

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Island Biodiversity & Conservation
<b>Project Title:</b>	Advancing Environmental Management Practices and Threatened Species Recovery through Partnerships with Private Sector in the Seychelles - First Phase
<b>Grant Number:</b>	65860
<b>CEPF Region:</b>	Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	2 Enable civil society to mainstream biodiversity and conservation into political and economic decision-making.
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$152,458.00
<b>Project Dates:</b>	November 01, 2016 - March 31, 2019
<b>Date of Report:</b>	July 03, 2019

### Implementation Partners

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

The Sainte Anne Island Resort (SAR) provided transportation, services of its canteens, accommodation, food and internet access to IBC staff and volunteers. SAR employed a full time Pest-control technician (cost eq. SR16,400/month). SAR contributed donations of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) tax (SR40,766). They covered the costs of one full time foreign volunteer (SR18,000). They employed Conservation biologist/Environmental adviser from Island Nature Pty Ltd (1-2 days/month). SAR staff and construction workers benefited through 2 trainings, on pesticide handling and application and a workshop on biosecurity protocols organised by IBC. Sisters Ltd. and Château-de-feuilles Sisters Ltd covered the costs of two helicopter translocations of the SWE (€2,000) and the schooner that transported 30 Giant tortoises (SR33,000). Gave CSR tax funding. 'Chateau-de-feuilles' Ltd provided all its CSR tax money to IBC-UniSey. Sisters Ltd also provided regular in-kind support in terms of boat transfers and accommodation. Island Nature provided consultancy work to SAR, to the Management of President of UAE Affairs (MPA; owners of the properties within the SWE breeding areas) and to Sisters Ltd. It played the role of facilitator between IBC-UniSey and SAR, MPA and Grande Soeur for the implementation of project activities. It provided technical assistance to the project team and wildlife monitoring equipment.

### Conservation Impacts

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

**2.1. Establishment of several private/NGO partnerships to enhance and promote environmentally friendly management practices and conservation programmes. Partnerships were established with: Sainte Anne Island Resort, Sisters Ltd/ Château-de-feuilles (Grande Soeur), Frigate Island Private Ltd, North Island Ltd, ZILAIR (helicopter services), Island Conservation Society, Seychelles National Park Authority and the Ministry of Environment, Energy & Climate Change, Miguel Torres wineries, and with NZ company Orillion.**

**2.2. Improvement of conservation status of two globally threatened species including the creation of a new population of SWE on Grande Soeur. As a result, Grande Soeur now qualifies as an Important Bird Area and a Key Biodiversity Area. IBC assisted ICS with the re-introduction of Aldabra giant tortoises to Aride to improve the habitat conditions for the Endangered Seychelles Magpie Robin and contribute to vegetation restoration. Both species are classified as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red-List and by adding one island to their range or by increasing their numbers, our project has improved their conservation status.**

**2.3. Invasive Species eradication and control. The eradication of the Invasive Alien Crested-tree lizard from Ste. Anne was confirmed by IBC-UniSey during the project. The improvement of rat and myna control protocols on Ste Anne considerably reduced their numbers.**

**2.4. Adoption of biodiversity-friendly practices adopted by hotel partners/private islands and companies as a result of the CEPF project. Beachcomber Hotels & Spa Ltd adopted the 'Improved rat and myna control around the hotel and over all their property' and the 'Biosecurity protocols to prevent pest (re)invasion during renovation of hotel'. Vijay construction Ltd also adopted the 'Biosecurity protocols to prevent pest (re)invasion during renovation of hotel' on Ste. Anne. Sisters Ltd adopted the 'Biosecurity protocol to prevent pest (re)invasion on the island.**

**2.5. Capacity building. There were at least 7 training opportunities and 3 field-related sensitisation activities during the project. The Pesticide handling course received the participation of 14 persons (9 males, 5 females). The Bird Ringing course on Aride and Conception had 10 persons (7 males, 3 females). The Ste Anne Biosecurity workshop 11 male staff were trained in bio-safety measures. The SWE translocations - 9 personnel (4 males, 5 females) were exposed and trained in translocation procedures and ringing. Tortoise translocations to Aride and Grand Soeur trained 10 staff (7 males, 3 females). Bird monitoring on Conception and Mahé involved 3 persons (2 males, 1 female) who were trained in monitoring techniques. Finally, 5 persons (1 male, 4 females) received training in plant propagation techniques and nursery maintenance. This gave a total of 62 persons (41 males and 21 females) who received structured training during the project.**

**2.6. Communication. 5 TV documentaries from the Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) were produced to increase awareness, create visibility and promote the Phase 1 of IBC-CEPF project. SBC has broadcasted one of these programmes so far, i.e. the one on the translocation of giant tortoises from Frégate to Gde Soeur. The other broadcasts will be a new documentary on nature conservation from SBC: one covering the bird ringing training on Aride; one the SWE survey of Conception and its reinvasion by rats; one the transfer of Giant tortoises to Aride ; one the SWEs transfers Gde Soeur.**

**2.7. Total area impacted by project activities and achievements. The project activities and achievements contributed to an enhanced quality of the environment in the project sites (about 32 ha on Ste. Anne (SAR property), 85 ha on Grande Soeur and c.80 ha in SWE breeding sites on Mahé.**

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>1. Establishment of viable populations of rare threatened native species (Seychelles White-eye, Giant Tortoises &amp; Leaf Insect) established in concerned sites</p>	<p>The project successfully translocated 47 SWE to Grande Soeur (31 from Frigate; 16 from Ile du Nord) between July and September 2018 to establish a new population of this threatened species. Based on regular post-monitoring the current population is estimated at 40-45 individuals, out of which 4 fledglings were produced. Seven birds were never resighted and one was found dead. The White-eyes seem to have had a long period of adaptation and a low breeding success, possibly due to high frequency of heavy rains since November 2018 with some very dry periods at intervals. Nonetheless, the creation of a new SWE population on a rat-free island offers the opportunity to establish a new viable population and safeguard the long-term survival of the species. Grande Soeur has a Giant tortoise population of only 11 adults and 10 to 20 juveniles (21-31 individuals). The translocation of 30 Giant Tortoises from Frégate to Grande Soeur Island was successfully done and it aimed at creating a viable wild population that will accelerate the establishment of a 4th viable population of Giant tortoises in the granitic Seychelles. The ecological benefit of the SWE and tortoise transfers is ecosystem restoration through dispersal of native seeds complementing other ecosystem management practices.</p>
<p>2. The globally Endangered Seychelles White-eye downlisted from Endangered to Vulnerable IUCN status and its Mahé population prevented from becoming extinct.</p>	<p>The SWE has populations on the islands of Mahé and Conception, with translocated populations on Frégate, Ile du Nord and since 2018, Grande Soeur Island. The species was previously listed as Endangered on the basis of having a very small population, but the population estimate was increased to 500-650 individuals in 2013 and consequently the species was downlisted to Vulnerable by the end of 2016 (at the same time we were starting our project). Despite the sudden and dramatic decline of the Conception population from ca. 310 in 2014 to ca. 15 birds in 2018, the SWE remained as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List due to the continued increase in the two healthy populations of Frégate and Ile du Nord (totaling 350-400 birds). The newly established small breeding population of Grande Soeur (40-45 birds) will hopefully increase rapidly to support the overall survival of the species. The Mahé population, continues to decline to dramatically low numbers (no evidence of more than 15-25 birds) and with the collapse of the Conception</p>

