise flycatcher species (SPF in Seychelles and MPF in Mauritius) through habitat restoration, conservation reintroductions, and refined management practices.</p>	<p>2.1 c.20 hectares of lowland native broad-leafed forest habitat restored on Curieuse, c.60ha on Felicite (Seychelles) and c.20ha at Ferney (Mauritius) (ongoing throughout project).</p> <p>2.2 c. 25 SPF reintroduced to Félicité Island (year 2)</p> <p>2.3 c. 25 SPF introduced to Curieuse Island (year 3)</p> <p>2.4 c.30 MPF reintroduced to Ferney (year 2)</p> <p>2.5 2x Updated participatory species conservation assessments and action plans for SPF and MPF produced (including realistic management recommendations for both remnant and reintroduced populations) (year 3)</p>	<p>Progress towards achieving improved conservation status of two WIO threatened PF species through habitat restoration, conservation reintroductions and refined management practices is progressing in year 1 in the form of increased area of good flycatcher habitat in both Mauritius (c.10ha in year 1) and in the Seychelles (c.15 ha in year 1), expansion of the MPF range by reintroducing them to Ferney Valley, and by the production of a new conservation assessment and Species Action Plan for the SPF which provides priority actions for improving SPF conservation status. Evidence is provided in section 3.2 and in annexes 9, 10 &14.</p> <p>Indicator remains appropriate</p>
<p>Activity 2.1. Restore c.20 hectares of lowland native broad-leafed woodland habitat on Curieuse (Seychelles), c.60ha on Felicite (Seychelles) and c.20ha at Ferney (Mauritius)</p>		<p>Two project habitat rehabilitation staff Anselm Barra and Paul Uzice have been employed full time on this project since August 2016 rehabilitating lowland native forest habitat on Curieuse Island Seychelles. They have repaired an existing nursery including building a c. 2500m² giant tortoise proof fence, dug a well to source water, stocked the nursery with lowland native tree species (c.1500 seedlings of 13 different tree species) cleared c.5 ha of invasive vegetation and started planting out native trees produced in their nursery (c. 90 planted out to date). A major challenge in areas of Curieuse is the giant tortoises – each seedling must be protected with a solid barrier preventing the tortoises from reaching and eating them! See annex 10 for images demonstrating Anselm and Paul's progress.</p> <p>MWF staff and Vallee de Ferney staff continue to restore native forest habitat in Ferney Valley in Mauritius including controlling invasive mammalian predators (cats, mongooses, rats) and introduced invasive vegetation.</p> <p>Félicité Island Ecology team continue to rehabilitate native forest on Felicite (co-financed).</p> <p>Habitat rehabilitation/restoration will continue at all 3 sites in year 2</p>
<p>Activity 2.2. Survey of remnant flycatcher populations in Mauritius and Seychelles to estimate current population sizes and identify suitable areas to source individuals for translocations</p>		<p>Census and territory mapping of SPF on western plateau on La Digue (stronghold of the SPF on La Digue) completed (see annex 11).</p> <p>Survey of MPF population size completed and current population size estimated</p>

