LAYMAN'S REPORT

Life+ FORÊT SÈCHE

A PROJECT TO SAVE REUNION ISLAND'S DRY FOREST





UNESCO

Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

Pitons, cirques et remparts de l'île de la Réunion inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en 2010

Life

LIFE+ FUNDING

50% of the LIFE+ Dry Forest Project has been funded by the EU's LIFE programme.

LIFE programmes, created in 1992 as part of the European Commission's environmental policy, have been available to French overseas departments since 2007. LIFE+ biodiversity-type projects aim to halt the loss of biodiversity and decline in the ecosystem services provided by natural environments through prevention of – among other things – the disappearance of species and habitats found nowhere else in the world.

For more information see:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm

Reunion Island, centre of excellence

As the first overseas department of France to receive this funding, Reunion is a beacon of excellence in the matter. In 2014, two new LIFE+ projects were accepted for the island: LIFE+ Dry Forest and LIFE+ Petrels.

Aimed at preserving the dry forest of Grande Chaloupe in the north-west of Reunion Island, the LIFE+ Dry Forest project has been managed by Reunion's National Park, working closely with the Government and the Conservatoire du littoral coastal protection agency, as well as Reunion Island's Regional and Departmental Councils.

Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, cience et la culture

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Conservatoire du littoral

Espaces Naturels Sensibles

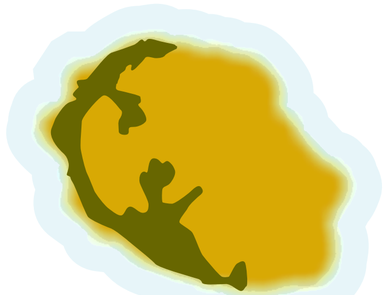
A PRICELESS TREASURE
unique the world over

Dry forests have all but disappeared from the face of the earth.

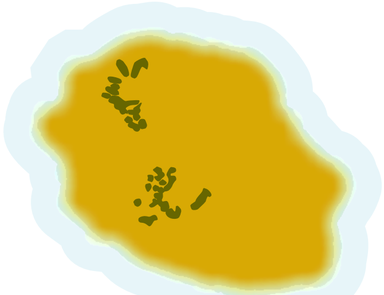
Once present along the island's entire west coast (fig.1), today only small relics still subsist, located in relatively inaccessible areas (fig.2).

The best-preserved remnants are located in the north of the island on the headwalls of the La Montagne mountain range, not far from the village of Grande Chaloupe.

This low-altitude tropical forest is subject to a very specific micro-climate: a long dry period from April to November contrasting with a short rainy season. Over time the ecosystem's vegetation has adapted to these extreme variations.



(fig.1)
Dry forest cover before human settlement (17th century)



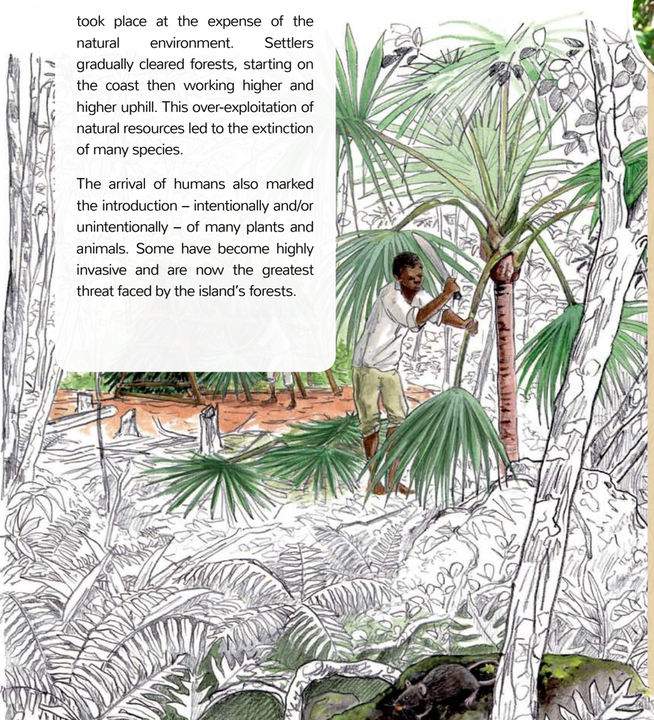
(fig.2)
Current dry forest cover

HOW DID WE REACH THIS POINT?

THE SETTLEMENT OF REUNION ISLAND

took place at the expense of the natural environment. Settlers gradually cleared forests, starting on the coast then working higher and higher uphill. This over-exploitation of natural resources led to the extinction of many species.

The arrival of humans also marked the introduction – intentionally and/or unintentionally – of many plants and animals. Some have become highly invasive and are now the greatest threat faced by the island's forests.



HIPTAGE

The greatest threat to dry forest

Hiptage (Hiptage benghalensis), known locally as 'butterfly vine', can grow more than a metre every month! It strangles young plants, climbing, covering and smothering tall trees, depriving all other plants of sunlight.

It encroaches very quickly as its prolific three-winged fruit are dispersed by the wind over long distances. This helps it colonise even the most inaccessible places and it ends up suffocating indigenous vegetation that was present before settlers arrived.

Hiptage is a highly resilient plant that is difficult to control: even after cutting back, new shoots appear that threaten the forest once again.