	<p>population (10-20 birds) it was not possible to conduct a transfer of birds from there to reinforce the Mahé population. Such a translocation may be possible during Phase 2 by transferring birds from the increasing populations of Frégate and Ile du Nord.</p>
<p>3. Enhanced quality of the environment in KBA sites (Grande Soeur, Ste Anne and possibly others) through continuous general ecosystem management practices and species (re)introduction or population reinforcement. A total of c. 50-60 ha expected to directly benefit from management activities (50% on Ste Anne; 40% on Mahé and 10 % on Grande Soeur), and some positive impacts (seeds disseminated by reintroduced animals) also expected to be observed in c.380 ha (219 ha of Ste Anne; 85 ha of Grande Soeur and c.80 ha on Mahé).</p>	<p>The control of rats and myna on Ste. Anne has further improved the environment over 32 ha. The cancellation of other conservation activities on Ste Anne due to closure of the hotel and the proposed development of another hotel did not permit to continue of the project as planned. Native trees could not be multiplied and planted and tortoises could not be reintroduced. Rat control and replanting in the SWE breeding territories on Mahé contributed to enhancement of at least 80 ha. Our project reinforced the Giant tortoise population on Grande Soeur (85 ha) and assisted ICS with their re-introduction to Aride Island Nature reserve (73 ha). The Aride transfer aimed at improving the habitat conditions for the Endangered Seychelles Magpie Robin. The main expected ecological benefit for both islands is an accelerated restoration of the ecosystem through an increased dissemination of native plant seeds consumed by tortoises and the enrichment of soil invertebrate communities. This will complement other ecosystem management practices such as propagation and plantation of native saplings, and the conservation introduction of another seed disperser and hence ecosystem engineer, the Seychelles white-eye. These translocations have already increased the ecotourism interest of both islands</p>
<p>4. Increased trends in abundance of rare &amp; threatened species (Seychelles White-eye, Giant Tortoises &amp; Leaf Insect) in the concerned KBAs and sites.</p>	<p>Population sizes of the SWE had increased on Fregate to 210-250 by 2017, and Ile du Nord 135-152 in 2017. These two populations are healthy, and a continued increase is projected. The newly created SWE population on Grande Soeur 40-45 is hoped to increase although the production of 4 fledglings in the first breeding season is low compared to the previous translocations (Frégate 2001-03 and Ile du Nord 2007). Grande Soeur now qualifies for the KBA status after the transfer and establishment of the SWE, although this needs to be confirmed. However, the SWE population continue to decline on Mahé with 15-25 birds. The Conception population collapsed in 2016-2018 to 10-20 birds after the invasion by Black rats but this population may recover through rat control and their eventual eradication. The abundance of the Giant tortoises is expected to increase now that the Grande</p>

	Soeur population has been reinforced with an additional 30 adults.
<p>5. Success of private/NGO partnership: management practices of private sector more environmentally friendly and conservation programmes successfully implemented.</p>	<p>The project established partnerships with Ste. Anne Resort and managed in the first 10 months before its closure to establish more environmentally friendly management practices. SAR facilitated boat transfers, provided food and accommodation to visiting staff, volunteers and school children on sensitisation visits. It also donated to IBC some CSR tax. Its staff and construction workers benefited from a training on bio-security measures, and one technician from a training in pesticide handling. Activities such as the control of rats and mynas, and turtle monitoring were conducted. IBC worked in partnership with Sisters island Ltd,– the owners of Grande Soeur and Château-de-Feuilles which donated all their CSR. Sisters island supported and facilitated conservation and management activities such as all bird and tortoise translocations, the propagation and planting of native plants, control of mynas etc. They assisted IBC with boat transfers and accommodation. Sisters Ltd adopted the recommended Biosecurity protocols to protect the island from IAS invasion. These showcase examples of successful collaboration between private islands and an NGO, as part of a CEPF funded project promoting the rehabilitation of small islands to recreate ecological sanctuaries for native species.</p>
<p>6. The exemplarity of conservation outcomes and management practices obtained on Ste Anne and Mahé through private/NGO partnership successfully replicated in other islands with the support of local NGOs/UniSey and private experts.</p>	<p>The private/NGO partnerships have not yet been replicated in other islands during the course of the project, but the outcomes will encourage new partnerships to be established especially after the benefits of such partnership becomes visible. For instance, tourism operators to Grande Soeur and Sisters Ltd benefit from an enhanced, more restored ecosystem which is more attractive for tourism. Since the start of the project the number of visitors on Grande Soeur has significantly increased and so has the income of this island, and also for the boat operators and other service providers from Praslin and La Digue that bring tourists to Gde Soeur. It should further rise with the weekly or bi-weekly visit of the cruise ship Le Ponant starting from November 2019 that Gemma Jessie and Gerard Rocamora have promoted to the cruiseship company based on island natural beauty and wildlife including the larger giant tortoise and the translocated White-eye populations. The promotion of such benefits may encourage the private sectors to embark on conservation and environmentally friendly</p>

