

Mauritius National Biodiversity Strategic and Action Plan (2006-2015)

By: V. D. Mudhoo

National Parks and Conservation Service

Ministry of Agro Industry & Fisheries

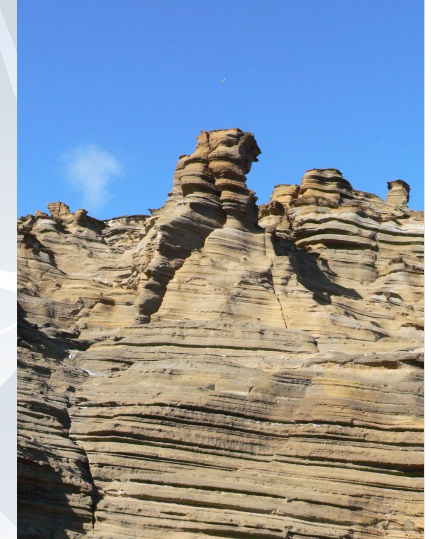
21 February 2008





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Introduction

- Mauritius became the first country to sign & ratify the Convention of Biological Diversity on the 10th September 1992. The National Parks & Conservation Service is the Focal Point for the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) for CBD.
- This document meets Mauritian obligations under article 6a of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by setting out a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) that reflects and aims to meet the measures of the CBD



Forest cover loss since colonisation (MWF unpublished)