Green-aloe (Furcraea foetidia) and **Hiptage** (Hiptage benghalensis) are among the most invasive introduced species

A PROJECT TO SAVE THE DRY FOREST

PROJECT PROFILE

NAME

LIFE+ Dry forest project
LIFE13 BIO/FR/000259

TOTAL BUDGET

€2 852 003 including 50% from the EU

DURATION

October 2014 to December 2020

COORDINATOR

Reunion Island National Park

ASSOCIATED PARTNER

Conservatoire du littoral coastal protection agency

JOINT FUNDING FROM

French Government (through the Directorate of the Environment, Town Planning & Housing); Reunion Island's Regional & Departmental Councils

AREA OF FOCUS

From Saint-Denis River to the bottom of the cirque of Mafate

MAIN ACTIONS

HARVESTING seeds and setting up arboretums

WORKING ON INDIGENOUS SPECIES with fruiting and/or germination defects

DEVELOPING A NETWORK TO SUSTAINABLY PRODUCE indeginous species

RECREATING AN ECOLOGICAL CONTINUUM over 47 hectares

STUDYING the ecological intrest of the Aldabra giant tortoise in forest regeneration

RE-ESTABLISHING a population of Reunion Island day geckos where they have recently disappeared

TRAINING about the need to preserve the dry forest

INVOLVING THE LOCAL POPULATION at each stage of the project

MAKING conservation a means for **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

45 TO 50 HECTARES of forest rehabilitated (reconnection of habitat cores and re-establishing fauna/flora interactions)

120 000 TREES produced

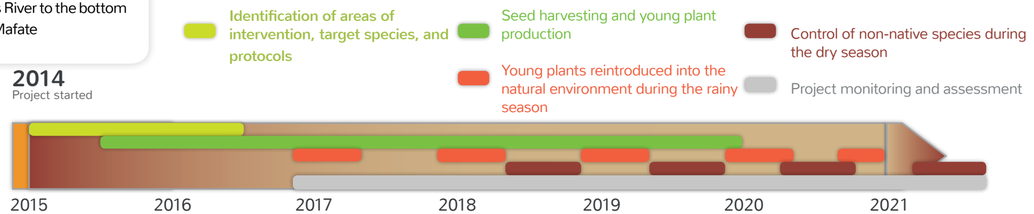
80 000 TREES replanted

20% DECREASE IN OPERATING COSTS compared to the LIFE+COREXERUN

3000 VOLUNTEERS mobilised

€1 274 000 worth of economic benefits for the local economy

35 one-year work **CONTRACTS** financed



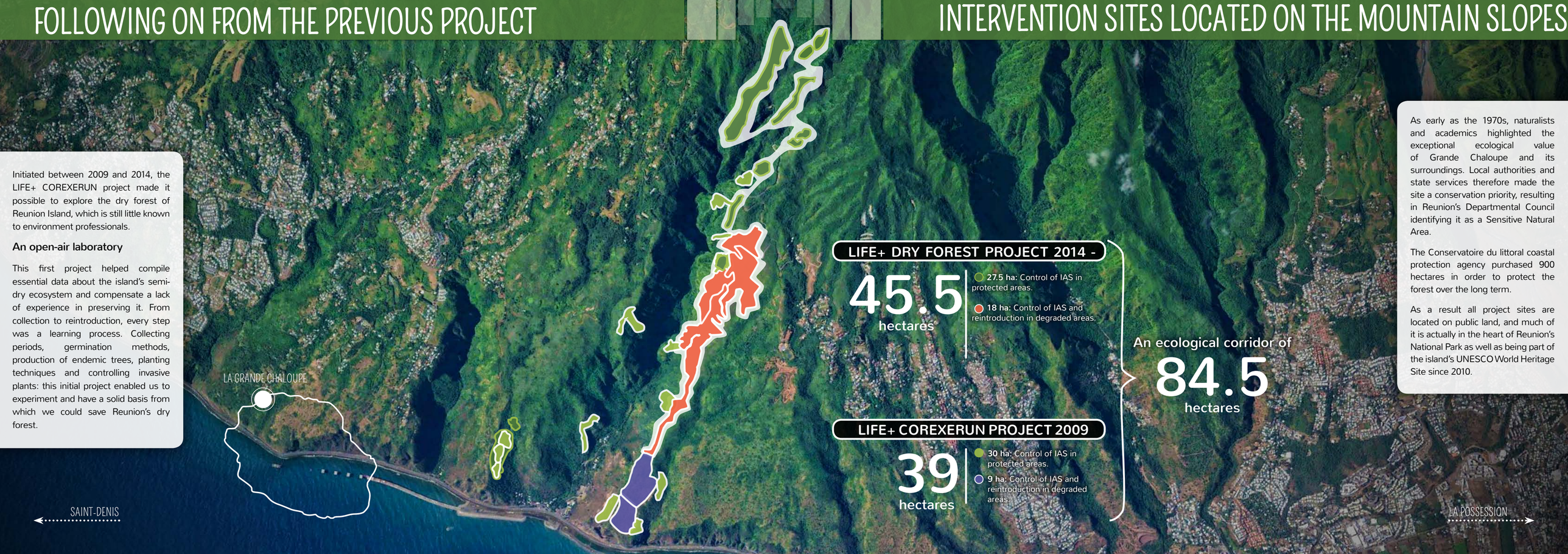
FOLLOWING ON FROM THE PREVIOUS PROJECT

Initiated between 2009 and 2014, the LIFE+ COREXERUN project made it possible to explore the dry forest of Reunion Island, which is still little known to environment professionals.

