

IUCN SSC Mascarene Islands Plant Specialist Group

2018 Report



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Co-Chairs

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

40



Mission statement

To conserve native plants of the Mascarene Islands.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we hope to significantly advance towards finalisation of the national Red List of endemic plants of Mauritius and Rodrigues. We also hope to establish or reinforce collaboration with a number of international conservation organisations, and take actions significantly improving the conservation of at least 10 endemic plant species. We expect to keep a fully up-to-date database of all plants present in La Réunion in order to deliver regular Red List reassessments of the entire Réunion Flora to guide our conservation actions. We envision producing factsheets on techniques for how to grow each rare plant species from La Réunion, and publishing several conservation action plans for our most threatened endemic plant species. We also expect to prevent the complete loss of a patrimony and a unique biodiversity in the world: La Réunion dry forest. And, last but not least, we hope to increase knowledge and information exchange between researchers and conservationists on-the-ground to ultimately improve the conservation of rare plant species from La Réunion.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: complete the assessment of 200 endemic plants from Mauritius and Rodrigues.
Research activities: (1) update on a regular basis the database of all plants present in La Réunion, including rare plant species; (2) develop new knowledge to improve the conservation of rare plant species from La Réunion (both research and grey literature).

Plan

Planning: publish emergency action plans for Extinct in the Wild plant species (22 species) and national or local action plans for rare plant species (39 species).

Act

Conservation actions: (1) conserve *in situ* and/or *ex situ* 50 Critically Endangered plant species from Mauritius and Rodrigues; (2) contribute to the successful implementation of the project ESPECE (Études et Sauvegarde des Plantes En danger Critique d'Extinction; www.reunion-parcnational.fr/); (3) contribute to the successful implementation of the project LIFE+ forêt sèche, which aims to prevent the complete loss of a patrimony and a unique biodiversity in the world: La Réunion dry forest (general information at www.foretseche.re/en/).

Network

Capacity building: conduct training courses in plant conservation.

Synergy: develop or reinforce collaboration with at least three international conservation organisations.

Communicate

Technical advice: publish factsheets on techniques for how to grow each rare plant species from La Réunion.



Repatriated *Cylindrocline lorencei*
Photo: Vikash Tatayah



Activities and results 2018

Assess

Red List

i. We have pre-assessed 281 endemic plants from Mauritius; ca. 20 have been entered into the IUCN SIS database. (KSR #1, 2, 32)

Research activities

i. In 2018, in terms of *ex situ* conservation, 633 individuals of the 28% of threatened flora (including CR, EN, VU) are planted in *ex situ* collections in the Conservatoire Botanique National de Mascarin garden. Eighty-eight new batches of threatened species (mainly CR and EN) harvests (3,380 diaspores across 48 species) will feed these collections or in situ conservation operations in the short term. From the CBNM nursery, a total of 67 individuals across 16 threatened taxa have contributed to the *ex situ* collections of our scientific and technical partners. (KSR #32)

ii. New knowledge on rare plants acquired with the discovery of a new taxon for La Réunion (*Leptadenia cf. madagascariensis*), a new fern with a hybrid origin, and new pollinators on *Hibiscus boryanus* (more info here: www.cahiers-wio.org), as well as a new publication on the role of woody plant fleshy-fruits. (KSR #32)

Plan

Planning

i. Two new national conservation action plans for Extinct in the Wild species have been published. (KSR #15)

Act

Conservation actions

i. Discussions and collaborations initiated with four institutions to conserve *in situ* and/or *ex situ* 50 Critically Endangered plant species from Mauritius and Rodrigues. (KSR #29)

ii. Phases 1 to 3 of project ESPECE have been finalised; harvest and multiplication have just been initiated in 2018. (KSR #25, 27)

iii. For the implementation of Project LIFE+ forêt sèche: 17,589 indigenous individual plants have been planted, of which 7,320 are threatened. (KSR #31)

Network

Capacity building

i. Four training sessions on databases (online and face-to-face) and propagation were organised, contributing to training in plant conservation. (KSR #17)

Synergy

i. Discussions and collaborations were initiated with three institutions: Conservatoire Botanique National de Brest (France), Botanical Gardens Conservation International, and Missouri Botanical Gardens (US). (KSR #29)

Communicate

Technical advice

i. Techniques for how to grow 18 rare new species from La Réunion have been described through a specific factsheet. (KSR #18)

Acknowledgements

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Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 5/5

Assess	3	
Plan	1	
Act	3	
Network	2	
Communicate	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 15, 17, 18, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32