	<p>at c.800 individuals (MWF). Combo field site in the Black River Gorges National park was identified as a hotspot for MPF with a high density of territories. Project MPF field biologist Veronique Couttee surveyed Combo and identified areas for sourcing individuals for translocation. In addition Veronique has been monitoring a subset of SPF territories (pairs) in Combo in order to collect vital baseline information on MPF behaviour, breeding biology and breeding success at the source population in order to have baseline information for the species and in order to have data to compare our reintroduced population against.</p> <p>Whole island survey of La Digue flycatcher population will be completed in year 2 Census of SPF population on Denis Island will be undertaken in year 2.</p>
Activity 2.3. Translocate 25 SPF to Félicité Island	<p>This translocation is scheduled for year 2. Preparations are underway including data collection for feasibility studies (to be completed and submitted to MEECC by July 2017); and 2 meetings and 1 presentation to MEECC to get the ball rolling re government permissions for reintroduction and to ensure we provide all the necessary information to MEECC in the feasibility study & reintroduction proposal.</p>
Activity 2.4. Translocate 25 SPF to Curieuse Island	<p>This activity is scheduled for year 3. Preparations are underway including data collection for feasibility studies (to be completed and submitted to MEECC by July 2017); and 1 meeting to MEECC to get the ball rolling re government permissions for reintroduction and to ensure we provide all the necessary information to MEECC in the feasibility study and reintroduction proposal.</p>
Activity 2.5. Translocate c.30 MPF to Ferney	<p>Reintroduction of MPF to Ferney underway. Permissions were sought and obtained from Mauritius government National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS) and regular progress updates are provided to NPCS. To date 22 MPF have been released at Ferney. Due to the real possibility of release individuals leaving the release area (as there are no significant barriers to dispersal in this mainland reintroduction) we have built in experimental trials of different release group ages and compositions in order to determine if certain ages groups of release group composition influences post release dispersal behaviour. We are trialling 3 release groups (family groups with dependent juveniles; independent juveniles; adults just prior to the breeding season). We are also attaching radio transmitters to a cohort in each trial group in order to monitor post release dispersal. See section 3.1 and annexes 8&9 for evidence.</p> <p>Reintroduction will continue in project year 2.</p>
Activity 2.6. Produce updated participatory species conservation assessments and action plans for SPF and MPF (including realistic management recommendations for both remnant and reintroduced populations) and gain relevant government endorsements	<p>SPF conservation assessment and species action plan has been updated and presented to the MEECC (Seychelles Government Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change) for their input and endorsement. Evidence provided in annexes 12 & 14.</p>

<p>Output 3. Improved understanding of paradise flycatcher resilience and adaptability in partially restored habitats</p>	<p>3.1 Research by management approach to all 3 reintroductions with intensive post release monitoring of survival and breeding success of released individuals, as well as other environmental/habitat variables</p>	<p>Progress is already being made towards improving understanding of paradise flycatcher resilience and adaptability in partially restored habitat as evidenced by trials we are undertaking to determine best practice (best age, timing and release group composition) for MPF reintroductions. Habitat variables have also been quantified at release and source sites to aid in interpretation. Evidence is provided in section 3.2 of this report and in annexes 8&9.</p> <p>Indicator remains appropriate</p>
<p>Activity 3.1. Undertake intensive post-release monitoring of survival and breeding success of released individuals + other environmental/habitat variables at all 3 release sites and at source populations, and analyse to provide quality M&E data to inform current and future reintroduction best practice and interventions if necessary</p>		<p>Intensive post –release monitoring of MPF reintroduction underway. MPF released with transmitters attached (8 Individuals) were regularly located to provide info on post release dispersal and survival. All sightings of released individuals are recorded and GPS point taken. The transmitters have been a valuable investment in enabling released birds to be tracked and located, and several other released birds without transmitters were also located when they met up with our transmitterised birds. Our radio tracking data show (for the first 2 weeks post-release-which is the life span of the tiny 0.39 gram transmitters) that while released individuals moved around a lot, they generally did not move too far from the release area in the short term. Initial results show juveniles strayed less from the release site than adults. One adult female returned to her capture site at Combo c.22 km straight line distance.)</p> <p>Surveys of the wider Ferney area are planned for future the breeding seasons (August – December/January time) when MPF are more detectable and more responsive to playback, to locate birds, monitor for breeding and determine success of the reintroduction.</p> <p>Post release monitoring will continue through-out and post project</p>
<p>Activity 3.2. Two open access publications on project research and findings accepted for publication in high quality peer reviewed journals (eg: Biological Conservation and Biodiversity and Conservation)</p>		<p>This activity is scheduled for project year 3; however we are already collecting project data for these publications.</p>
<p>Output 4. Projects restoring critical habitats and/or species initiated in Comoros and Madagascar as a direct result of this project</p>	<p>4.1 Projects (x2) designed and implementation underway in Madagascar (x1) and Comoros(x1) (year 3)</p>	<p>This Output will be achieved later in the project in year 3. Indicator remains appropriate.</p>
<p>Activity 4.1. Design and start implementing a project restoring critical habitat and/or species in Madagascar led by Madagascar project partner Durrell and recipient of project MRes scholarship</p>		<p>Scheduled for year 3</p>
<p>Activity 4.2. Design and begin implementing a project restoring critical habitat and/or species in Comoros led by Comoros partner Dahari and the Comorian recipients of project PGDip scholarships</p>		<p>Scheduled for year 3</p>

