

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

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Ref. TF023782
Printed On: 11/21/2011

Reporting Period: 01/01/2005 to 06/30/2005
Report Type: Completion
Report Status: Approved

Assignment: TF023782

GEF2 MSP - MAURITIUS : RESTORATION OF ROUND ISLAND

GEFIA - GEF-IBRD AS IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

Task Team Leader: 00000160941 - Bienvenu Rajaonson
Approving Manager: 00000014821 - Richard G. Scobey

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTN
Recipient Country	Mauritius
Executed By	Bank
Managing Unit	6570 - AFTS1
Grant Start Date / Closing Date	08/01/2000 to 06/30/2005
Program Manager	
Original Grant Amount	750,000.00
Grant Amount	750,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	749,999.74 as of 06/30/2005
Disbursed 01/01/2005 to 06/30/2005	109,996.00
Donor	TF602001 - MULTIPLE DONORS

This GRM report includes the following sections: Overview, Outcome, Components/Outputs, Program(GEFIA), Completion, Processing, Attached Documents, Disbursements.

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OVERVIEW

Overall Assessments and Ratings

Grant Objectives:

To restore Round Island as much as possible to its original ecological state, and protect it as an example of a sustainable representative Mascarene Island ecosystem practically free of introduced species. More specifically: To increase populations of endemic species on Round Island through habitat improvement, erosion control, selective weeding and reestablishment of populations of plants and animals that have vanished because of human intervention.

Overall progress from 01/01/2005 to 06/30/2005 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Rating: Satisfactory (Previously Rated Satisfactory on 12/31/2004)

Comment:

After considerable effort and indeed solidarity between the diverse groups involved in the project, a field station has been successfully built on the Southern Plateau of the island. It serves to establish and maintain nurseries to support the process of restoring the native vegetation of the island. Actually, most of the areas of Round Island have been replanted with endemic trees which contribute to recover a certain native habitat for fauna. Following to that, reintroduction of native fauna has been executed successfully such as reptile and birds. Then, with the support from the Government a Quarantine system has been put in place as a measure to prevent from introduction of exotic plants and weeds. The Government is now committed to take in charge the continuation of activities beyond the closing of the project. It has been agreed that lessons learned from the project will be implemented for other Mauritian islets.

Overall progress from 01/01/2005 to 06/30/2005 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Rating: Satisfactory (Previously Rated Satisfactory on 12/31/2004)

Comment:

The project achieved its expected objectives. All components have been implemented successfully and in a satisfactory appreciation. Results obtained have been broadcasted worldwide through BBC World emission as a successful case of native plants recovery program and disseminated in research papers. The quarantine system put in place is effective.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

None

Expected follow up (if any):

Comment on follow up:

The project has been closed on February 28, 2005. A Grace Period has

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been delivered until June 30, 2005 to pay for expenses incurred by February 28, 2005.

End Date of Last Site Visit: 01/15/2005

Restructuring of Grant:

The Grant objectives were not subject to any changes after approval.

Activity Risk

Rating:
Comment:
None

Critical Issues and Pending Actions for Management Attention

There are currently no issues and actions for Management attention.

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 01/01/2005 to 06/30/2005

None

Grant Outcome Indicators

Grant outcome indicators are listed below.

Restore RI to its native ecological stat

Baseline Inventory of needs/ implementation
Value:

Date:

Progress to Completed

Date:

Date:

Target Value: Database constituted

Date:

Protect it free of introduced species

Baseline Adequate measures taken
Value:

Date:

Progress to Completed

Date:

Date:

Target Value: Quarantine system effective

Date:

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COMPONENTS/OUTPUTS

Output and Implementation by Component

AWARENESS PROGRAM

Implementation Rating: Satisfactory (Previously Rated Satisfactory on 12/31/2004)
Status: Completed
Planned Output: Up to 150 BSc students, 10,000 children,
Actual Output: The component was a success. The output was reached. In addition Round island work has been presented world wide and locally.

RESTORATION ROUND ISLAND

Implementation Rating: Satisfactory (Previously Rated Satisfactory on 12/31/2004)
Status: Completed
Planned Output: Degraded areas restored
Actual Output: 8,000 trees planted out of 7,000 expected. Reintroduction of native flora, fauna has been carried out.

QUARANTINE SYSTEM

Implementation Rating: Satisfactory (Previously Rated Satisfactory on 12/31/2004)
Status: Completed
Planned Output: Quarantine Syst. established, implemented
Actual Output: Quarantine system effective. Every trip to RI. followed strict control measures.