An open-air laboratory

This first project helped compile essential data about the island's semi-dry ecosystem and compensate a lack of experience in preserving it. From collection to reintroduction, every step was a learning process. Collecting periods, germination methods, production of endemic trees, planting techniques and controlling invasive plants: this initial project enabled us to experiment and have a solid basis from which we could save Reunion's dry forest.

INTERVENTION SITES LOCATED ON THE MOUNTAIN SLOPES



LIFE+ DRY FOREST PROJECT 2014 -

45.5 hectares

- **27.5 ha:** Control of IAS in protected areas.
- **18 ha:** Control of IAS and reintroduction in degraded areas.

LIFE+ COREXERUN PROJECT 2009

39 hectares

- **30 ha:** Control of IAS in protected areas.
- **9 ha:** Control of IAS and reintroduction in degraded areas.

An ecological corridor of

84.5 hectares

As early as the 1970s, naturalists and academics highlighted the exceptional ecological value of Grande Chaloupe and its surroundings. Local authorities and state services therefore made the site a conservation priority, resulting in Reunion's Departmental Council identifying it as a Sensitive Natural Area.

The Conservatoire du littoral coastal protection agency purchased 900 hectares in order to protect the forest over the long term.

As a result all project sites are located on public land, and much of it is actually in the heart of Reunion's National Park as well as being part of the island's UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2010.

FLORA

53 species were selected from the suite of species that make up the semi-dry forest for their ability to withstand lack of water and strong sunlight.

Ruizia cordata

BOIS DE SENTEUR BLANC

LOCAL NAMES: BOIS DE SENTEUR BLANC, BOIS DE CHANTEUR, BOIS L'ENCHANTEUR ...

Long considered a talisman and bringer of good fortune, this tree is deeply rooted in Reunion's traditions, and fuels the beliefs of those who are superstitious. Some say that it sings at midday and midnight, others make offerings before collecting its leaves for luck.

The species is endemic to Reunion Island, so in other words it does not exist anywhere else on earth.

REINTRODUCED SPECIES

24 PROTECTED SPECIES

have obtained collection and planting permits from the Prefecture.

Obecia ficifolia
BOIS D'ORTIE

Salamis augustina is a butterfly whose caterpillar only feeds on the leaves of *Obetia ficifolia*.

The extreme scarcity of its host plant has led to the disappearance of the butterfly, which has not been seen for several years.

Salamis augustina
SALAMIDE D'AUGUSTINE

The local name of *Foetidia mauritiana*, Bois puant, means 'stinking tree' and it bears extremely hard fruit that do not germinate easily. By eating them, the Reunion giant tortoise (*Cylindraspis borbonica*), made their germination easier.

However the tortoise's extinction more than a century ago accelerated the decline of this tree that was once typical of Reunion's semi-dry forest.

Cylindraspis borbonica
REUNION GIANT TORTOISE

Foetidia mauritiana
BOIS PUANT

REINTRODUCES SPECIES

12 UNCOMMON SPECIES

LOCAL NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
BOIS ROUGE	*Elaeodendron orientale*
BOIS D'EFFORT	*Olax psittacorum*
BOIS DE DEMOISELLE	*Phyllanthus casticum*
BOIS D'OLIVE GROS PEAU	*Pleurostylia pachyphloea*
BOIS DE FIÈVRE	*Pouzolzia laevigata*
PETIT VACOA	*Pandanus sylvestris*
TI MANGUE	*Psiadia dentata*
LIANE PATTE POULE	*Toddalia asiatica*
BOIS DE SINTE	*Scutia myrtina*
BOIS DE FER BATÂRD	*Sideroxylon borbonicum*
LIANE CROC DE CHIEN	*Smilax anceps*

Phelsuma borbonica
GECKO VERT DE BOURBON

Eugenia buxifolia
BOIS DE NÈFLES

16 COMMON SPECIES

LOCAL NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
BOIS DE CABRI BLANC	*Antidesma madagascariense*
BOIS D'OSTO	*Antirhea borbonica*
CHANGE-ÉCORCE	*Aphloia theiformis*
CAFÉ MARRON	*Coffea mauritiana*
BOIS DE JUDAS	*Cossinia pinnata*
BOIS D'ARNETTE	*Dodonaea viscosa*
BOIS DE GAULETTE	*Doratoxylon apetalum*
BOIS DE CHANDELLE	*Dracaena reflexa*
BOIS DE NÈFLES	*Eugenia buxifolia*
AFFOUCHE BÂTARD	*Ficus reflexa*
PETIT NATTE	*Labourdonnaisia callophyloides*
GRAND NATTE	*Mimusops maxima*
TAN GEORGE	*Molinaea alternifolia*
BOIS D'OLIVE NOIR	*Olea europaea subsp. africana*
BOIS D'OLIVE BLANC	*Olea lancea*

COLLECTION 2014 - 2019.

This action respected certain ecological concepts as well as prevailing legislation, particularly concerning protected species.

Seed collection from natural environments was prioritised, as seed-bearing trees are better adapted to droughts thanks to natural selection. The geographic origin of seed-bearers was also an important criterion. The goal was to collect seeds from or near the reintroduction zone to improve the chances of greater local adaptation.

Furthermore, fruit were collected from as many seed-bearing trees as possible to ensure a good genetic diversity.