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: (Max 30 words) Four Indian Ocean countries including two LDC's and three SIDS expertly restoring their endemic biodiversity with continual improvement sustainably supported by a regional network of training and skill-sharing opportunities.</p>			
<p>Outcome: (Max 30 words) Increased capacity to conserve Indian Ocean species and habitats through skill-sharing, capacity-building and <i>in-situ</i> learning on three reintroduction and habitat restoration initiatives for two endemic birds enabling their reduced extinction-risk.</p>	<p>1.1 Two additional Seychelles paradise flycatcher (SPF) populations established and breeding (productivity exceeding mortality) on Curieuse and Félicité islands, Seychelles by end of year 3 1.2 One new Mascarene paradise flycatcher (MPF) population established and breeding (productivity exceeding mortality) at Ferney, Mauritius by end year 3 1.3 SPF recommended for down-listing from Critically Endangered to Endangered on the IUCN red-list at the next assessment (by end year 3) 1.4 Government reports to CBD</p>	<p>1.1 Project annual reports 1.2 SNPA/MWF reintroduction progress reports 1.3 Recommendation letters to IUCN red-list authority 1.4 Government reports to CBD</p>	<p>Relevant Governments remain stable and continue to view habitat and species conservation as a priority and provide the necessary permissions (and island access) to undertake project activities.</p> <p>No adverse climatic/stochastic events (e.g. cyclones) preventing timely completion of this project.</p>
<p>Outputs: 1. Increased regional capacity of WIO SIDs and LDCs (Seychelles, Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar) to research, monitor, manage and restore threatened terrestrial habitats and species</p>	<p>1.1 Three local conservation practitioners complete Postgraduate Diploma in Endangered Species Restoration at DCT regional training hub in Mauritius (years 2 & 3) 1.2 Two local conservation practitioners complete MSc/MRes in Conservation Science & Manag^t at DICE, University of Kent, UK (years 1-2 & 2-3) 1.4 Eleven regional skills transfer and cross fertilisation exchanges undertaken between Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Comoros to work for c. 1 month each on project activities including bird reintroductions and habitat restoration projects (throughout</p>	<p>1.1 PGDip graduation certificates 1.2 MSc graduation certificates 1.3 Training exchange trip reports from hosting partner NGOs (8 exchanges by project participants; 3 by PO; total=11).</p>	<p>Trained staff (MSc/PGDip/ skills exchange participants) remain with local partners throughout and after the project finishes, to continue to implement what they have learned and to form an initial <i>alumni</i> who foster a learning network across Indian Ocean.</p>