	management practices that benefit both the sector and communities
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Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
1. Reduced number/population size of invasive species in concerned sites (e.g. rats on Ste Anne and Mahé, Mynas on Ste Anne and Grande Soeur; eradication of crested--tree lizards on Ste Anne during Phase 2)	During the CEPF project the eradication of the Invasive Alien Crested-tree lizard was confirmed. This is a great achievement since the start of the eradication campaign which by the Min. of Environment and SAR in 2001 and later followed-up by IBC. Bio-safety protocol established under the CEPF project are in place and staff on Ste. Anne have been trained in bio-security measures. Density of rats on Ste. Anne has reduced from ca. 24 rats captured per trap per day to between zero and 4 rats captured per day. This is a tremendous reduction in the number of rats and shows the efficacy on the relentless and continued efforts to control rat population. Mynas continue to be trapped and monitored on Ste. Anne by the island staff. On Grande Soeur, Myna control is ongoing and the current number is estimated at 30-40 birds. Efforts are ongoing but needs to be enhanced to keep mynas at very low numbers now that a new population of the SWE has been created.
2. Safeguard and assessment documents produced allowing reintroduction and creation of a small transferred population of the globally Endangered Seychelles White--eye on Ste Anne and /or other islands (e.g. Anonyme, Grande Soeur) and reinforcement of the relictual Mahé population (Phase 2).	Safeguard and assessment documents were produced for the SWE transfers from Frégate and Ile du Nord to Grande Soeur, and for the Giant tortoises from Frégate to Aride and Grande Soeur. The information, including habitat suitability assessments for the SWE and tortoises, was integrated into translocation proposals for both species. The proposals were reviewed and approved by the Department of Environment. A new SWE population was created on Grande Soeur with 47 SWE. The range of the SWE has increased from 4 to 5 islands. The reinforcement of the Giant tortoise population on Grande Soeur through the release of 30 animals should in the long-term create the 4th largest Giant tortoise population on a granitic island (and 2nd of the Praslin group). Furthermore, Bio-security protocols for Grande Soeur were reviewed, updated and are being implemented to prevent introduction or reinvasion of invasive species and hence maintain the safety of the island for threatened species. The vegetation/rehabilitation management plan for Grande Soeur and the SWE breeding areas on Mahé was updated with the numbers and native species to be propagated and planted, particularly for the SWE, and on Gde Soeur new seedlings have already germinated

	from the planted stocks, presumably dispersed by the SWE.
3. Improved conservation status (through increased numbers and range) of other native plants and animals e.g. Seychelles Leaf Insect, Giant Tortoises.	10 Giant tortoises were reintroduced on Aride to assist in species and ecosystem restoration and 30 were transferred to Grande Soeur from Frégate to reinforce the existing population of ca. 20-30 individuals. The range of the Giant tortoises increased by one more granitic island (i.e. Aride) and the numbers on Grande Soeur were enhanced to 50–60 animals. The captive breeding of the Seychelles Leaf insect was not successful as a result of death from pesticide spraying in the neighbourhood and the failure of eggs which did not hatch. The rat-free status of Grande Soeur and the control of mynas will undoubtedly enhance the abundance of native species in the island e.g. the Giant millipede once very rare but which is now becoming a regular sighting. The White-tailed tropic bird has for example been observed nesting successfully twice on the ground, and the Audubon shearwater once, albeit unsuccessfully.
4. Resumption of biodiversity monitoring activities in other islands following implementation of the project on Ste Anne and Mahé. This includes Conception, Ile du Nord and Frégate, where the Seychelles white-eye is present, Anonyme Grande Soeur and predator-free Grande Soeur, Anonyme - where conservation transfers of threatened species is envisaged	SWE monitoring resumed on Frégate, Ile du Nord, Conception and Mahé. Several censuses were conducted in current and former breeding territories each year on Mahé. This allowed to determine the numbers and trends in each sub-population. The areas surveyed were La Misère and Grand Anse (the 2 remaining breeding areas), Cascade, Muscade, Anse Boileau, Barbarons, Souvenir and Ex-Tracking station (former breeding sites). Several monitoring and ringing sessions were conducted on Frégate (2017 and 2018) with the assistance of Frégate Ecology department staff and volunteers. The same was done on Ile du Nord whereby IBC also assisted the ringer contracted by Ile du Nord to conduct population assessments in 2017 and 2018. Monitoring was resumed on Conception Island whereby IBC discovered that it had been invaded by rats leading to the dramatic reduction of the SWE population to 10-20 birds. Vegetation monitoring on Mahé and Grande Soeur, and leaf invertebrate monitoring on Gde Soeur were also done and completed as part of the habitat suitability assessment. Myna control and propagation and planting of native plants are still ongoing on Grande Soeur as part of the efforts to enhance the island's ecosystem, and propagation and planting is also ongoing in the SWE breeding areas on Mahe.

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

Major challenges arose when SAR closed down and could not financially support the project. Hence, IBC became short of funds to implement some of its activities. Activities planned on Ste. Anne had to be replaced with other new activities and postponed as a result. For instance, reintroduction of Giant tortoises to Ste. Anne was replaced by reintroduction of the species to Aride plus the reinforcement of the population on Grande Soeur. This came when we had almost finalised our proposal and habitat assessment for Ste Anne and entailed an additional habitat suitability assessment on Grande Soeur and updating the tortoise translocation proposal to include Grande Soeur; the establishment of the nursery facility on Ste. Anne was done on Mahé instead.

The company having the lease for the rest of Ste. Anne, Indian Ocean Resorts Ltd (IOR), was contacted to establish a partnership and hence continue with some of the original activities on Ste. Anne. A draft MoU between IBC, IOR and SNPA was prepared but then put on hold because IOR wanted to resume their project of a second hotel development on Ste Anne. Anonyme Island was re-contacted for potential collaboration for a transfer of the SWE and Leaf Insect and although they were interested, all plans had to be put on hold until the completion of major construction on the island. There were also unsuccessful attempts to partner with Avani and Ephelia hotels on Mahé (within/adjacent SWE breeding areas).


With the closure of SAR, IBC had to pursue other suitable islands for the release of the Leaf Insect. But there were difficulties to obtain insects from the sole person currently breeding them in captivity due to high insect mortality rates because of generalised pesticide treatments in his neighbourhood (and the whole of Mahé) against mosquitoes and hairy caterpillars and general pollution.

More data was needed for habitat suitability assessment and there was not sufficient time for data analysis, report writing and submission of all translocation plans to the Ministry of Environment before end of April 2018. Moreover, the loss of our habitat suitability databases in 2017 needed for analysis and preparation of reports and translocation proposals (due to 2 laptops + 1 external hard drive stolen from our office by a security guard, recovered but given back to us by the police several months later) meant that part of the data had to be re-entered and IBC could not complete Phase 1 by April 2018. These challenges led to delays in completion of Phase 1 and the preparation of phase 2 project document. Thus, the project had to be extended to achieve the desired outcomes and impacts, especially with regards to the translocations of two native species expected to significantly enhance the dispersion of native seeds and hence to play a key role in the restoration of island ecosystems in Seychelles.