In this way, young plants will be more adaptable to environmental changes and any phytosanitary issues such as disease, insect herbivory, and fungal infections.

To ensure natural regeneration, only one third of all seeds were collected from each seed-bearing tree.

KEY FIGURES

1 270 540

seeds of 56 local species were collected

taking **515,5**

person/days

Equipment such as collection nets or telescopic poles helped optimise the collection of certain species. The collection of wildings (plants a few weeks old) and cuttings also helped diversify places of origin.

In order to sustainably strengthen genetic diversity, three seed arboretums were also set up containing young plants from the collection. One of them is located in the upper part (520m above sea level) of the dry forest, while the other two are in the lower part (in the municipalities of Le Port and Saint Paul). There are many advantages to creating these arboretums:

- **Technical benefit:** easier to access seeds of various origins.
- **Ecological benefit:** the availability of seeds in ecosystems where there is human activity reduces the pressure to collect them in the wild, thereby preserving the genetics of rare specimens and bringing the forest to an urban environment
- **Educational tool:** allows everyone to (re) discover Reunion's endemic species close to home.

These arboretums are valuable allies for sustainable conservation of the dry forest!

Fruit catching system for Red latan palm

Collection using a pole

Creating the arboretum at Saint-Paul

TOP 13

Low mortality rate

High growth rate

LOCAL NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
BOIS DE SENTEUR BLANC	*Ruizia cordata*
BOIS DE GAULETTE	*Doratoxylon apetalum*
MAHOT REMPART	*Hibiscus columnaris*
BOIS DE DEMOISELLE	*Phyllantus casticum*
BENJOIN	*Terminalia bentzoë*
MAHOT TANTAN	*Dombeya acutangula*
MAUVE	*Abutilon exstipulare*
BOIS DE CHENILLE	*Volkameria heterophylla*
BOIS D'ARNETTE	*Dodonaea viscosa*
BOIS DE SINTE	*Scutia myrtina*
LATANIER ROUGE	*Lantana lontaroides*
BOIS PUANT	*Foetidia mauritiana*
BOIS D'ÉPONGE	*Polyscias custipongias*

Aloe macra

Terminalia bentzoë

Foetidia mauritiana

Hibiscus columnaris

Dodonaea viscosa

Ruizia cordata

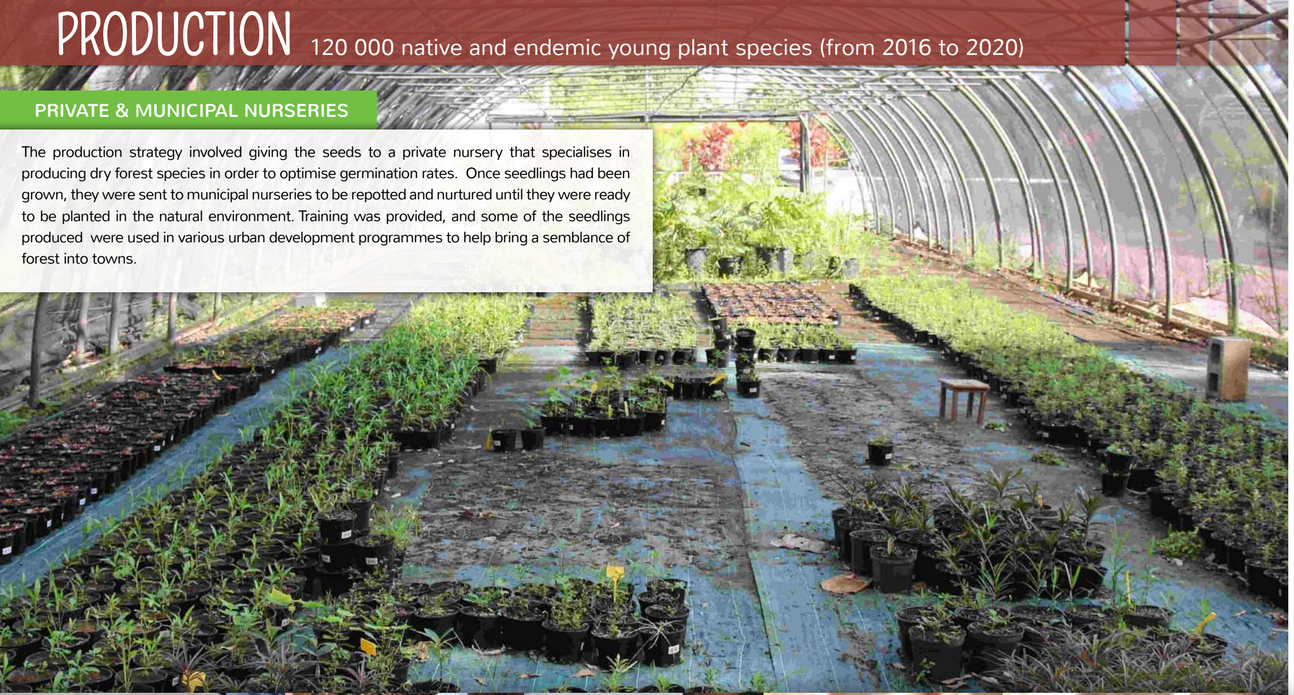
Pittosporum senacia

PRODUCTION

120 000 native and endemic young plant species (from 2016 to 2020)

PRIVATE & MUNICIPAL NURSERIES

The production strategy involved giving the seeds to a private nursery that specialises in producing dry forest species in order to optimise germination rates. Once seedlings had been grown, they were sent to municipal nurseries to be repotted and nurtured until they were ready to be planted in the natural environment. Training was provided, and some of the seedlings produced were used in various urban development programmes to help bring a semblance of forest into towns.