	project)		
2. Improved conservation status of two WIO threatened paradise flycatcher species (SPF in Seychelles and MPF in Mauritius) through habitat restoration, conservation reintroductions, and refined management practices.	<p>2.1 c.20 hectares of lowland native broad-leafed forest habitat restored on Curieuse, c.60ha on Felicite (Seychelles) and c.20ha at Ferney (Mauritius) (ongoing throughout project).</p> <p>2.2 c. 25 SPF reintroduced to Félicité Island (year 2)</p> <p>2.3 c. 25 SPF introduced to Curieuse Island (year 3)</p> <p>2.4 c.30 MPF reintroduced to Ferney (year 2)</p> <p>2.5 2x Updated participatory species conservation assessments and action plans for SPF and MPF produced (including realistic management recommendations for both remnant and reintroduced populations) (year 3)</p>	<p>2.1 Habitat restoration progress reports and images</p> <p>2.2 reintroduction progress reports Felicite</p> <p>2.3 Curieuse reintroduction progress reports</p> <p>2.4 Ferney reintroduction progress reports</p> <p>2.5a 2x Species conservation assessment and action plan documents</p> <p>2.5b SAP implementation progress reports</p>	Relevant Governments and NGO;s continue to collaborate to rehabilitate and protect relevant species and habitats
3.Improved understanding of paradise flycatcher resilience and adaptability in partially restored habitats	3.1 Research by management approach to all 3 reintroductions with intensive post release monitoring of survival and breeding success of released individuals, as well as other environmental/habitat variables	<p>3.1a reintroduction monitoring and research reports</p> <p>3.1b 2x peer reviewed scientific manuscripts resulting directly from this project work published</p>	Editors accept papers for publication
4. Projects restoring critical habitats and/or species initiated in Comoros and Madagascar as a direct result of this project	4.1 Projects (x2) designed and implementation underway in Madagascar (x1) and Comoros(x1) (year 3)	<p>4.1a Project concept documents</p> <p>4.1b Project implementation progress reports</p>	Relevant government permissions are granted enabling project implementation
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1) 0. Activities relate to project management activities.</p> <p>0.1 Project Steering Group set-up (by month 3) and meet (may be virtually) bi-annually throughout the duration of the project to monitor and evaluate progress and plan ahead</p> <p>0.2 Project staff hired in a timely manner (Seychelles field biologist in month 13; Mauritian field biologist by month 2, Seychelles habitat restoration fieldworkers by month 2)</p> <p>0.3 Annual, ½ year and final reports submitted to Darwin Initiative in a timely manner</p>			

- 1.1 2x Comorians successfully complete English language training course in Madagascar prior to embarking on PGDip in Mauritius
- 1.2 1x Mauritian national and 2x Comoros nationals successfully complete UKC accredited PGDip's in endangered species restoration at DCT regional training hub in Mauritius
- 1.3 1x Madagascar national and 1x Seychelles national successfully complete MRes/MSc in biodiversity management at DICE, University of Kent/ UK
- 1.4 11x regional skills transfer and x-fertilisation exchange visits undertaken by local field staff between Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar to actively participate in live *in-situ* project activities including bird translocations and habitat restoration
- 1.5 10x presentations on terrestrial habitat and species restoration to local partner staff, stakeholders, government officials & wider conservation community in Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros
- 2.1 Restore c.20 hectares of lowland native broad-leafed woodland habitat on Curieuse (Seychelles), c.60ha on Felicite (Seychelles) and c.20ha at Ferney (Mauritius)
- 2.2 Survey of remnant flycatcher populations in Mauritius and Seychelles to estimate current population sizes and identify suitable areas to source individuals for translocations
- 2.3 Translocate 25 SPF to Félicité Island
- 2.4 Translocate 25 SPF to Curieuse Island
- 2.5 Translocate c.30 MPF to Ferney
- 2.6 Produce updated participatory species conservation assessments and action plans for SPF and MPF (including realistic management recommendations for both remnant and reintroduced populations) and gain relevant government endorsements
- 3.1 Undertake intensive post-release monitoring of survival and breeding success of released individuals + other environmental/habitat variables at all 3 release sites and at source populations, and analyse to provide quality M&E data to inform current and future reintroduction best practice and interventions if necessary
- 3.2 Two open access publications on project research and findings accepted for publication in high quality peer reviewed journals (eg: Biological Conservation and Biodiversity and Conservation)
- 4.1 Design and start implementing a project restoring critical habitat and/or species in Madagascar led by Madagascar project partner Durrell and recipient of project MRes scholarship
- 4.2 Design and begin implementing a project restoring critical habitat and/or species in Comoros led by Comoros partner Dahari and the Comorian recipients of project PGDip scholarships

Annex 3: Standard Measures

Please expand and complete Table 1: new projects should complete the Y1 column and also indicate the number planned during the project lifetime. Continuing project should cut and paste the information from previous years and add in data for the most recent reporting period. Quantify project standard measures over the last year using the coding and format from the Darwin Initiative Standard Measures (see website for details: <http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/resources/>) and give a brief description. Please list and report on relevant Code No's. only. The level of detail required is specified in the Standard Measures Guidance notes under 'definitions and reporting requirements' column. Please devise and add any measures that are not captured in the current list. Please note that these measures may not be a substitute for output level objectively verifiable indicators in the project logframe.