The transfer of 47 SWE to Grande Soeur to create a new population and ensure the long-term survival of the species was a major success in achieving the project impacts. However, the transfers had several major challenges. Initially it was planned to transfer birds from Conception to Grande Soeur. But the monitoring visits to Conception confirmed the ecological collapse of this population due to invasion by Black rats and therefore it was no longer feasible to take birds from Conception. The Conception population declined from ca. 310 birds to 10 – 15 individuals. Hence, the alternative plan was to transfer birds from Frégate and Ile du Nord, two populations transferred from Conception many years ago. This complicated the pre-translocation activities and there was a need to extend the project because the population on both islands had to be surveyed and estimated before transferring any birds. Hence, additional activities not initially planned had to be conducted. These were successfully done and the SWE were eventually transferred.

The translocation of 10 and 30 Giant Tortoises from Frégate to Aride and Grande Soeur respectively though successful were also challenging. The first quarantine pen build on Aride was too small and we had to ask the team to build a new, larger one. The transfers to Aride took place in May 2018 after





being delayed repeatedly due to the difficulty to find one barge to transport them. Finally, Frigate Island Private decided to bring them in one of their passengers' boat after taking off the seats. A new system of transportation had to be found, so each tortoise was put into a sling bag for the duration of the journey (one hour), then taken down by hand into the Aride boat to be landed safely on Aride and transported by hand into the quarantine pen. This had to be done during one of the two inter-monsoons, the periods of the year when the sea is very calm. Building on this first experience, we had to wait after the transfers of the SWEs (some of which also coming from Frégate) between July and Sept. 2018 before we could concentrate on the translocation of tortoises to Gde Soeur during the following inter-monsoon. Preparations were finalised during the last quarter of the project, but we had to conduct the transfers early May 2019, after its official end. Again, finding a barge to transport the tortoise was a challenge, and despite having found one it broke down two days before the scheduled date and the owner proposed to use instead a small schooner which as when the tortoises were finally able to be transported safely on Gde Soeur in a couple of hours. Although the project is officially ended, the animals could be safely released on Gde Soeur in June and these are closely monitored by a French MSc student documenting their movements and their contribution to ecosystem restoration on Gde Soeur.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

**There were no unexpected impacts as a result of project activities.**

## Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Support projects aiming at improving ecosystem management, conservation of rare species and biodiversity monitoring, through partnership between private sector and NGO/University	1.1	Letters of support, minutes of meetings, Memorandum of understanding or equivalent proofs of collaboration and support from the main private partners / project partners / village communities.	<p>During the grant period, partnerships were established with University of Seychelles, Sainte Anne Resort (MoUs signed); Sisters Ltd of Grande Sœur (written approval) and the Ministry of Environment Energy and Climate Change. Support was received from the Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA) in terms of boat transportations and monitoring. Meetings were organised with the La Misère school (Ministry of Education), Parents Teachers Association, Wildlife Club of Seychelles and Eco-Academia of the University of Seychelles to introduce the project and receive support from them.</p> <p>The Management of President of UAE Affairs (MPA) supported the planting activities and White-eye monitoring on their properties. A draft Memorandum of Understanding between IBC, the Indian Ocean Resorts (IOR) based on Ste Anne and the Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA) was drafted and circulated but it was put on hold until IOR starts its development on Ste Anne.</p> <p>The Anonyme Island authorities were re-contacted for a translocation of the Seychelles white-eye. Anonyme initially expressed interest but later informed IBC to delay any conservation initiatives until the completion of major construction on the island. Overall, good partnerships were established during the project.</p>
1	Support projects aiming at improving ecosystem management, conservation of rare species and biodiversity monitoring, through partnership between private sector and NGO/University	1.2	Draft Environmental Management Plans for SAR & GS.	<p>Ste. Anne Resort closed down during the first year of the project (September 2017) for the construction of a larger resort. The development is expected to last for 2 - 3 years, hence beyond the life of the CEPF project. Therefore, it was not relevant to produce an Environmental Management Plan for SAR during this construction period and the plan was cancelled.</p> <p>A summarised plan was produced for Grande Soeur. This involved detailed discussions with the owner of Grande Soeur who was in principle in agreement with the ideas discussed. A rehabilitation map indicating areas to be cleared off Coconuts and invasive species then replanted with native plants was produced and integrated into the</p>

				EMP. Subsequently 0.3 ha were cleared of coconuts and exotic vegetation and replanted with natives trees. A detailed vegetation map was also prepared and included into the EMP. As part of the habitat suitability assessment for the SWE conservation introduction, 30 random vegetation plots were performed and the abundance of each plant in each 1-2 m strata described. This will be useful in terms of the monitoring of the evolution/changes in vegetation-types over the long-term particularly after the translocation of the SWE and the re-enforcement of the tortoise population.
1	Support projects aiming at improving ecosystem management, conservation of rare species and biodiversity monitoring, through partnership between private sector and NGO/University	1.3	Bio-safety protocol for Ste. Anne	The Bio-safety protocol for Ste. Anne was produced. The protocol includes: general biosecurity principles and main actions required to prevent reinvasion of invasive alien species on Ste Anne; examples of major invasive species with a significant risk of (re)invasion on Ste Anne; main carriers and potential invasive alien species transported between islands; and the biosecurity action plan to be put in place during hotel renovation on Ste. Anne. A training was done by IBC with staff and construction workers on Ste. Anne, Ministry of Environment and the National Biosecurity Agency. 11 staff were trained in terms of how to use the protocol and bio-safety procedures to follow to prevent the introduction of IAS. The Project Manager in charge of the renovation of Ste Anne agreed to do their best to implement the agreed biosecurity recommendations. With the eradication of the invasive Crested-tree lizard introduced during the hotel construction in the early 2000s, it is now vital that the Bio-safety protocol is adhered to so that any future (re)invasions are avoided.
1	Support projects aiming at improving ecosystem management, conservation of rare species and biodiversity monitoring, through partnership between private sector and NGO/University	1.4	Updated Bio-safety protocol for GS	A review and update of the Bio-safety protocol for Grande Soeur was done. The protocol presents strict abatement measures that need to be put in place to minimise the risk of re-invasion on both Grande Soeur & Petite Soeur islands by rats, but also by other potential smaller invasive animals (e.g. mouse, reptiles, insects), plants, fungus diseases, etc. The protocol includes an overview of Rodent abatement measures; Regulations and biosecurity protocols for islands with high biosecurity value; invasive alien species representing a risk for Grande Soeur; and the main pathways. It further recommends biosecurity measures for Grande Soeur to prevent introductions; contain invaders and eliminate invaders quickly. The protocol makes reference to best practice guidelines for islands and property managers to