MAIN PHASES OF CULTIVATION

1. Receipt of seed lots and allocation of a code to track their origin.
2. Seeds sowed in trays after being treated. Tracking code recorded by marking the seed-pan.
3. Repotting and mulching of seedlings produced; traceability continues through labelling of the repotted lots.
4. Anti-weed and pest control of young seedlings.
5. Young plants weaned once strong enough (irrigation gradually reduced).
6. Young plants taken from the nursery to be planted in a natural environment.

BEST PRACTICES

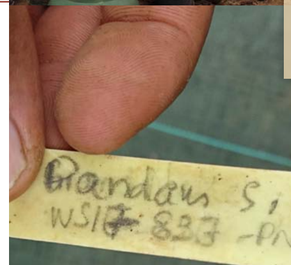
OBTAIN
medium-sized young plants, for optimal (re)growth and easy transportation.

LIMIT
the input of fertilisers and the use of insecticides.

PROMOTE
good root development for proper plant nutrition.

WEAN
young plants by gradually reducing irrigation to accustom them to the lack of water.

TRAIN
municipal employees to produce endemic species in order to replant forests and develop green spaces in urban areas



3
MAIN PRODUCTION UNITS

Saint-Denis
65 890
trees produces

La Possession
29 896
trees produces

Le Port
16 489
trees produced

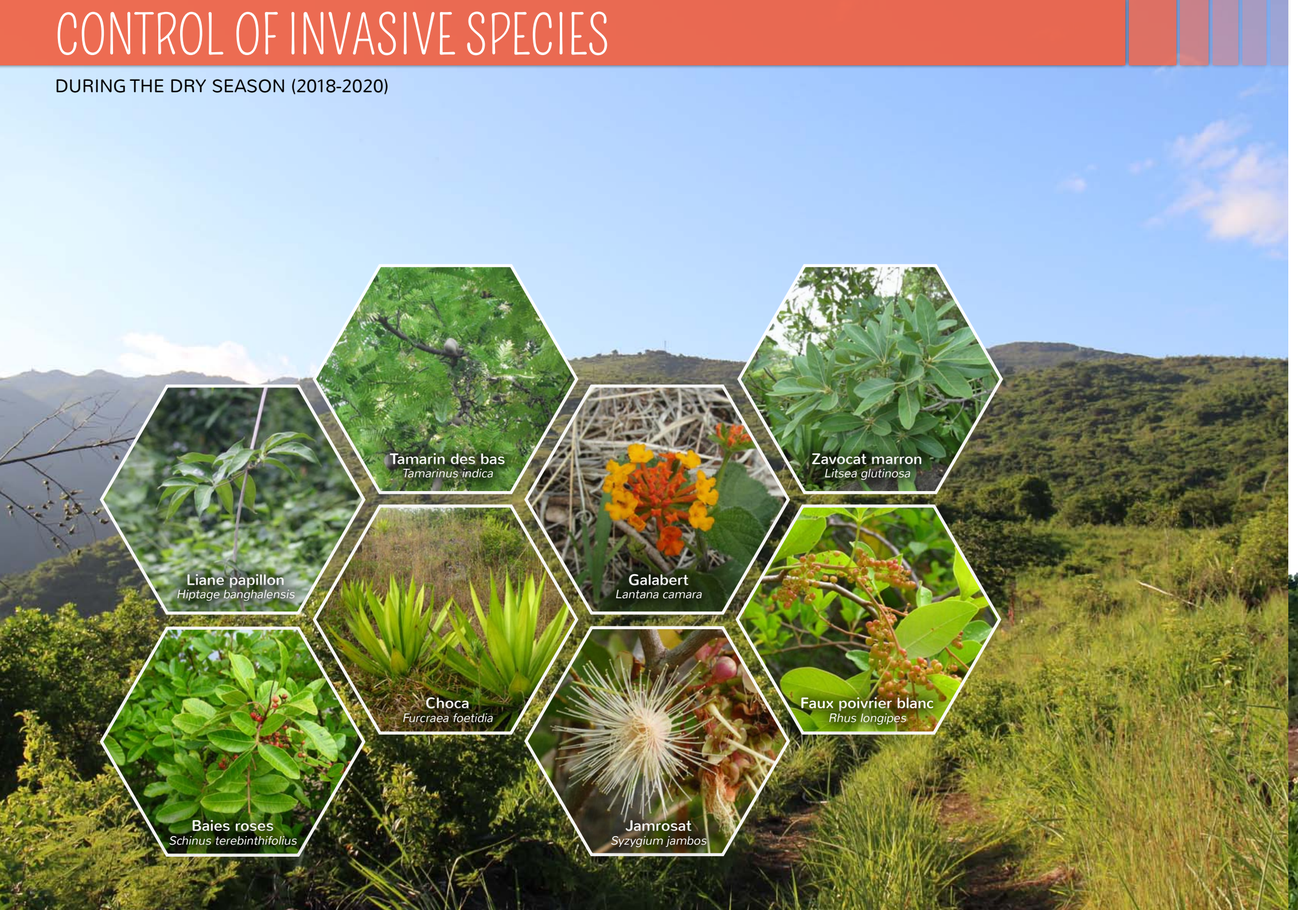
Other units
4 801
trees produced

Domenjod Penitentiary with support from SODEXO
Agricultural High School of Saint-Paul
Saint-Paul nursery
'Les Ti dalons' association

KEY FIGURE
117 076
trees produced.