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
Established codes								
2	Number of people to attain Masters qualification (MSc, MPhil etc.) *	M,F	Seychellois, Malagasy	0	1	1	0	2
3	Number of people to attain other qualifications (e.g. Not standard measures 1 or 2 above)	F,M,F	Comorian, Mauritian, Comorian	0	2	1	0	3
6A	No of people to receive other forms of education/training (which does not fall into categories 1-5 above) *	Fx4, Mx4	Seychellois x2 Malagasy x2 Comorian x2	5	3	2	5	8
6B	(regional skills-exchange visits) Number of training weeks to be provided		Mauritian x2	7	7	7	7	21
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) to be produced for Governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies in the host country			1	0	1	1	2
11A	Number of papers to be published in peer reviewed journals			0	0	2	0	2
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals			0	0	2	0	2
20	Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be							

	handed over to host country(ies)							
23	Value of resources raised from other sources (e.g., in addition to Darwin funding) for project work							

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

Publications are planned for year 3 of this project.

Annex 4. Evidence of project funded MSc scholarship participants progress to date

From: Jim Groombridge <J.Groombridge@kent.ac.uk>

Sent: 27 April 2017 20:45

To: Rachel Bristol

Subject: Progress report on two Seychellois MSc students on DICE MSc programme

Dear Rachel,

I am delighted to provide you with an update on our two Seychellois MSc students, James Mougale and Allen Cedras. Both students are doing extremely well on the taught MSc programme in Conservation Science and Management here at DICE, School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent. James Mougale has obtained an average mark on his coursework of 65%, and Allen Cedras has obtained an average mark of 60.5.

James and Allen will soon be returning to Seychelles to begin their research project before returning to Kent to analyse their data and write up their thesis for submission. In my meetings with them both, it is clear that they are deriving enormous value from the experience on the MSc programme, and I know that they are both very excited about embarking on the research projects.

With best wishes,

Jim Groombridge

Professor Jim Groombridge | Head of School | University of Kent

Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, School of Anthropology and Conservation, Marlowe Building, University of Kent, Canterbury, CT2 7NR, UK

Tel: 01227 824097 | **E-**

mail: J.Groombridge@kent.ac.uk | **Website:** www.kent.ac.uk/sac/staff/groombridge_jim.html

This email is confidential to the intended recipient. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender and delete it from your computer.

Annex 5. Dahari Comoros skills-exchange visit report.

See accompanying PDF file entitled Annex 5

Annex 6. Durrell Madagascar staff regional skills-exchange report and email feedback from Richard Lewis, Programme Director, Durrell Madagascar.

See accompanying PDF file entitled Annex 6.

Annex 7. Avian reintroduction Symposium Invitation and image.

See accompanying PDF file entitled Annex 7.

Annex 8. Rachel Bristol Mascarene paradise flycatcher reintroduction planning trip report and reintroduction proposal notes for MWF.

See accompanying PDF file entitled Annex 8.

Annex 9. Mascarene paradise flycatcher reintroduction progress report.

See accompanying PDF file entitled Annex 9.

Annex 10. Images of habitat rehabilitation progress on Curieuse Island



Annex 11. Report of Seychelles paradise flycatcher distribution and numbers on the western plateau of La Digue, May 2016.

See accompanying PDF file entitled Annex 11.