				use. The protocol is now indispensable considering that Grande Soeur has now met the criteria of a Key Biodiversity Area after the conservation introduction of the endemic Seychelles white-eye, a globally threatened species listed as 'Vulnerable' in the IUCN Red List.
2	Assessments and preparations in view of pest management and vegetation rehabilitation for proposed conservation introduction of rare and threatened species on Ste Anne, Mahé and Grande Soeur	2.1	Pest Management Plans produced (Safeguard protocols for Ste Anne & Mahé)	The PMP was produced in consultation with stakeholders from the Ministry of Health, Department of Environment, Peste/Star Seychelles (Pest control/Waste agency), Grand Anse District Administration and its Member of the National Assembly, La Misère school Head teacher and other community residents. It concerns the last few areas where SWEs survive on Mahé and includes a description of the context, current practices and those proposed for the future, such as what rodenticides will be used and in which quantities. Ste Anne was finally not included in the PMP due to the closure and renovation of the hotel (with large areas disturbed by works and others newly built that will require new systems of control). The PMP aims at significantly reducing and if possible eliminating the use of persistent rodenticide Brodifacoum and replacing it by chemicals such as Cholecalciferol (a precursor of Vitamine D3) and Diphacinone, an anticoagulant much less persistent than Brodifacoum. It also aims at promoting best-practice trapping, waste management and other mitigation measures to prevent rats and mynas to multiply. Few people came to our presentation meeting but we had good direct consultations with La Misère residents. The PMP is similar to the one for the ICS-CEPF project for Silhouette.
2	Assessments and preparations in view of pest management and vegetation rehabilitation for proposed conservation introduction of rare and threatened species on Ste Anne, Mahé and Grande Soeur	2.2	Rat & myna control protocols reviewed	The rat and myna control protocol for Ste Anne was reviewed and updated at the start of our project in November 2016. New updates included the combination of intensive trapping (five days per week) and the replenishment and maintenance of the grid of bait stations (1 day per week) and the extension of this grid. As part of the review, regular meetings and phone conversations were conducted with the Rat & Myna control technician of Ste Anne Resort, and exchanges were done with New Zealand expert to find alternative rodenticides that could be recommended to replace Brodifacoum, in use since the opening of the hotel and to be progressively replaced as on Mahé white-eye areas replace it by . Since this review of protocols was done the number of rats reduced from an average of 6.7 (Jan. to Oct. 2016) to 1.1 (Nov. 2016 to June 2017) rats trapped per night. Similarly, numbers of mynas trapped declined

				from 16.2 to 7.0 over the same periods. Mynas and rats continue to be trapped efficiently and monitored on Ste Anne by the pest control technician during the hotel renovation phase.
2	Assessments and preparations in view of pest management and vegetation rehabilitation for proposed conservation introduction of rare and threatened species on Ste Anne, Mahé and Grande Soeur	2.3	Measurement of rat densities before application of control protocols on Mahé and Ste Anne.	<p>Measurement of rat densities were done in one of the SWE breeding areas on Mahé i.e. Ex-Tracking station. The first measurement was done during March 2017 (wet season). 49 traps with coconut bait were deployed and set up in a quadrat covering 1 hectare in the forest. These were checked daily over 8 consecutive days. 11 <i>Rattus rattus</i> were captured, including 7 recaptures. The species of rat was identified. The individuals measured, weighted, sex and age determined before being released. Rat density was calculated by one of IBC collaborator Dr. James Russell, at 7 rats per ha.</p> <p>A second session of the rat density measurement at the Ex-Tracking Station SWE breeding territory was conducted in September 2017 during the dry season over 8 consecutive nights. 20 <i>R. rattus</i> and 2 <i>R. norvegicus</i> were captured, and 11 <i>R. rattus</i> were recaptured (some up to 6 times!). The rat density was calculated at c.7 rats per ha.</p> <p>The results for September 2017 indicated a similarly low density of rats (6.9 rats/ha) in this area, but their behaviour was different as the rats were moving over larger distances and had a higher probability of recapture.</p>
2	Assessments and preparations in view of pest management and vegetation rehabilitation for proposed conservation introduction of rare and threatened species on Ste Anne, Mahé and Grande Soeur	2.4	Report on Eradication of the introduced crested- tree lizards on Ste Anne	<p>The report was completed as per the visits to confirm the eradication of the Crested-tree lizard (Henriette, E &amp; Rocamora, G. 2018. Confirmed eradication of the introduced Crested-tree lizards on Sainte Anne Island, Seychelles. IBC/CEPF, 6 pages). In September 2017, the Technical Adviser Dr. Rocamora and the Project Coordinator Dr. Henriette conducted a survey of the Crested tree lizard on Ste. Anne. All locations where the lizard was traditionally found were searched. Inquiries were made with SAR staff particularly the field staff. The survey was also discussed in the SAR staff meeting. All staff interviewed reported that they had not made any sightings of the animal since several years. The survey and the report concluded that the lizard has been eradicated and that measures to prevent its reintroduction during the extension of SAR should be put in place as per the biosecurity protocols produced during the project.</p>