CONTROL OF INVASIVE SPECIES

DURING THE DRY SEASON (2018-2020)



STRENGTHENING HABITAT CENTRES: a long-term process

The management of non-native species found in forest remnants was carried out entirely by hand. In such areas many species typical of semi-dry and transitional habitats can still be found. Some are rare, some have needed special attention to encourage their development and stimulate fruit production, ultimately providing the ecosystem with new resilience. Tools such as machetes, planes, or manual chainsaws were used to carry out this painstaking work.

Control work was carried out with due consideration for the specific features of each of the 14 plots, which together covered a surface totalling approximately 18 ha. Too much cutting back could lead to erosion or the arrival of new undesirable species on the site, while careless cutting can simply be a waste of time.

The selected cutting company – which recently committed to a "no weedkiller" approach – used techniques such as girdling, tarping or even "sap drawing" to achieve the desired result.

A combination of certain methods had to be used to dispatch some of the hardiest species.

A Forestry Commission worker uses a manual chainsaw for girdling

An employee of Reunion's National Park cuts the stalk of a Mauritius hemp (Furcraea foetida) with a machete

REHABILITATION OF DEGRADED AREAS

Meanwhile mechanical support boosted efforts to tackle invasive species in degraded areas. Due to the extent of the invasion and the need to free up space at such sites for large-scale planting, the predominantly non-native cover was shredded.

The resulting mulch was left on site to limit its spread and allow a sustainable supply of the organic matter needed for good growth of the reintroduced young plants. In addition, spreading them out over the ground reduces germination of any undesirable species while the nursery-grown species are planted.

However a handful of complex operations were carried out manually, either in inaccessible areas or on very large specimens.

Debarking a rose-apple trunk with a machete

KEY FIGURE

45.5

hectares cleared of invasive species

REINTRODUCTION

during the rainy season (2017 to 2020)

Natural environment planting

IN THE REMNANTS OF SEMI-DRY AND TRANSITIONAL FOREST

Although initially two types of supplementation were planned in these remnants, ultimately only one could be implemented. Planting took place very close to a plot restored as part of the LIFE+ COREXERUN project (2009-2014) in order to connect the forest remnants together and encourage population growth of the Reunion Island day gecko reintroduced at the same plot.

The second type of supplementation would have helped close ecological scars that exist in the middle of certain remnants. However, it was impossible to complete this part of the project due to public healthcare measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A particular effort was made in choosing specimens that featured a number of cavities and recesses, as these favour the escape strategies – when faced with predators – or reproduction of the Reunion Island day gecko.

Workers carrying young plants to the reintroduction site

IN THE DEGRADED AREAS

Drawing on the experience gained from the LIFE+ COREXERUN project, this time project partners preferred to plant densely over larger areas. As a result three different planting densities (2, 1 and 0.2 specimens/m2) and two different planting methods (in circular plots and in broadcast fashion) were used over roughly 25 ha. On occasion these methods were supplemented by sowing (either direct or broadcast sowing) in the most inaccessible areas.

Planting young trees close together stimulates their growth, thereby avoiding the return of invasive species.

KEY FIGURES

80 239

trees were reintroducted to recreate an ecological corridor nearly 5km long, including

3 000

trees reintroduced to supplement the remnants of semi-dry and transitional forest and promote growth of the reintroduced Reunion Island day gecko population

Natural environment planting

Planted plot

Principle

Maintenance consists of removing non-native species from near the reintroduced plants as they may jeopardise the latter's survival by depriving them of sunlight as well as the little water and nutrients contained in the soil.

Cut vegetation is used to mulch the young plants, allowing relative humidity to be sustained at the base of reintroduced specimens, and limiting the regrowth of undesirable species.

Frequency

Annual maintenance takes place during the dry season, when the invasive species are the least active, in order to limit their regrowth and the number of new germinations.

National Park employee Gabriel Deguigne measuring young plants

MEASURED VARIABLES

Data collected by National Park employees was intended not only to evaluate the success of the operations carried out but also to compare technical choices made by the LIFE+ COREXERUN and Dry Forest projects.

Opportunistic monitoring helped focus on the flowering and fruiting of the reintroduced young plants.

A "native vs non-native" balance of power, relative to the surface area occupied by the vegetation, revealed the changes in plant mass over time.

Such information – which, once gathered, is key to a successful project – will help improve future management procedures. Among other things, it also helps inform future project leaders' technical decisions if they want to carry out reforesting under similar conditions.

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT
during the dry season (2018 to 2020)

INITIAL RESULTS

Initial results are in line with those obtained upon completion of the LIFE+ COREXERUN project. The species that had the best survival and growth rates during the first project are the same as those of the LIFE+ dry forest project. This is the case with *Dombeya acuntagula, Ruizia cordata* and *Terminalia bentzoë*, which, after one year, show survival rates higher than 80%.

Meanwhile, species such as *Pittosporum senacia* and *Vepris lanceolata*, which had shown some of the highest mortality rates during the LIFE+ COREXERUN project, now have survival rates of over 60%.

Monitoring carried out by National Park LIFE+ Dry Forest project employees Vincent Lauret & Yann Fontaine.