Annex 12. Emails confirming meetings between PO and Seychelles Ministry of Environment regarding SPF Conservation Assessment and Action Plan and upcoming SPF reintroductions

From: Marie-May Jeremie-Muzungaile <m.mjeremiemuzungaile@env.gov.sc>
Sent: 30 January 2017 16:45
To: Rachel Bristol; Alain Decomarmond; Ronley Fanchette
Cc: Flavien Joubert; Denis Matatiken; Didier Dogley
Subject: RE: FLYcatcher

Thank you Rachel

As per our discussions in the meeting we will go through and revert back to you

Regards

*Mrs. Marie-May Muzungaile
Director General
Biodiversity Conservation and Management Division
Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change
Botanical Garden
P.O. Box 445, Victoria*

*Tel: +2484670500 EXT: 502 Cell: +2482723920
Email: m.mjeremie@env.gov.sc*

From: Rachel Bristol [mailto:rachelbristol@seychelles.net]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 3:48 PM
To: Alain Decomarmond; Ronley Fanchette; Marie-May Jeremie-Muzungaile
Cc: Flavien Joubert; Denis Matatiken; Didier Dogley
Subject:

Hi all,

Please find updated flycatcher SAP in line with points discussed in our recent meeting, namely: order change in the objectives and associated activities; removal of activity 3.3; and a couple of small changes in the indicators and lead responsibility.

Ronley -if MEECC wants this Conservation Strategy and Action Plan formatted in Seychelles Government formatting style as you mentioned -please provide. This SAP followed the style of previous Seychelles govt endorsed threatened endemic bird Conservation strategies and Action plans and the IUCN guidelines (IUCN/SSC Handbook for Strategic Planning for Species Conservation).

best,

Rachel

From: Rachel Bristol
Sent: 10 December 2016 22:48
To: Didier Dogley
Subject: RE: Flycatcher species action plan and La Digue survey report

Dear Minister Dogley,
thanks for your support
best regards,
Rachel

From: Didier Dogley <d.dogley@gov.sc>
Sent: 03 December 2016 12:24
To: Rachel Bristol; Flavien Joubert; Ronley Fanchette; Alain Decomarmond; boga@seychelles.net; Denis Matatiken
Cc: Sylvanna Antat; Isabelle Ravinia; 'james mougal'
Subject: RE: Flycatcher species action plan and La Digue survey report

Rachel,

Thanks. I fully concur with you and I believe the PSE will do the necessary to implement the action plan.

We also need to present your findings to the Digois and the action plan. They need to be aware of what is going on to empower and engage them in the actions that needs to be done.

I believe we need to do such consultations early next year.

DD

From: Rachel Bristol [rachelbristol@seychelles.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 4:08 PM
To: Didier Dogley; Flavien Joubert; Ronley Fanchette; Alain Decomarmond; boga@seychelles.net; Denis Matatiken
Cc: Sylvanna Antat; Isabelle Ravinia; 'james mougal'
Subject: Flycatcher species action plan and La Digue survey report

Hi all,

Please find attached two documents related to Seychelles paradise flycatchers.

1. Draft 'conservation assessment and species action plan' for Seychelles paradise flycatchers. You have seen the first draft I circulated some time ago and I have updated it incorporating the few comments I received from you. I propose we organise a meeting to discuss this Action Plan and the way forward including future reintroductions. I think it is important to have an agreed and endorsed SAP for threatened species which lists priority actions and makes the process of agreeing the next action easier and less random, and I know there are several topics to discuss for flycatchers.
2. The second doc is the final version of the survey and territory mapping I did for flycatchers on the La Digue main western plateau earlier this year. You already received a draft doc several months ago.

I am happy to organise a meeting between us (and anyone else you think should be there) to discuss the Species Action Plan and the way forward. Let me know your availability.

thanks and best regards,
Rachel

Annex 13. IUCN SSG Reintroduction specialist comment on proposed MPF reintroduction to Ferney



Sept. 11, 2016

To whom it may concern;

In 2013 the IUCN Reintroduction Specialist Group, in collaboration with the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group, released global 'Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations' to aid organizations consider a myriad of factors that could affect the feasibility, implementation, and outcome of translocation-linked conservation approaches. These Guidelines have been translated into 7 languages, implemented already into Policy in several global regions, and are the best practice standard for conservation translocations worldwide. Thorough considerations of reintroductions through detailed feasibility assessments can guide the efficient use of logistical or financial resources, and ultimately contribute to the probability of long-term conservation success.

