



Ecosystem Restoration Alliance Indian Ocean, No.7 Site & Services, Circonstance, St. Pierre, Mauritius

Forestry Activities and Plant Propagation Plan

10th April 2017

CEPF Application Code 66369

Title: Mauritian Fruit Bat (*Pteropus niger*) - An Umbrella Species for Forest Restoration

The project involves propagation of plants in the plant nurseries and planting in the proposed areas of Longue Mountain and Yemen-Takamaka in order to enhance forest regeneration. The cost of nursery establishment is not covered by CEPF and additional funding for this activity will be looked for. All the procedures will follow common practices and safeguards produced by National Parks and Conservation Service, Forestry Services and advice of National Herbarium. No activities will be undertaken before prior approval from relevant authorities. Mr Abdullah Nuckcheddy and Mr Laurent Ayady are plant specialists who will be leading forestry activities.

1. Nursery establishment

Longue Mountain nursery will be established near the area on which the activities are planned to avoid introduction of additional invasive species. It will be composed of wooden benched raised at around 1m from the ground and roofed with shade mesh. The compost will be placed in potting bags/seed trays a week before planting to enable germination of any potential fast growing weeds contained in the soil. Prior to planting the pots will be weeded.

2. Seeds

Seeds of plants which are present or should be present in designed reforestation area will be provided by NPCS or National Herbarium. Every precaution will be taken to ensure that right species of the plants are propagated and planted in its natural habitat to avoid introduction of native/endemic plants to areas in which they were historically absent. Seeds of commonly present pioneer native/endemic plants will be collected in the managed area for propagation without depleting the natural population/seed bank.

3. Seedlings

Seedlings of native/endemic plants will be harvested only if at high abundance next to the parental tree. Majority of such seedlings will die off naturally due to high competition. The harvest will be done ensuring that a healthy seedling bank is maintained.

4. Cuttings

Cuttings of mature native/endemic trees will be taken ensuring that no disease is transferred onto the parent tree and in a way to not endanger the tree itself.



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5. Airlaying

If appropriate, airlaying will be done on mature wild native/endemic trees. The designated branches will have removed 1cm strip of outer bark. Soil/coconut pit will be applied on the branch, watered and sealed with plastic bag additionally covered with aluminium foil to encourage rooting. Every precaution will be taken to ensure that the practice does not damage the parental tree nor affect it in any way.

6. Rare and Critically Endangered species

No seeds, seedlings or cuttings will be taken from rare or Critically Endangered species found in the wild. Propagation of such species will be done using herbarium seed bank if appropriate/necessary.

7. Spread of invasive species

Before any plant will be taken for planting in the management area, it will be quarantined for two weeks in designated site of the nursery, sealed with thin mesh to avoid any spread of seeds into the potting soil. Any weeds growing in the pot will be carefully removed.

8. Planting

Planting will be done in prior designated areas depleted in native/endemic plants to enhance their regeneration. Main focus will be placed on fast growing pioneer species/fast growing fruiting species. Planting will be done after at least a year of intensive invasive species removal and during the rainy season.