2	Assessments and preparations in view of pest management and vegetation rehabilitation for proposed conservation introduction of rare and threatened species on Ste Anne, Mahé and Grande Soeur	2.5	Min. 1000 native saplings produced/obtained on Ste Anne (to be planted during phase 1 or early in phase 2)	<p>Production of seedlings and the rehabilitation of 1 ha on Ste Anne was abandoned due to the closure of SAR. Plant propagation was instead done on Mahé to produce seedlings for the SWE breeding areas. A Vegetation Rehabilitation plan was prepared (Henriette, E., Pierre, N. and Rocamora, G. 2017. Rehabilitation within the Seychelles White-eye breeding territories on Mahé &amp; Grand Soeur in view of a potential translocation of the Seychelles White-eye).</p> <p>The native plant nursery was set up at Anse Royale on the premises of UniSey. Over 1000 native plants were produced of which half (550) were planted in Seychelles White-eye breeding territories (La Misère, Barbarons, Ex-Tracking station and Grand Anse). Another 510 plants (208 <i>Phoenicophorium borsigianum</i>, 150 <i>Nephrosperma vanhoutteanum</i>, 162 <i>Phyllanthus pervilleanus</i>) are in the nursery and will be planted during next rainy season. Plant mortality in the nursery was very high (55%) due to attacks by insect pests on the <i>Phyllanthus pervilleanus</i>, and an unknown cause whereby these withered and died. Lack of maintenance and watering of the plants was a problem at times. Propagation by seedlings and cuttings did not work well for species like <i>Memecylon eleagni</i>, <i>Pittosporum wrightii</i> and <i>Ficus reflexa</i>. Hence, more saplings were produced.</p>
2	Assessments and preparations in view of pest management and vegetation rehabilitation for proposed conservation introduction of rare and threatened species on Ste Anne, Mahé and Grande Soeur	2.6	Min. 1000 saplings minimum produced/obtained and planted on Grande Soeur (same as above)	<p>1200 native plants were produced in the nursery. Plant materials were collected on Grande Soeur but several species which were not available, were collected elsewhere. Seeds from <i>Tabernaemontana coffeoides</i> (already present but rare on Gde Soeur) and <i>Ficus reflexa</i> were collected on Frégate Island. 1000 seeds of 3 species of endemic palms were collected on Praslin. Plant propagation on Grande Soeur was challenging since all plants were being prepared and maintained by IBC staff only during visits of 2-months interval. Mortality of the planted stock was high (50%) mainly because there was no one to regularly water the plants after IBC staff had left the island. This improved during the last quarter of the project when we had the regular presence of volunteers on the island.</p> <p>Prior to planting, the areas had to be cleared off from invasive plants including dense patches of coconuts. Considering that there are Giant tortoises on the island, enclosures were built to protect the saplings from being eaten and trampled over by the tortoises. In some cases, tortoises broke into the enclosures and ate the saplings.</p>

				468 saplings were planted and 550 ( <i>Nephrosperma vanhoutteanum</i> , <i>Premna serratifolia</i> , <i>Canthium bibracteatum</i> ) are being maintained in the nursery for planting next rainy season.
3	Assessments, safeguard preparations and management planning for translocation of rare & threatened species (creation or reinforcement of populations of the Seychelles White-eye, Seychelles Leaf Insect and Aldabra Giant Tortoise).	3.1	Report and updated database on SWE population status in all known populations (Conception, Frégate, Ile du Nord, known breeding territories on Mahé).	All SWE data are kept into the SWE database and regularly updated. A report on the SWE population status has been produced. Population census conducted during the course of the project indicated the following population sizes: Frégate 210-250; Ile du Nord 135-152; Mahé 15-25; Conception 10-20 and Grande Soeur 40-45. This equates to a global population of ca. 410 – 492. Whilst the populations on Frégate and Ile du Nord are increasing, those of Mahé continue to decline to extremely low numbers and face local extinction in the near future. The ecological collapse of the population on Conception from over 300 birds dramatically reduced the global SWE population from ca. 650 to 400-500 individuals. The successful establishment of the new population on Grande Soeur shows the importance of having rehabilitated islands for the continued survival of this and other species that cannot survive in presence of introduced predators and without good quality habitats.
3	Assessments, safeguard preparations and management planning for translocation of rare & threatened species (creation or reinforcement of populations of the Seychelles White-eye, Seychelles Leaf Insect and Aldabra Giant Tortoise).	3.2	Report on Habitat suitability assessments (on Grande Soeur, Mahé White-eye breeding areas, and Ste Anne for the translocation of the SWE	The report was completed and submitted as part of the translocation proposal to the Ministry of Environment. Habitat suitability assessment was done for Grande Soeur Mahé only, since Ste. Anne was closed and was not considered for the SWE translocation; and no Conception birds could be translocated to Mahé. The assessments indicated that Grande Soeur has sufficient suitable habitats to sustain a viable white-eye population. Grande Soeur woodland has a large proportion of native vegetation including rare species. The proportion of native woodland is of minimum 54%. It has 29 ha of broad leaf mixed woodland, the main suitable foraging and nesting habitat required for the SWE. Large extensions of rocks and boulders (15 ha) with native or exotic dominated shrubland (20 ha) rich in plants producing berries/seeds eaten by SWE are also present. Vegetation characteristics and invertebrate composition/abundance are highly suitable. Preferred preys (orthoptera, spiders) were more abundant during the NW monsoon when the species mostly nests. Grande Soeur has enough fruiting trees to cover the needs of a SWE population. Based on the surveys, the models predict high SWE densities for Grande Soeur and a carrying capacity of 365 (347-411) Seychelles White-eyes.

3	Assessments, safeguard preparations and management planning for translocation of rare & threatened species (creation or reinforcement of populations of the Seychelles White--eye, Seychelles Leaf Insect and Aldabra Giant Tortoise).	3.3	Translocation proposals drafted following IUCN guidelines (pre-release assessments, safeguard protocols and post-release management planning for Grande Soeur, Mahé and Ste Anne) and submitted to government for approval.	The translocation proposal for the SWE was prepared and submitted to the Department of Environment for approval in 2018 (Rocamora, G., Henriette, E., Sorry, A. and Labiche, A. 2018. Conservation introduction of the globally threatened Seychelles White-eye <i>Zosterops modestus</i> to Grande Soeur (Seychelles). Under the project 'Advancing ecosystem management for threatened species recovery through partnerships', funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. 42 pages). The transfer of 30-40 birds from Frégate & 15-20 birds from North islands to Grande Soeur was proposed for July-September 2018. Following a site visit to Grande Soeur with personnel of the Department of Environment from Mahé and Praslin, the proposal was reviewed, and the translocation plan was approved. The transfer of SWEs from Conception to Mahé was abandoned due to the decimation of the Conception population by Black rats that had invaded the island.
3	Assessments, safeguard preparations and management planning for translocation of rare & threatened species (creation or reinforcement of populations of the Seychelles White--eye, Seychelles Leaf Insect and Aldabra Giant Tortoise).	3.4	Report on habitat suitability assessments of other threatened species on Ste Anne	The Report for habitat suitability of Ste Anne for the Giant tortoises was prepared but the translocation was put on hold due to the proposed hotel development on the island. Thus, the SAR tortoise translocation proposal was replaced by a proposal for the reinforcement of the tortoise population on Grande Soeur from Frégate Island. A volunteer student, Benjamin Walton, assisted IBC in the assessment of the existing tortoise population on Grande Soeur (see report, Walton 2018). The results were incorporated into the translocation proposal. Habitat suitability assessments were done through several visits to Grand Soeur and also incorporated into the translocation proposal. The assessment included the identification of the biotic and abiotic needs of the tortoises, water availability, predators and protection from poaching, ecological roles of tortoises, movement and dispersal, and risks of any undesirable impacts. The assessment indicated that the current abundance of food species and extension of suitable habitat is enough on Grande Soeur for a population of c. 45 tortoises that is expected to increase with time.
3	Assessments, safeguard preparations and management planning for translocation of rare &	3.5	Captive breeding facility established on Ste Anne for Seychelles Leaf Insect and	The plan to establish captive breeding facility for the Leaf insect from Mahé to Ste. Anne and for the Giant tortoises was cancelled due to the closure of SAR. See activities 14 and 16 for replacement activities for the Giant tortoises. An attempt to establish a leaf insect captive breeding on Mahé (to replace Ste. Anne) was not successful. IBC solicited the assistance of a Leaf insect captive breeder



