

## **Chapter 7. Rodrigues Framework Strategy**

### **Vision**

*“That the people of Rodrigues Island enjoy a healthy environment and an enhanced quality of life due to the effective conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in line with local, national and international commitments.”*

### **Mission Statement**

*“That the rate of biodiversity loss in Rodrigues is significantly reduced by the year 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

### **Working Principles**

The working principles for the implementation of the Rodriguan BSAP match those for the overall national approach namely:

The Interdependence of Humans and Biodiversity  
Intrinsic Value  
The Precautionary Principle  
The Priority of In-situ Conservation  
The Ecosystem Approach

### **Plan Duration and Review**

The strategy is intended to have 10-year duration 2006-2015 with an independent review during year five which will provide the basis for a consultative revision of the BSAP so as to enable an adaptive management approach and the optimal attainment of goals and objectives.

## **7.1 Mainstreaming Biodiversity**

The consultative development of Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (BSAPs) empowers stakeholders, by incorporating their capacities and priorities into the communal effort to manage biodiversity. The thematic areas and objectives in this document therefore reflect stakeholder priorities. However, for the NBSAP to function effectively and meets its obligations under the CBD other issues need to be addressed and incorporated into the overall document.

These issues were compiled and put to the final stakeholder workshop and approved as follows under the overarching title of Mainstreaming Biodiversity.

### **7.1.1 Implementation and coordination**

- A Steering committee will fulfil an executive role, oversee, guide and monitor the implementation of the BSAP. The committee will have representative stakeholders membership, be equitable in mode of function and will be chaired by the Chief Commissioner's Office.
- A coordinating unit that will serve as secretariat to the Steering Committee will be established in the Chief Commissioner's office. The unit will fulfil the administrative role in coordinating the implementation of the Rodriguan BSAP.

### **7.1.2 Integrating biodiversity concerns**

The steering committee and coordinating unit will also function to integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies (CBD Article 6b). This will be achieved through:

- the representative nature of the committee's stakeholder membership, and
- the targeted and timely dissemination of information by the coordinating unit to appropriate agencies and partners.

The Biodiversity evaluation proposed under the national BSAP will also play an important integrating role by giving value to aspects of biodiversity and environmental services that are not traditionally incorporated into environmental and developmental planning.

## **7.2 Enabling activities**

- **Capacity Building:** the National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) was ongoing at the time of the development of this document and will provide a substantive capacity building requirements baseline for the effective implementation of the CBD in Rodrigues. The NCSA however looks primarily at core-capacity issues as they also relate to the Conventions on climate change (FCCC) and desertification (CCD). This BSAP, however, elaborates specific areas of Rodriguan biodiversity priorities as identified by stakeholders. A gap analysis of the final NCSA should be undertaken to ensure that the full capacity building requirements of the BSAP are addressed.

- Education and Awareness: is a cross-cutting issue which should be incorporated as standard practice into all project developments and is hence not explicitly mentioned in all projects within the BSAP. All E&A campaigns need however to be designed with their own logical frameworks so that they can be effectively targeted, monitored and adaptively managed.
- Administrative and Legislative Review: the review proposed under the national BSAP will also have pertinence in the Rodriguan scenario and potentially offers scope for enhanced conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

### **7.3 Work Programmes**

Each strategic objective is divided up into work programmes:

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

- a) Terrestrial Protected Area Network
- b) Inland Waters Programme
- c) Marine Protected Area Network
- d) Management Plans

2). Manage Key Components of Biodiversity

- a) Invasive Alien Species.
- b) Flowering Plants
- c) Birds
- d) Fruit Bats
- e) Reptiles
- f) Invertebrates
- g) Agrobiodiversity
- h) Repatriation of Information and Genetic Materials.

3). Enable Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

- a) Ecotourism
- b) Environment Protection Act
- c) The Aquatic Environment
- d) Traditional Use
- e) Fishing
- f) Agrobiodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture

4). Maintain Ecosystem Services

- a) Forest Management
- b) Water Quality

5). Manage Biotechnology and its Products.