1773



82.5%

1835



50.7%

1872



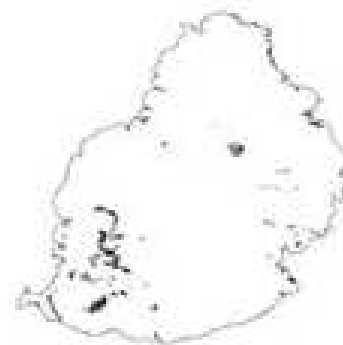
22.9%

1935



5.7%

1997

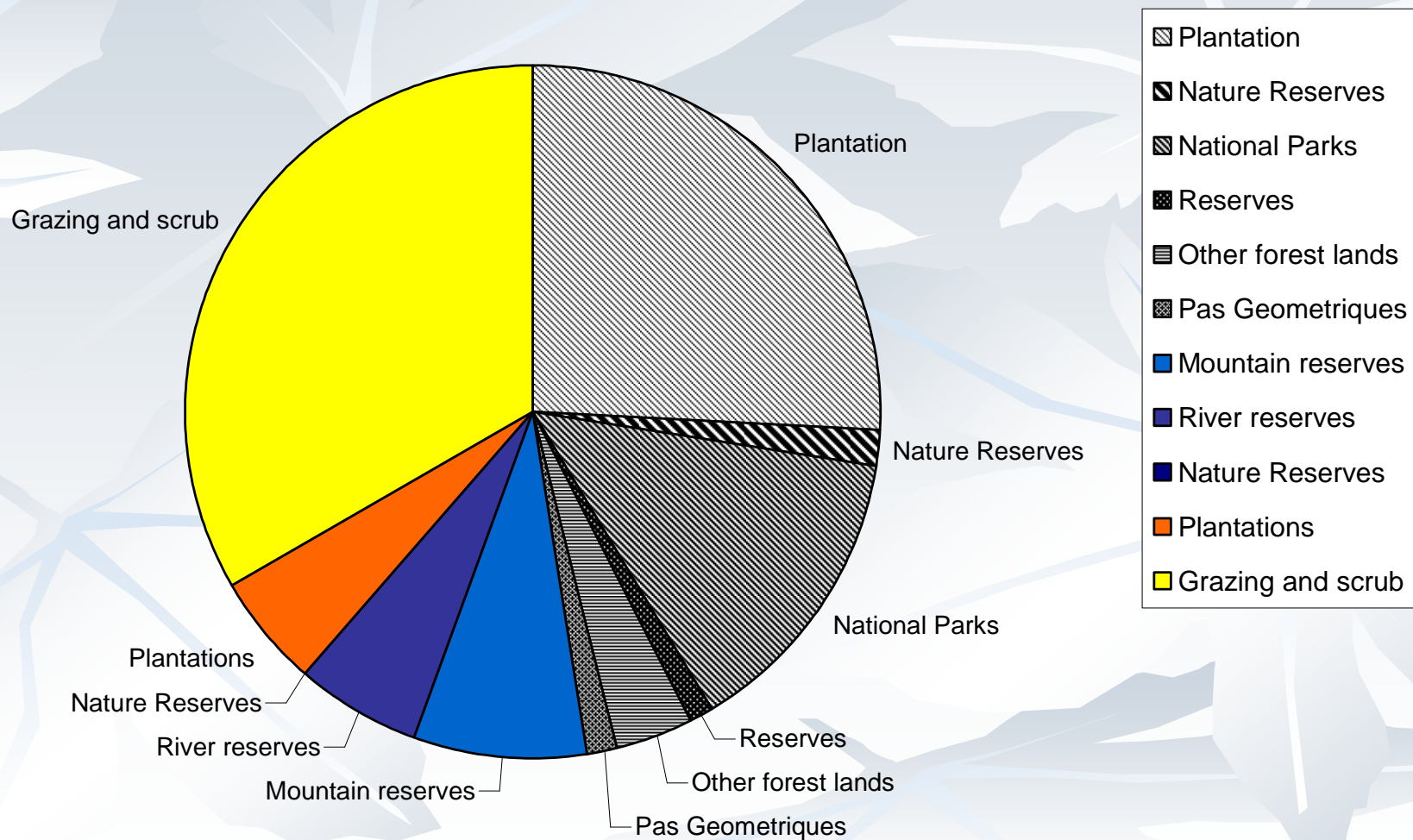


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Forest & Terrestrial BD

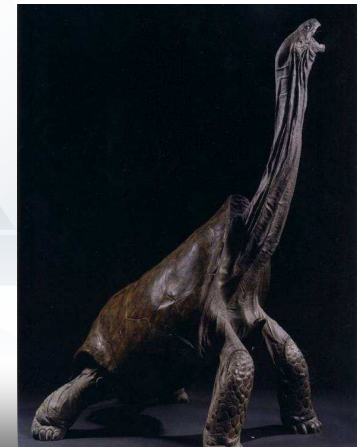
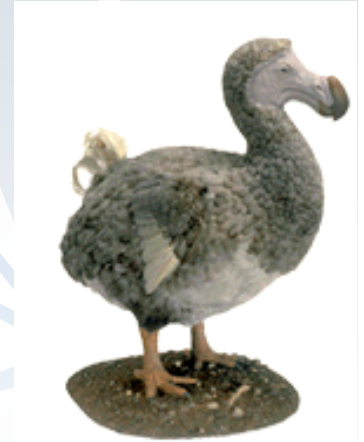
Figure 2.2: Area and land use of state (black shading) and private (coloured shading) lands





Causes of Biodiversity Loss

- Colonisation; Loss of habitat; Logging for ebony; Forest clearance for agriculture
- Gradual conversion of forest to enlarge pasture areas for deer grazing
- Invasive Alien Species (1,625 plants have been introduced – among which 20 are known as aggressive invaders (Maureemootoo *et al.*, 2003))
- Unsustainable use of resources; Hunting & Harvesting (100 sp. of plants & animals got extinct)
- Pollution from sewage and agriculture
- Pests & Diseases
- Development projects & Population Growth



National Biodiversity Strategic and Action Plan



Started in 1997

Finalised in December 2006

- Forest & Terrestrial BD
- Freshwater, Coastal & Marine BD
- Agricultural BD, Biotechnology & Biosafety

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NBSAP



Gaps - Forest & Terrestrial BD



- Limited area under protection and inadequate active conservation management of native ecosystems;
- No strategy for invasive alien species (IAS) control;
- Lack of training of Mauritians, limited human capacity at all levels;
- Inadequate protection for biodiversity, especially on private land;
- Incomplete inventory; Habitat fragmentation;
- Limited inter-institutional communication and collaboration;
- Limited research or monitoring to support adaptive management;
- Limited awareness of the population at large;
- Limited development of conservation as a profitable venture;
- Commitment to conservation not necessarily a priority for govt.



Ongoing activities in Agricultural sector:

- Monitoring of viability of accessions in the crop seed gene bank.
- Establishment of field gene banks for fruit species and tuber crops.
- Maintenance, management and evaluation of sugar cane accessions in the field;
- Collaboration and training through SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre. To date 3 Mauritians have received funding for M.Sc. programme, 11 have received a certificate in Plant Genetic Resources.
- SADC project for the management of farm animal genetic resources.
- Characterisation of Creole cattle and creation of a nucleus population at Curepipe.
- Compilation of literature review on Farm Animal Genetic Resources in Mauritius.
- Characterization of the local goats.

Key issues associated with the coastal zone include



- Control of shoreline development
- Management of beaches
- Waste and pollution management
- Soil and agrochemical management
- Control of lagoon usage
- EIA as a tool for mitigating adverse effects of development
- Strengthening resource stewardship
- Protection of waters around offshore islets
- Increased monitoring of ecosystem health

Vision

“That people in Mauritius enjoy a healthy environment and an enhanced quality of life, through the effective conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in line with national and international commitments, while respecting local values.”

Mission Statement

“Mauritius will continue to work towards achieving a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2015.”

Strategic Objectives

- 1). Establish a Representative and Viable Protected Area Network (PAN)
- 2). Manage Key Components of Biodiversity
- 3). Enable Sustainable Use of Biodiversity
- 4). Maintain Ecosystem Services
- 5). Manage Biotechnology and its Products



Work Programmes

Establish a Representative and Viable Protected Area Network (PAN).

- Terrestrial Protected Area Network
- Inland Waters Programme
- Marine Protected Area Network
- Adaptive Management of Protected Area Network

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NBSAP





Work Programmes

Manage Key Components of Biodiversity.