	threatened species (creation or reinforcement of populations of the Seychelles White-eye, Seychelles Leaf Insect and Aldabra Giant Tortoise).		possibly for the Giant Tortoises	who agreed to breed and donate young insects to IBC. Unfortunately, the captive breeder experienced very high insect mortality rates because of pesticide use in his neighbourhood. In addition, the breeder discovered that the eggs and larvae of the Leaf insects failed to develop. Hence, he was not able to raise stocks to supply IBC. We will persist with this activity in Phase 2.
3	Assessments, safeguard preparations and management planning for translocation of rare & threatened species (creation or reinforcement of populations of the Seychelles White-eye, Seychelles Leaf Insect and Aldabra Giant Tortoise).	3.6	Production of proposals to translocate/release Giant Tortoise (from Frégate/Mahé to Ste Anne) and Leaf Insects (from Mahé to Ste Anne), including safeguard assessments and post-release management planning.	As stated under activity 14, the translocation of tortoises from Frégate to Ste. Anne was shelved due to the closure of the hotel and proposed new hotel development. This activity was replaced by the following: i) a reintroduction of tortoises to Aride Island Nature Reserve whereby IBC assisted the Island Conservation Society (ICS) to transfer 10 tortoises from Frégate and ii) a reinforcement of the tortoise population on Grande Soeur with animals from Frégate Island. IBC contributed to the project proposal of tortoises to Aride prepared by ICS, finalised the transfer plan and organised the translocation with Frégate Ecology department in May 2018. Post-release monitoring on Aride was conducted with IBC and ICS volunteers. The proposal for reinforcement of the tortoise population on Grand Soeur was approved by the Department of Environment (Rocamora et al., 2019. Proposal to translocate Aldabra giant tortoises <i>Aldabrachelys gigantea</i> from Frégate Island to create a viable wild population on Grande Soeur Island). 30 adult tortoises were selected, placed in quarantine on Frégate early 2019, and later transferred to Grande Soeur by schooner 'Kapris Letan' funded by Sisters Island pty ltd. The proposal to translocate Leaf insect to Ste. Anne was cancelled due to the closure of SAR.
4	Capacity building, communication and project development	4.1	One bird ringing training on Conception Island involving project staff, Government, Agency and relevant NGO staff	This activity was successfully completed. The training was done on Aride instead of Conception Island for logistical reasons. The 5-day training was organised in October 2017 and was hosted by the Island Conservation Society (ICS) with the support of the African bird ringing scheme SAFRING. The objective was to introduce the 12 conservationists to the science of bird ringing and to provide first-hand experience on the different techniques used to study birds. For the more experienced, the training was designed to offer the possibility to progress to acquire a ringing license. The bird ringing training was successfully completed, and participants provided with a

				<p>certificate, and the two more advanced received a SAFRING ringing license.</p> <p>In addition, another 4-day training was done in February 2018 on Conception Island. A group of participants who had followed training on basic theories of catching and ringing birds were able to put into practice what they had learnt. The training was attended by 9 participants from different environment-oriented organisations, which included surveying the whole island to assess the population of the SWE. This was the second phase of a training which started on Aride Island in October 2017.</p>
4	Capacity building, communication and project development	4.3	A minimum of three popular articles and broadcasts in local media (e.g. private sector partnerships, translocation of rare & threatened species)	<p>Four articles were produced and posted on the website of the University of Seychelles 'Island Biodiversity &amp; Conservation centre of UniSey organises bird ringing training on Aride'; 'Bird ringing Training on Aride ends with practice on Conception Island'; 'La Misère school lends a hand to saving Seychelles White-eyes', and an article on the eradication of the Crested-tree lizard on Ste-Anne Island. An article on the transfer of the Giant tortoises to Aride Island was prepared by ICS for the local newspaper. Five TV documentaries were produced although only the last one has been broadcasted so far on 21.05.2019 (<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JB-aLTq60XY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JB-aLTq60XY</a>); one on the bird ringing training on Aride (Oct. 2017); one the SWE survey of Conception and its reinvasion by rats (February 2018); one the transfer of Giant tortoises to Aride (May 2018); one the SWEs transfers from Frégate and Ile du Nord to Gde Soeur (July and Sept. 2018), and one on the Giant tortoise translocation from Frégate to Grande Soeur (May 2019).</p>
4	Capacity building, communication and project development	4.4	A minimum of 3 activities (e.g. awareness, training, capacity building) with the local community and school at La Misere.	<p>La Misère is one of the two localities where the Seychelles white-eye is still present. Some community members are aware of its presence in their neighbourhood whilst others are not familiar with the species. To create awareness about the species, IBC conducted 4 activities with the La Misère community. A meeting and two presentations (two in 2017 and another in 2018) about the Seychelles white-eye and the CEPF project were done with the parents and teachers of La Misère school. It was an opportunity for participants to become aware of the species, its needs and threats, and ways that community members can help in its conservation. A planting activity on the premises of the school was organised in 2018. The school is within the feeding boundaries of the Seychelles white-eyes. Two species that are amongst the SWE</p>