KEY FIGURE

78%

overall survival rate of reintroduced endemic trees after one year.

FAUNA

Reintroduction of the Reunion Island day Gecko

A first in Reunion!

REUNION ISLAND DAY GECKO

Indigenous to Reunion

The team in charge of reintroducing the Reunion Island day gecko

REINTRODUCTION OF THE REUNION ISLAND DAY GECKO

Once dry forest cover started disappearing from Reunion's lower slopes, the Reunion Island day gecko gradually found refuge in the highlands. The reforesting carried out in recent years has made it possible for the gecko to return, and the translocation of 50 Reunion Island day geckos as part of the LIFE+ Dry Forest project meant the species could be reintroduced into an area from where it had disappeared. Once (re)installed, this new colony will have a role to play in restoring the entire dry forest ecosystem.

The Reunion Island day gecko is a species endemic to the island. Juveniles measure less than 10 cm, while adults are more than 10 cm long. It lives between 5 and 10 years, can reproduce after its first year of growth, and lays one or two eggs. Its diet consists of insects, fruit, and nectar, making it a potential pollinator of forest flowers. This is because when it searches for nectar inside flowers it unwittingly carries and spreads pollen. So it contributes to effective functioning of the forest.

Each individual gecko can be identified as the marks on its back are unique. However the Reunion Island day gecko is a protected species, so several studies had to be carried out and numerous authorisations requested before any of the reptiles could be removed from their previous habitat and reintroduced into a new one.

Capture

Once all authorisations had been granted, the capture site was equipped with artificial nest boxes for 6 months before the translocation. These mobile nest boxes meant it was possible to capture and transport the geckos while reducing any need for direct handling, thus minimising their stress.

Release

To accommodate the new population in the best possible conditions, the release site was equipped with 103 nest boxes to which were added the 50 boxes containing the captured geckos. As an additional measure, rodent extermination was carried out for six months before the reintroduction took place. Rats consume gecko eggs, so it was essential to try and put a stop to them.

Monitoring

Once reintroduced, the geckos were then monitored: checks were made every 15 days for the first six months, then every 6 months (November 2018, April 2019, November 2019, April 2020). So far the geckos are still at the site, but no eggs have been found yet. Project assessment will continue for several more years, and will be carried out by National Park employees trained to monitor these new arrivals.

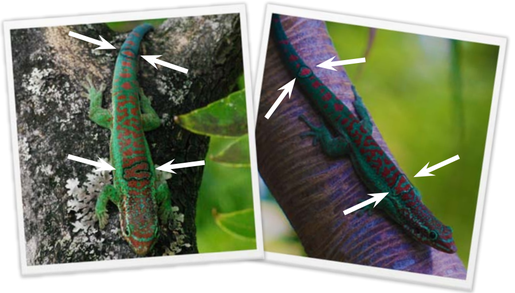
GECKO REINTRODUCTION PHASES

1. PRELIMINARY STUDIES AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK
2. PREPARATION OF THE CAPTURE SITE
3. PREPARATION OF THE RELEASE SITE
4. STAFF TRAINING
5. **TRANSLOCATION**
6. **RELEASE SITE: CAP FRANCIS**

FROM LA PLAINE D'AFFOUCHES TO CAP FRANCIS

HOW TO RECOGNISE THEM

>>> Photo identification <<<
A non-intrusive and effective method



14 employees were trained how to capture, handle, release and monitor geckos by the local association Nature Océan Indien.

KEY FIGURE

50
Reunion Island day geckos reintroduced
20 females & 30 males

RESCUING THE DRY FOREST IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!

TRAINING

about the need to preserve the dry forest

Training sessions were held for local authority decision-makers, environmental professionals, park keepers, agricultural high school pupils and students of Reunion Island's university.

GOALS?

Present the characteristics and particular features of Reunion's dry forest, the reasons for preserving it as well as its interest for decision-makers	Learn to identify each endemic dry forest species (how to recognise, etc.)	Know the regulations for working with these species	Present LIFE+ Dry Forest project partners, raise general public awareness about the concepts of endemism and biodiversity

Staff training at Le Port municipal nursery

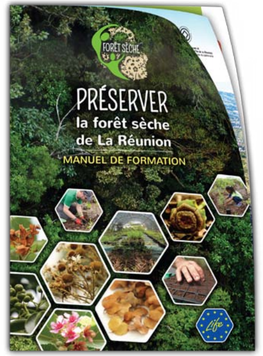
Le Lazaret La Grande Chaloupe

Agricultural High School of Saint-Paul

Saint-Denis municipal nursery

La Possession municipal nursery

A training manual
for environmental professionnals and park keepers



Available online

KEY FIGURE

695

stakeholderzs trained in the preservation of Reunion's dry forest

RESCUING THE DRY FOREST IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!

Planting in a natural environment with pupils from Raoul Fruteau primary school in Le Port

PARTICIPATORY EDUCATION

in dry forest preservation

SCHOOLS

As part of the LIFE+ Dry Forest artistic and cultural education courses:

29 schools received outreach	**32** classes received outreach
30 teachers trained	**792** pupils received outreach
465 trees planted in natural environments	**3** arboretums created in 3 schools

GENERAL PUBLIC

Repotting at a nursery

Natural environment planting

65 PARTICIPATORY ACTIONS

PLANTING

3 454

volunteers, schoolchildren and local stakeholders helped plant

8 673

endemic and indigenous trees in the mountain slopes above Grande Chaloupe, reforesting one hectare.