- Invasive Alien Species
- Flowering Plants and Ferns
- Birds
- Bats
- Reptiles
- Research Priorities
- Agrobiodiversity

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NBSAP





Work Programmes

Enable Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

- Ecotourism Development
- Review the Environment Protection Act
- Fishing
 - i) Offshore Fishery
 - ii) Lagoon fishery
 - iii) Freshwater Fishery
 - Aquaculture
 - Sports Fishery
- Agrobiodiversity



Work Programmes

Maintain Ecosystem Services

- Forest Management
- Water Quality
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Manage Biotechnology and its Products.

- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety



Mainstreaming Biodiversity

- The thematic areas and objectives in this document therefore reflect stakeholder priorities
- Steering committee – all stakeholders
- Integrating Biodiversity Concerns
- Administrative and Legislative Review
- Information Management
- Partnership Building
- Capacity Building and Public Awareness

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NBSAP





Obstacles to the implementation of the CBD

1. Political/societal
2. Institutional, technical and capacity-related
3. Lack of accessible knowledge/information
4. Economic policy and financial resources
5. Collaboration/cooperation
6. Legal/juridical impediments
7. Socio-economic factors
8. Natural phenomena and environmental change



MAURITIUS NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN (2006-2015)

The action plan for Mauritius set out prioritised activities, with structured goals and targets, as determined by extensive stakeholder consultation and input. They share common working principles centred on in-situ conservation and ecosystem approach. Activities are based on the development of representative and viable protected area networks, the control of invasive alien species, the management of key components of biodiversity, the enhanced identification & monitoring of BD and mechanisms to enable sustainable use through ecotourism development and sound management of natural resources. Emphasis is also placed on the sound application of modern biotechnology through the balanced implementation of the provisions of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Enabling activities which have been addressed require prerequisite capacity needs during the first two years of the NBSAP.

National Parks & Conservation Service (NPCS) is the management body for implementation of Mauritius NBSAP

NPCS ensures sustainable mgmt & restoration of native terrestrial Mauritian fauna & flora, retaining its genetic biodiversity for future generations through in-situ & ex-situ conservation, ecosystem restoration, public awareness, promotion of ecotourism research & implementation of int. Conventions



What did we achieve?

There are 49 islets surrounding Mauritius out of which, 7 have been proclaimed as Nature Reserves & 8 as National Parks. These islets have great potential for conservation, education & leisure.

1 2

Integrated Coastal Zone Management
Enacting of the Wetlands Bill to protect the backfilling or misuse of wetlands

5 8

Establishing of Mauritius Seed Bank with the help of Kew Garden, Millenium Seed Bank
Seed transfer under norms & regulations
Creation of Field Gene Bank for Endemic Plant Species

3 10 11

Conservation Fund is in place to fund biodiversity and ecosystem related projects

1 2 3 6

Increase the area under active management programme.
Extension of existing Conservation Management Areas
Submitted the Blue Bay Marine Park as Ramsar Site
Increasing the acreage under catchment area

1 2 3 6

Particular season for net fishing in lagoon
Sand extraction prohibited from lagoon to prevent further destruction of corals, natural habitats for marine life

4 5

Active micromanagement of Native Rare Plant Species
Active monitoring of pop. of endemic birds
Pink Pigeon released in other suitable sites in the park
29 of 50 plant species known from less than 10 individuals have been successfully propagated
Reptile translocation Programme (Darwin Initiative)

2 5

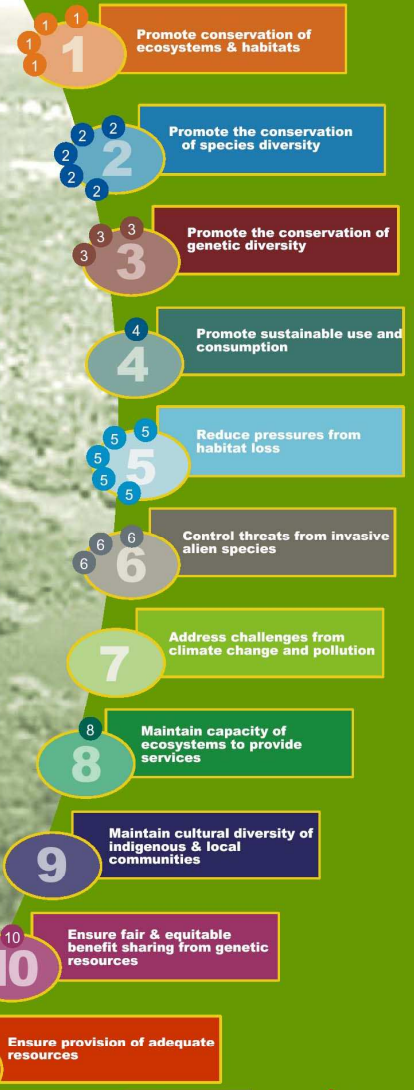
Regular expeditions are carried out for habitat restoration, plants & animals monitoring & to control invasive alien species

1 2 5

Development of National Invasive Alien Strategy
Strict Quarantine measures applied when going on protected islands

5 6

2010 Biodiversity Target



V. D. Mudhoo, Technical Officer, National Parks & Conservation Service, vmudhoo@mail.gov.mu (230 4634 4053)