				<p>favourite food were planted. A total of 81 saplings of <i>Phyllanthus pervilleanus</i> and <i>Premna seratifolia</i> were planted. The activity which involved mainly teachers of the school with the help of students (29) is also going a long way towards creating awareness about the Seychelles white-eye Recovery Programme. Overall, the participants recognised the benefits of participating in a conservation project and became more sensitised about the issues.</p>
4	Capacity building, communication and project development	4.5	Phase 2 project document finalised and submitted to CEPF/World Bank and MEECC (following previous acceptance of PMP and translocation proposals).	<p>Phase 2 of the project was prepared and submitted to CEPF in November 2018. Phase 2 proposes activities over the next 3 years that will build upon the successes of Phase 1: Monitoring of original and translocated populations of globally threatened species in several inner islands; New species translocations (Tiger Chameleon, threatened invertebrates, Seychelles Black Paradise Flycatcher, Seychelles white-eyes and Aldabra giant tortoises) to be prepared and if approved, implemented; and enhanced Communication and awareness on biodiversity conservation and ecotourism development. The project targets strategic objectives:</p> <p>1.2. Support the development of economic models to improve both livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. 2.3. Explore partnerships with private sector stakeholders to promote sustainable practices that deliver positive impacts for conservation.</p>
4	Capacity building, communication and project development	4.2	At least 15 rangers / staff and volunteers/ UniSey BSc students/ public members benefited from field training and sensitization during field activities	<p>There were at least seven training opportunities and three field-related sensitisation activities during the project. The Pesticide handling course received the participation of 14 persons (9 males, 5 females). The Bird Ringing course on Aride and Conception had 10 persons (7 males, 3 females). During the Ste Anne Biosecurity workshop 11 male staff were trained in bio-safety measures. The SWE translocations, which included some ringing, were other opportunities for staff to be trained; 9 personnel (4 males, 5 females) were exposed to translocation procedures and ringing. Tortoise translocations to Aride and Grand Soeur trained 10 staff (7 males, 3 females). Bird monitoring on both Conception and Mahé involved 3 persons (2 males, 1 female) who were trained in monitoring techniques. Finally, 5 persons (1 male, 4 females) received training in plant propagation techniques and nursery maintenance. In total, 62 persons (41 males and 21 females) received structured training during the project. In addition, there were 29 participants</p>

				from La Misère school who participated in tree planting activities, and 30 students from three schools were involved in a sensitisation field trip to Ste. Anne. Hence a total of 121 persons benefited from training and sensitisation during field activities.
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Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

**The methodologies used to conduct habitat suitability assessments (for vegetation structure, insect availability, carrying capacity models, etc.) are described in the SWE translocation project proposal to Gde Soeur that was submitted to and approved by the MEECC (Rocamora et al. 2018). These are the same that have been applied several times for previous successful transfers of the species (Frégate in 2001-2003; Ile du Nord in 2008). Similarly, the methods to assess the suitability of Gde Soeur and to conduct the translocation of tortoises are described in the translocation proposal (Rocamora et al. 2019). Post-release monitoring of SWE on Gde Soeur has already yielded good results that are available in a summarised format (number and identity of birds resighted, established territories and their composition, number of successful breeding attempts, number of fledglings produced, estimated population size etc.).**

**The methodologies to monitor giant tortoises on Aride and Gde Soeur are available. A report detailing the translocations of each species and the results of post-release monitoring will be available by July-August 2019 for the Seychelles White-eye, and by October 2019 for Gde Soeur (after the data is analysed and the MSc is defended).**

## Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

Consider lessons that would inform:

- Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

**Lessons learnt were:**

**- That successful private/NGO partnerships are feasible and can work efficiently. Both partners need very clear objectives and roles from the onset of the collaboration. It is essential to be able to adapt and always have several alternative plans to the many unforeseen events that may happen (e.g. lease of hotel and closure for renovation, dormant projects resurfacings, reinvasion of an island by rats and destruction of source population for a transfer, etc.)**

- Many persons from all sectors of society (NGOs, private, parastatal and government) are keen and interested to be trained in conservation and restoration initiatives.
- The capacity of IBC staff and other organisation staff was built during the project but needs to be reinforced in view of Phase 2.
- The project design was probably too ambitious with numerous activities which became complicated to be implemented due to various problems such as lack of staff (small IBC team), breakdown in partnerships and associated funding (SAR hotel closure after 10 months) resulting in insufficient funds etc.

## **Sustainability / Replication**

Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

The continued collaboration between IBC and Sisters Ltd and with the support from the Ministry of Environment will ensure the continuation of activities on Grande Soeur. Considering that tourism operators to Grande Soeur and Sisters Ltd are benefiting from an enhanced, more restored ecosystem which is more attractive for tourism, it is expected that this will sustain continued interest by the private island to support ongoing initiatives. Since the start of the project the number of visitors on Grande Soeur has increased significantly and so has the income of this island. Unplanned future activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability are the weekly or bi-weekly visits of cruise ships from company Le Ponant starting from November 2019. These visits have been promoted to the cruise ship company based on the island natural beauty and an interesting native wildlife including reintroduced populations of the emblematic Aldabra giant tortoises and the very rare Seychelles White-eye.

## **Safeguards**

If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

The two other activities that may trigger safeguards for CEPF are the Conservation Introduction of Seychelles white-eye and the reinforcement of population of Aldabra giant tortoises on Grande Soeur. In both cases IBC prepared a detailed proposal following the guidelines of the IUCN covering habitat suitability assessment on the destination island and any risks that may have been associated to these operations (for the translocated species itself and for the receiving island and species already present there). IBC also helped ICS with a reintroduction of Giant tortoises on Aride, for which similar procedures were prepared. It is on this basis that IBC obtained written approval from the Ministry of Environment authorising IBC to undertake these transfers.

The Pest Management plan for Mahé SWE breeding areas is another safeguard document (Please refer to deliverable 5) as well as the Bio-safety protocol for Ste. Anne (deliverable 3) and the Bio-safety protocol for Grande Soeur (deliverable 4). This PMP being very similar to the one Dr Gérard Rocamora produced for another CEPF project (ICS-CEPF on Silhouette) which already received

approval from World Bank, we expect the same for this one so that IBC-UniSey can start implementing it during Phase 2 to protect the last remaining white-eyes on Mahé.

## Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

This project was successfully implemented although there were various challenges that delayed its completion from the start, leading to several months of extension in order to meet the project objectives and achieve the impacts.

## Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

**Total additional funding (US\$)**  
\$25,100.00

### Type of funding

*Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:*

- A Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)*
- C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

### A Project Co-financing

IBC-Unisey via CSR from SAR and Grande Soeur: USD22,100 (USD 7100 SAR and USD15000 GS). Orillion and Miguel Torres wines (c. USD3000) also used to attend and present results from our project at two international conferences, produce banner and leaflets.

### B Grantee and Partner Leveraging

None for the time being. CEPF had recommended that IBC applies for a grant under the FFEM project. However, it is unclear whether Seychelles is still eligible under that fund.

### C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging

None



## Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below

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