PRODUCTION

287

volunteers and schoolchildren repotted and tended to

10 690

endemic young plants for reintroduction into the natural environment.

3 741

volunteers were mobilised for the dry forest project.

RESCUING THE DRY FOREST IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!

The five years of work carried out together with local partners and environmental professionals have made it possible to create the tools needed to preserve the dry forest and organise cooperative events.

A WEB SITE
www.foretseche.re

A TECHNICAL GUIDE
"Les *pié dbwa* endémiques de vos envies".

DESCRIPTIVE AND TECHNICAL FACTSHEETS
about propagating dry forest trees.

A SCIENTIFIC POSTER
shows the various phases involved in reintroducing the Reunion Island day gecko, and is displayed at various events and conferences.

A DOCUMENTARY
Maya, Mayelis, Thi mai and Adrien help save the dry forest

TEACHING PACK

STORYTALE
Le vrai trésor de la Buse

TEACHERS' HANDBOOK
Discover Reunion's dry forest

COMIC STRIP
Oté, alon sov nout foré !

BOARD GAME
Alon sov nout foré !

MEMORY GAME

DOBBLE

HAPPY FAMILIES

reforestACTION
AGIR ENSEMBLE POUR L'HOMME & L'ENVIRONNEMENT

The main purpose of French social enterprise ReforestACTION is to raise awareness and take action for forests. In 2018, it undertook to help preserve Reunion's dry forest by financially participating in the reforestation of 10,000 trees for the 2018-2019 planting season. In line with this approach, Reunion Island's Ravate Group donated €15,000 to ReforestACTION, and in 2018 also took part in one of our projects.

In addition, ReforestACTION now allows tree planting via its website, inviting online visitors to make a donation to preserve Reunion's dry forest. So far 2,745 "reforestAtors" have already donated.

Grèn semé
IL POUSSE POUR SAUVER LA FORÊT RÉUNIONNAISE

WHAT NEXT?

Following in the footsteps of the European LIFE+ Dry Forest programme aimed at restoring and preserving Reunion's forests, the "Grèn Semé" project is designed to secure the future of this ecosystem. The project aims to give each islander and local stakeholder the opportunity to participate in the conservation of this natural heritage which is so much part of Reunion's identity.

By optimising existing vegetation and controlling non-native species, Grèn Semé will allow reintroduced young plants to develop until they reach maturity.

Sponsorship brochure

Sponsorship leaflet

Thanks to the Grèn Semé project, companies can now make a donation to the Conservatoire du littoral coastal protection agency to preserve Réunion's dry forest.

THE LIFE+ DRY FOREST PROJECT TEAM

A FEW FIGURES

8 financial partners

13 technical partners

5 -person coordination team (Reunion Island National Park and Conservatoire du littoral coastal protection agency)

12 civic service participants

15 interns

3 contract workers

20 contracted service providers

€1 388 073 worth of economic benefits for the local economy

coordinateur

Parc national de La Réunion

REUNION ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

Reunion Island National Park, which has overseen and coordinated the LIFE+ Dry Forest project, is a public institution of administrative nature, created in March 2007. Its mission is to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage that falls within its remit.

Since 2010 the National Park has also managed Reunion's UNESCO World Heritage Site "Pitons, cirques and remparts". As such, the National Park specifically conducts and supports initiatives aimed at understanding, preserving and conserving ecosystems.

Conservatoire du littoral

CONSERVATOIRE DU LITTORAL

The *Conservatoire du littoral* coastal protection agency is a public administrative establishment created on 10 July 1975.

It is an associated beneficiary of the project, and pursues a land policy designed to permanently protect coastal natural areas from irreversible degradation, urbanisation, or loss. It mainly entrusts the management of its land to local authorities so that they can implement restoration, development, and visitor management projects.

The agency has been active at the Grande Chaloupe site since 1996. It now owns 750 hectares located between the gullies of Ravine Tamarins and Ravine à Malheur, and intends to take further action in favour of the dry forest.

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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

DIRECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DE L'AMÉNAGEMENT ET DU LOGEMENT
RÉUNION

DIRECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DE L'AMÉNAGEMENT ET DU LOGEMENT

Reunion Island's Directorate for Environment, Planning Development & Housing (DEAL) is the government department responsible for ecology, roads & highways, water policing, agriculture & forestry, as well as industry, research and the environment. It is not responsible for industrial development or metrology.

It was created on 1st January 2011. Reporting to the Prefect, the Directorate's mission is to locally implement national policies instigated by the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, and the Ministry for Regional Equality and Housing.

REGION REUNION
www.regionreunion.com

RÉGION RÉUNION

Since 2010 Reunion Island's Regional Council has been committed to sustainable development and the preservation of local biodiversity.

Regional initiatives strive to find a meeting point between economic dynamics, technological innovations, and environmental requirements.

ESPACES NATURELS SENSIBLES

DÉPARTEMENT Réunion
www.cg974.fr

DÉPARTEMENT DE LA RÉUNION

Reunion's Departmental Council is responsible for implementing a Sensitive Natural Areas policy which aims to protect, manage and open up to the public natural areas of ecological or landscape heritage value.

The Departmental Council owns two protected areas in the La Montagne mountain range: Chemin des Anglais and Terrain Fleurié.

www.foretseche.re

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