Comment on planned and actual Output

None

Comment on component implementation progress

A survey of the restorable area of Round Island has been carried out. The proposed planting target has been achieved through the restoration of 5 ha of restorable area on Round Island. A total of 74 species were planted, out of which 46 species survived representing more than 62% survivorship in terms of species.

Apart from the designated MWF quarantine officer, other staff, both from MWF and NPCS have been exposed to the routine quarantine procedures and are now capable of applying a high quarantine standard. A minimum of ten staff are fully conversant in quarantine procedures.

Talks given at schools, clubs, fund raising functions, scientific gatherings etc- Two national TV coverages, and one international TV programme (#Country Profile#), article written for Wildlife Preservation Trust Canada, local newspapers, scientific publications (e.g. Solitaire, DWCT), posters produced of Round Island work and distributed, poster presentations made.

Ile aux Aigrettes has nearly reached the targets set, since it has received the following number of visitors: 3980 (2001), 4346 (2002),

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5434 (2003), 8366 (2004) and 3993 (up to May 2005) thus totaling 26119 for the past four years. The projected target for 2005 is 11 000 visitors (both international and local, of which the latter was 40%). However, the project is expected to generate more funds with the ecotourism growth.

PROGRAM

Program Specific Ratings

1. Please rate public involvement - Moderately Satisfactory
2. Please rate government commitment - Satisfactory
3. Please rate safeguard performance - Not Applicable
4. Please rate arrangements for sustainability - Satisfactory

Program Specific Questions

1. Please comment on additional resources leveraged

Collaboration with the National Parks and Conservation Service was effective in ways too many to list, and including administrative support (work and residence permits, CITES certificates, approval of studies), provision of equipment (eg water tanks), labour, scientific advice and input, planting material, transport, sterilizer, helicopter transport during expeditions etc c. Rs 1.5m total, part cost of building and transport.

Then the Mauritius Police Force provided Boat and helicopter transport at a flat rate, support in emergencies, access to communication with Harbour Radio for emergencies, assistance with transportation of heavy or bulky items.

Various entities as follows provided support to the project in terms of equipments : Aqualia Ltd.: low pressure water pipes, tanks, fittings, pumps, worth up to Rs 150, 000 at least, as well as engineering advice St Felix Sugar Estate, Lyon Equipment Suppliers (UK): donation of an assortment of top quality tools and security equipment Rs.100 000 Phoenix Camp Minerals: plastic bottles for planting, 1000L water tanks, pallets etc Rs 30 000; British American Tobacco and Les Moulins de la Concorde: jute sacking used for plant mulching, pallets, drums etc Rs 15 000 Ireland Blyth Ltd: construction help (Manser Saxon Co. Ltd.), equipment; Textile Garments: Mini-drums for quarantine containers (plants, equipment, personal gear etc...

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COMPLETION

Overall Assessments and Lessons Learned

Main lessons learned:

The following lessons are highlighted:

- 1.#Never underestimate the difficulty and cost of erecting a field station on a remote island
- 2.#Never overestimate the restoration scale achievable in small time frame, especially when field conditions are harsh
- 3.#Staff continuity and training is an essential element of the success of a specialized restoration programme
- 4.#Whilst volunteer help is welcome, it is best to have a dedicated core restoration team. Volunteers should only be seen as additional help
- 5.#Imperative to maintain excellent relationship with the services on which one depends. Progress on Round Island is the result of good personal relationship with government departments, private sector, partners etc
- 6.#The shearwater fencing out experiment has shown that a significant gain in plant survival may not outweigh long term productivity losses to other life forms
- 7.#A dedicated field team is the greatest asset of a restoration programme
- 8.#Greater advance planning will help smoother running of the project as well as more effectiveness in the work.

Overall outcome (and its Sustainability): Rated Likely

Comment:

The sustainability of the project is likely. In order to maintain the basic activities on Round Island beyond the closing date so as to ensure the continuity of the project, the collaboration of the local Authorities (NPCS) has been extended. In addition, MWF has sought financial support for the first six months of year 2005 from the Ministry of Agriculture through the National Park and Conservation Service. Furthermore MWF has also applied for a grant from the Conservation Fund to continue the restoration of the island for another one year starting 1st July 2005. As a long-term strategy for funding, MWF has initiated a Fund Raising Strategic Plan that targeted mainly the international charities and funding agencies. The local business community has also been contacted as potential financial stake-holders. Consequently, conditions have been put in place that would enable to move towards sustainable management of Round Island.

Bank Performance: Rated Satisfactory

Comment:

Bank performance is satisfactory. The Bank made the necessary efforts to involve all stakeholders in the preparation and the design of the

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project. Then, a Mid term Review has been realized to assess the implementation progress of the project. Supervision of the project has been carried out periodically which stated on implementation progress and provided appropriate recommendations. The Closing date of the project has been extended to ensure achievement of project goals. Finally, the project budget is totally used by the project.