- a) Implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

<b>Rodrigues Biodiversity Action Plan</b>			
<i>Strategic Objective 1: Establish a Representative and Viable Protected Area Network (PAN)</i>			
	<i>Description</i>	<i>OVI</i> s	<i>Partners</i>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>1a) Terrestrial Protected Area Network</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	To place 10% of Rodrigues terrestrial environment within a PAN by 2015.		
<b>Results</b>	<p>Priority areas of terrestrial habitat for inclusion in PAN identified.</p> <p>PAN incorporates viable and representative components of Rodrigues' terrestrial environment.</p> <p>PAN is designated under the law and demarcated on the ground<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>At least 10% of landmass is incorporated into PAN<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>500 Ha of priority habitat under intensive management<sup>3</sup>.</p>	<p>Draft proposal for PAN incorporating all ecosystem and habitat types.</p> <p>Management plans, sensitive area/biodiversity maps.</p> <p>Official gazette. PA boundaries demarcated.</p> <p>Maps. Gazette. Management Plans (x-ref WP 1d)</p> <p>Management reports. Maps, photos, site verification.</p>	
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Review existing literature and knowledge of terrestrial ecosystems.</p> <p>Survey habitat types where baseline information is lacking e.g. cave ecosystems (x-ref WP 1b).</p> <p>Identify key representative areas and biodiversity hotspots and design PAN to incorporate these areas. (x-ref WPs 2b-f).</p> <p>Designate and demarcate PAN.</p> <p>Identify priority areas within PAN for intensive management with regard to control/mitigation/eradication of IAS and rehabilitation.</p> <p>Commence intensive management of targeted areas</p>	<p>Priority areas identified. Gaps in knowledge of ecosystem and habitat types identified.</p> <p>Survey reports and maps.</p> <p>Sensitive areas and biodiversity hotspots map.</p> <p>Proposed PAN is representative of biodiversity as per best current information. Gazette. Maps. Site verification.</p> <p>Management proposals.</p> <p>Reports. Site verification.</p>	
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	<p>1: The implementation of this WP should be undertaken with due reference to the national programme to review PA classifications based upon IUCN criteria</p> <p>2: Some 90% of the land in Rodrigues is owned by the state and as such the stakeholder workshop felt the 10% target could be obtained without encroaching on private property. If this should prove not to be the case an equitable mechanism of land negotiation should be followed in line with that set out in the national BSAP.</p> <p>3: The ongoing threat posed IAS in Rodrigues requires that priority areas of the PAN be intensively managed in order to ensure the future viability and representative nature of the PAN</p>		