The Reintroduction Specialist Group has been asked to comment on the proposed translocations of the Mauritius Paradise Flycatcher which is proposed by the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation. We have been provided background information that suggests a growing population of approximately 800 individuals could be used as a source for the translocation. In such situations risks and benefits can exist for source and destination sites, and these need to be weighed carefully under parameters identified in the IUCN guidelines. One issue is determining an adequate translocation cohort size that will increase the likelihood of establishment while not causing irreversible harm to source sites, yield sufficient number of individuals for demographic and genetic viability at the destination site, and yield a sufficient number of translocated individuals to yield sufficient information to help refine future management phases.

We have been informed that the targeted establishment population size is 60 birds. Based on experiences with similar-sized source populations elsewhere in the world, expert opinion, and the information provided, we support the proposal of moving 60 individuals over the next 3 year period. We recognize that this number, and the potential breeding by surviving translocated individuals, may yield the target population size within this time frame; whether this occurs or not, future management of both populations is anticipated and desired. Regardless of translocation performance, we require consistent monitoring of both the source and destination sites to ensure that the source population remains stable, and to yield valuable data which can increase the efficiency, impact, and knowledge gained of attempted translocations.

Sincerely yours,

Axel Moehrenschrager, D.Phil.
Chair, IUCN Species Survival Commission Reintroduction Specialist Group

Annex 14. Seychelles paradise flycatcher conservation assessment and action plan

See accompanying PDF file entitled Annex 14.

Annex 15. Confirmation of approval of requested change to budget

From: Eilidh Young <darwin-projects@ltsi.co.uk>
Sent: 08 March 2017 19:49
To: Rachel Bristol
Cc: Jim Groombridge; Rob Goldsmith (R.J.Goldsmith@kent.ac.uk)
Subject: RE: Application for approval to amend project budget from project 23-006

Rachel

It has taken some time for Defra to consider, but I am pleased to confirm that they have now agreed the change request you submitted for this project so can confirm I will amend your financial records to show the Proposed figures below which have now been accepted. The changes between different budget lines have also been accepted.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Start/end dates
Current £				01/04/16 - 31/03/19
Proposed £				01/04/16 - 31/03/19
Change				

Regards

Eilidh Young
Darwin Projects
DDI 0131 440 5181
web <http://darwininitiative.org.uk>
Twitter @Darwin_Defra
Skype: darwin-projects

From: Rachel Bristol [mailto:rachelbristol@seychelles.net]
Sent: 23 February 2017 13:58
To: Eilidh Young
Cc: Jim Groombridge; Rob Goldsmith (R.J.Goldsmith@kent.ac.uk)
Subject: Application for approval to amend project budget from project 23-006

Dear Eilidh,
We spoke on the phone yesterday.
Please find attached 'Application for approval to amend project or budget' request form.
Don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further clarification.
Thanks for your advice and very best regards,
Rachel

Dr. Rachel Bristol
Project Officer Darwin Initiative project 23-006
Conservation Biologist, La Batie, Mahé, Seychelles.
Honorary Research Associate, Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE)
School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent.
Mobile: (+248) 2560841 Email: rachelbristol@seychelles.net

Annex 16. Confirmation of late submission of project expenditure information

From: S.F.Pritchard <S.F.Pritchard@kent.ac.uk>
Sent: 25 April 2017 11:59
To: Rachel Bristol
Subject: RE: project expenditure summary table for inclusion in annual report (darwin project 31222329)

Hi Rachel

I hope all is well with you.

Rob obtained confirmation from Darwin that the financial reports could be submitted by the end of May 2017 as he knew he would be away (he'd already booked a holiday before he took over from Jon King). We will be working on the expenses/reporting when he returns next week.

Best wishes
Frances

Frances Pritchard | Finance Officer | University of Kent

School of Anthropology and Conservation, Room 12 Marlowe Building, University of Kent, Canterbury, CT2 7NR

Tel: 01227 827965 | E-mail: S.F.Pritchard@kent.ac.uk | SACFinance@kent.ac.uk

My working days are Monday - Thursday

This email is confidential to the intended recipient. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender and delete it from your computer.

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@itsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@itsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	no
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	yes
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	no
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	no*
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	

*pre-agreed with Darwin to be submitted in May –see annex 16