Additional Assessment

Development / strengthening of institutions: Rated Substantial

Comment:

National, regional and international conservationists work on restoration and safe-guarding of Round Island's original ecosystem. Target exceeded by far . At least 17 national (12 staff, 6 volunteer), 53 international conservationists gained experience in, and developed, small island ecosystem restoration techniques. In addition, a minimum of ten staff are actually fully conversant in quarantine procedures.

Mobilization of other resources: Rated Substantial

Comment:

Other resources have been mobilized from various partners through co-financing and/or in kind contribution. These supports helped with infrastructural improvement and boat and helicopter transport at a flat rate. Their impacts have allowed MWF to maintain a safe presence on Round Island (accommodation, water, electricity, communication), provide decent field conditions, support restoration staff and support in emergencies.

Knowledge exchange : Rated Substantial

Comment:

The impacts of knowledge exchange were fully positive. Indeed, the project undertook various initiative such as talks given at schools, clubs, fund raising functions, scientific gatherings, Two national TV coverage, and one international TV programme (#Country Profile#), article written for Wildlife Preservation Trust Canada, local newspapers, scientific publications (e.g. Solitaire, DWCT), produced posters of Round Island work and distributed, made poster presentations, presented project success at the Small Island meeting with a world wide diffusion. Consequently, among others, partnership with local and international Universities have been established for student in MSc and PHD and a growing interest on biodiversity conservation and/or restoration in Mauritius has been recorded.

Client's policy / program implementation : Rated Substantial

Comment:

This project is implemented by MWF which one of the capable NGO in Mauritius in terms of Natural Ressources Management matters. MWF was fully committed to the implementation of the project and succeeded in exceeding targets set for the project. Nevertheless, its close partnership with the NPCS is key to the overall success of the project.

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The implementation program has been extended for 15 months in order to achieve project objectives.

Efficiency : Rated Satisfactory

Comment:

Cost effectiveness is satisfactory. During the first 2 years of the project, MWF had great difficulties to achieve the project goals and objectives due to the long delay in establishing a base on Round Island (Logistic problems and Cyclone damage). These parameters have been underestimated during the design of the project. As a consequence, supports from various Partners have been requested and have allowed MWF to maintain a safe presence on Round Island (accommodation, water, electricity, communication), provide decent field conditions, support restoration staff, allow a greater understanding of the Round Island ecology and help achieving the overall project goals.

Replicability: Rated Likely

Comment:

Restoration experiences of Round Island and Isle aux Aigrettes, as well as long term involvement with several offshore islets, have already been used towards initial restoration efforts on Gunners# Quoin and Flat Island by the National Parks and Conservation Service. In addition, MWF has additionally shown an interest to manage two Rodrigues offshore islets. All research and experiences from the project on native fauna and plant restoration have been recorded properly in order to be used as lessons learned for other islets restoration program. Moreover, the Quarantine System applied for Round Island was a success and owned by the NPCS. Finally, Isle Aux Aigrette will be continued as living laboratory for native species in its public education and awareness campaign. Consequently, conditions are in place to envisage the replication of the Quarantine system and restoration program to other islets having similar context.

Main recommendations to stakeholders:

It is really imperative to maintain excellent relationship with the services on which one depends. Progress on Round Island is the result of good personal relationship with government departments, private sector and various institution partners.

Main recommendations to Bank Management:

The design of a project in a remote areas such as that of the present project has to take into consideration the difficulty and cost of erecting a field station and never overestimate the restoration scale achievable in small time frame, especially when field conditions are harsh.

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PROCESSING

Manager's comments on this GRM report:

None

GRM report history - Requested on 07/07/2005, due on 07/31/2005

Action	Name	Status	Date
Created	Bienvenu Rajaonson	Draft	09/07/2005
Changed	Bienvenu Rajaonson	Draft	09/08/2005
Submitted for Approval	Bienvenu Rajaonson	Submitted	09/12/2005
Approved by Manager	Richard G. Scobey	Approved	09/28/2005

DOCUMENTS

None

DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
07/01/2000	12/31/2000	0.00	0.00	120,910.00	120,910.00
01/01/2001	06/30/2001	0.00	0.00	248,349.00	127,439.00
07/01/2001	12/31/2001	0.00	0.00	248,349.00	0.00
01/01/2002	06/30/2002	0.00	0.00	0.00	248,349.00-
07/01/2002	12/31/2002	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2003	06/30/2003	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2003	12/31/2003	650,000.00	650,000.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2004	06/30/2004	650,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2004	12/31/2004	650,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2005	06/30/2005	650,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00