	<i>Description</i>	<i>OVI</i> s	<i>Partners</i>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>1b) Inland Waters Programme</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	Identify key areas of inland water ecosystems for management and incorporation into PAN		
<b>Results</b>	<p>Priority areas for management and/or inclusion into the PAN identified.</p> <p>Capacity for ongoing monitored localised.</p> <p>Inland waters biodiversity under enhanced and effective management regime.</p>	<p>PAN incorporates viable and representative inland water ecosystems.</p> <p>Trained staff</p> <p>Single agency mandated by RRA and implementing management recommendations for Inland water ecosystems.</p>	
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Undertake (rapid assessment<sup>1</sup>) baseline survey of inland water biodiversity.</p> <p>Train local staff in basic rapid assessment and monitoring techniques.</p> <p>Determine priority areas for management and protection<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>Review administrative structure for management of inland water biodiversity</p> <p>Recommend structure for inland waters biodiversity.</p> <p>Prepare a management plan for rivers, canals, springs and streams.</p>	<p>Survey reports with comprehensive management recommendations.</p> <p>Appropriate personnel from govt, NGO and private sector agencies trained.</p> <p>Biodiversity hotspots and sensitive areas identified.</p> <p>Minutes of stakeholder consultations</p> <p>Proposal for single agency submitted to RRA.</p> <p>Draft document for approval.</p>	<p>Environment unit, NGOs, Local expertise, Local communities, NPCS, International expertise e.g. Ramsar convention and CBD secretariats.</p>
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	<p>Stakeholder consultations revealed that inland waters are a priority for attention. This is due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extensive historical deforestation of the island has lead to the loss and severe degradation of many watercourses. Consequently in contrast to early historical accounts of the island there are now very few permanent watercourses on the island.</li> <li>• Very little work has been undertaken in surveying and assessing biodiversity interest in freshwater systems.</li> <li>• The geographic and evolutionary isolation of these systems makes it likely that they will harbour high biodiversity interest.</li> </ul> <p>The optimal implementation of PAN (WP 1a-d) and forestry (WP 4a) initiatives set out in this document is dependent upon an effective assessment of inland waters that identifies biodiversity hotspots, sensitive areas and priority areas for management and restoration.</p> <p>1: The CBD has recognised the particular circumstances of inland waters in SIDS and has developed a rapid assessment programme to address this.</p> <p>2: The main workshop identified a preliminary list of priority areas for survey: Cascade Pigeon, Cascade Victoire, Riviere Banane, Mourouk.</p>		

	<i>Description</i>	<i>OVI</i> s	<i>Partners</i>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b><i>1c) Marine Protected Area Network</i></b>		
<b>Objective</b>	To develop and maintain a representative marine protected area network		
<b>Results</b>	<p>PAN network is expanded to include representative components of marine habitats in and around the lagoon.</p> <p>Mourouk marine park, incorporating Gombrani Island and Mourouk Valley, is designated and demarcated</p> <p>PAN is managed within the context of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management (IMCAM).</p> <p>Status of fishery reserves reviewed and altered as appropriate.</p> <p>Conservation status of mangrove systems determined.</p>	<p>Gazette Site verification Management plans and reports</p> <p>Gazette and site verification.</p> <p>Management Plans address the PAN in the broader land and seascape.</p> <p>National Gazette</p> <p>Criteria for mangrove management agreed.</p>	
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Undertake gap assessment of marine protected areas and the proposed Port Mourouk marine park to identify under-represented habitat types.</p> <p>Designate and demarcate the proposed Mourouk marine Park modified so as to incorporate Gombrani island and Mourouk Valley.</p> <p>Review protection criteria of fishery reserve status<sup>1&amp;2</sup> i.e. consider options for no-take and multiple use zones.</p> <p>Determine management approach to mangrove areas<sup>3</sup>.</p>	<p>Report documents.</p> <p>Gazette</p> <p>Recommendations.</p> <p>Scientific reports and minutes of stakeholder meetings.</p>	FTRU RUG Shoals
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	<p>1: The implementation of this WP should be undertaken with due reference to the national programme to review PA classifications based upon IUCN criteria.</p> <p>2: The stakeholder workshop felt that existing fishing reserves were not fulfilling their purpose and should be reviewed. Fishery reserves currently only legislate against large seine netting practices. It was felt that the location, efficacy and need for other protective measures all required investigation.</p> <p>3: Historical accounts indicate that mangroves did not naturally occur in Rodrigues and as such those created in recent times as a coastal protection measure are controversial. It was agreed that the status of mangroves in Rodrigues should be determined and agreed through a consultative process before they be considered for inclusion in the PAN.</p>		

	<i>Description</i>	<i>OVI</i> s	<i>Partners</i>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>1d) Adaptive Management of Protected Area Network</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	To develop costed and scheduled management plans for each area that enable adaptive management.		
<b>Results</b>	Each Protected Area has a structured, time bound and targeted management plan that enables adaptive management.	Management plans. Budgets. Usage regimes including multiple-use and zoning of activities as appropriate. Monitoring of impact using criteria such as Limits of acceptable change and Quality of visitor experience indicators.	
<b>Activities</b>	Develop management plans for each area through stakeholder consultation utilising a logical framework approach.  Investigate usage potential in particular modes of non-consumptive use.	Stakeholder analyses Situation analyses Risk assessments Usage potential Meeting minutes  Situation analyses reports including risk assessments. Such as Recreation Opportunity Spectrum analyses etc...	FTRU, RUG, Shoals, Fishermen's assoc, WRU, Environment Unit, ARTO.
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	Stakeholders identified the assessment and mitigation of impacts on Marine Protected Areas as an issue of particular concern. Issues such as terrestrial sources of pollution, different categories of water sports, diverse usage regimes and the impact of incentive programmes (perverse or otherwise) such as the bad weather allowance were highlighted.		

<b>Rodrigues Biodiversity Action Plan</b>			
<b>Strategic Objective 2: Manage Key Components of Biodiversity</b>			
	<b>Description</b>	<b>OVI</b> s	<b>Partners</b>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>2a) Invasive Alien Species</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	To develop and implement a national IAS Strategy and Action Plan		
<b>Results</b>	Balanced, comprehensive IAS strategy developed in line with GISP guidance <sup>1</sup> .  National IAS strategy and Action Plan recognises the distinct biogeographical context of Rodrigues and the need to exert internal controls to ensure the Biosecurity of Rodrigues <sup>2</sup> .  IAS impact on ecosystem services addressed <sup>3</sup> .  Action plan under implementation	National strategy document.  National strategy document  National strategy document  Minutes of meetings Implementation reports.	
<b>Activities</b>	Establish a representative Rodriguan stakeholder IAS committee.  Ensure effective and equitable involvement of Rodriguan committee in national undertaking to develop a IAS strategy and Action Plan.  Identify a coordination mechanism to streamline the activities of the Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity sectors.  Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy and action plan for Rodrigues <sup>4</sup> , in line with GISP criteria, that interacts effectively within the broader national approach.  Investigate need for establishment of a Biodiversity Unit within the Environment Division.	Minutes of meetings  National approach recognises and incorporates the particular biogeographic and administrative circumstances.  Mechanism established, functioning and adaptively managed.  Rodrigues strategy addresses local priorities and circumstances whilst an effective mechanism for the integration of activities within the broader national approach.  Recommendations.	Forestry, MWF, Shoals, RUG, FRTU, Customs, Environment Unit, Agricultural services, CBO, NCG, GISP.
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	1: Invasive Alien Species are the primary factor currently threatening terrestrial biodiversity on Rodrigues. 2: The specific biogeographical context of Rodrigues must be recognised within the plan and dealt with appropriately. In particular the establishment of biosecurity controls between Rodrigues and mainland Mauritius. The establishment of direct links with Reunion island must also be considered. 3: Stakeholders identified IAS as a key threat to the maintenance of ecosystem services. 4: Funds for the development for a Mauritian IAS strategy have been identified.		

	<i>Description</i>	<i>OVI</i> s	<i>Partners</i>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>2b) Flowering Plants</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	To effectively conserve and manage the endangered and threatened flowering plants of Rodrigues.		
<b>Results</b>	<p>Status of flowering plants reviewed and threatened and endangered species identified<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>Electronic database (GIS) of threatened plant species established.</p> <p>All critically endangered species and 60% of threatened species in ex-situ collections.</p> <p>60% of threatened species represented in-situ management areas.</p> <p>1 coastal and 1 “uplands” in-situ gene bank(arboretum) established.</p> <p>All threatened species protected under the Wildlife and National Parks Act.</p>	<p>Updated list of threatened flowering plants of Rodrigues.</p> <p>Database and distribution maps.</p> <p>Ex-situ collection reports Site verification.</p> <p>In-situ management reports. Site visits of restoration areas and in-situ gene banks.</p> <p>Site visit. Management reports.</p> <p>Gazette.</p>	
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Establish a Rodrigues threatened plants technical committee.</p> <p>Establish partnership with mainland threatened plant technical committee and IUCN.</p> <p>Review the status of flowering plants utilising the Rodrigues’ red data document as a baseline.</p> <p>Undertake field surveys to establish distribution and abundance of threatened species.</p> <p>Establish and commence implementation of a prioritised programme of ex-situ and in-situ plant conservation.</p> <p>Investigate scope for artificial propagation techniques where necessary.</p> <p>Identify suitable areas for in-situ gene banks(arboretum) and initiate establishment.</p> <p>Protect, as appropriate (x-ref WP 3c), all threatened species under the Wildlife and National Parks Act.</p>	<p>Minutes of meetings.</p> <p>Correspondence with Mauritian committee and IUCN.</p> <p>Minutes of meetings. Updated list.</p> <p>Survey reports</p> <p>Action Plan. Implementation reports.</p> <p>Research reports and correspondence with international agencies and donors. Coastal and “upland” sites proposed</p> <p>Regulations gazetted.</p>	<p>MWF, FS, NPCS, IUCN, MSIRI, RBG Kew. CBO, SLO, CEHDA, Friends of Wildlife.</p>
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	1: The updating of the threatened species list has two components: i) the review of current information in light of IUCN red data criteria, ii) field surveys to establish the distribution and abundance of threatened plant species. Action on conservation must not wait for the completion of the field survey but should initiate on priority basis (i.e. commencing with critically endangered species) as soon as the initial review of best current information has been completed.		

	<i>Description</i>	<i>OVI</i> s	<i>Partners</i>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>2c) Birds</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	To monitor and manage key bird species		
<b>Results</b>	<p>Status of Rodriguan warbler, Rodriguan Fody and other priority species known.</p> <p>Bird species database established.</p> <p>Bird species adaptively managed</p>	<p>Database Monitoring reports.</p> <p>Conservation plans...</p> <p>Limits of acceptable change (LAC) determined for priority species. Management plans and reports.</p>	
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Identify species that require monitoring, this will include the Rodriguan Fody and Rodriguan Warbler.</p> <p>Develop monitoring protocols for identified species in partnership with appropriate agencies.</p> <p>Develop monitoring for key sea bird colonies on Ile aux Cocos &amp; Sables.</p> <p>Implement monitoring protocols and report on population trends.</p> <p>Establish electronic databases.</p> <p>Develop management plans as appropriate.</p>	<p>Preliminary survey reports. Minutes of stakeholder consultations.</p> <p>Monitoring protocol documents. Correspondence and collaboration with appropriate agencies.</p> <p>Monitoring protocol documents. Correspondence and collaboration with appropriate agencies.</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>Database printouts and reports. Site verification.</p> <p>Criteria for management plans e.g. Limits of acceptable change defined. Recommendations for management plans/management plans.</p>	<p>FS, MWF, BirdLife International.</p>
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>			

	<i>Description</i>	<i>OVI</i> s	<i>Partners</i>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>2d) Fruit Bats</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	Monitor and adaptively manage the Rodriguan bat population		
<b>Results</b>	Status of bat population known Ecology of the species better understood.  Criteria for active management established <sup>1</sup> .	Database Scientific reports/papers.  LAC determined Management Plan drafted.	
<b>Activities</b>	Monitoring of population continued and modified as appropriate.  Study of ecology undertaken.  Management/contingency plan drafted  Options for enhancing conservation status investigated	Monitoring reports Database.  Scientific reports/papers  Plan available  Feasibility report.	FS, MWF, International Partners e.g. IUCN.
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	1: The population has undergone a significant recovery in recent years thought to be as a result of forestry development and as such it may be deemed unnecessary to undertake active management. The species however remains vulnerable due to its restricted range and the threat of cyclones as such a contingency plan for the conservation of the species is required and options for improving its conservation status should be considered e.g. the practicalities of re-introducing to the species to mainland Mauritius.		

	<i>Description</i>	<i>OVI</i> s	<i>Partners</i>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>2e) Reptiles</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	To enhance the conservation status of reptiles.		
<b>Results</b>	<p>Strategy and Action plan for terrestrial reptiles developed and under implementation.</p> <p>IOSEA action plan under implementation in Rodrigues</p>	<p>Implementation and progress reports.</p> <p>Implementation reports incorporated into national reports.</p>	
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Undertake surveys of the native gecko on Coco and Sable islands, Anse Quito, Grand Montagne.</p> <p>Develop and implement, as appropriate, a reptile species strategy.</p> <p>Review IOSEA<sup>1</sup> Action Plan and identify aspects pertinent for implementation in Rodrigues.</p> <p>Implement Rodriguan commitments under the IOSEA.</p>	<p>Survey reports.</p> <p>Strategy available Implementation/progress reports.</p> <p>Rodriguan action plan drawn from the IOSEA</p> <p>Annual reports</p>	<p>FS MWF International partners. Environment unit.</p>
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	<p>The stakeholder workshop identified baseline data as being critically deficient for both terrestrial reptiles and marine turtles.</p> <p>1: Mauritius is a signatory to the MoU on the Conservation and management of the marine turtles and their habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA). The IOSEA has developed a comprehensive action plan for the conservation of sea turtles.</p>		

	<i>Description</i>	<i>OVI</i> s	<i>Partners</i>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>2f) Invertebrates</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	To develop and implement strategies for native insects and snails respectively.		
<b>Results</b>	<p>Insect Strategy with targeted species action plans, as appropriate, developed and under implementation.</p> <p>Snail Strategy with targeted species action plans, as appropriate, developed and under implementation.</p>	<p>Strategy and Action Plan documents. Conservation status of species.</p> <p>Strategy and Action Plan documents. Conservation status of species.</p>	
<b>Activities</b>	<p>To carry out invertebrate surveys<sup>1</sup> building upon ongoing MWF activities.</p> <p>Develop and implement a native insect strategy.</p> <p>Carry out a survey of native snail species<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>Develop and implement species recovery plans where necessary within the framework of an overall snail strategy.</p>	<p>Survey reports.</p> <p>Strategy document. Implementation reports.</p> <p>Survey reports.</p> <p>Strategy document. Implementation reports.</p>	<p>FS, MWF, University of Sussex.</p> <p>FS, MWF, Leguat Ltd.</p>
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	<p>1: The stakeholder workshop identified lack of data as the key factor inhibiting effective action on invertebrates and targeted insects and snails of being of priority. If areas/habitats of key significance for invertebrate biodiversity are identified this information should be fed into WP 1a-c.</p>		

	<i>Description</i>	<i>OVI</i> s	<i>Partners</i>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>2g) Agrobiodiversity</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	To have 70% of local agrobiodiversity in ex-situ collections		
<b>Results</b>	<p>Local varieties and breeds documented.</p> <p>At least 70% of local varieties and breeds of agrobiodiversity are conserved in ex-situ collections.</p> <p>Traditional knowledge on each accession in ex-situ collection documented.</p>	<p>Survey report</p> <p>Management reports, Site verification</p> <p>Documentation/publication.</p>	
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Undertake survey of local plant and animal agrobiodiversity and characterise local breeds.</p> <p>Develop a priority list of local agrobiodiversity<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>Implement priority actions through initiation/expansion of ex-situ collections.</p> <p>Research and document traditional knowledge associated with each accession under ex-situ protection.</p>	<p>Survey reports</p> <p>Comprehensive listing and description of local varieties and breeds.</p> <p>Priority list for action available.</p> <p>Ex-situ collections, site verification.</p> <p>Reports and documentation/publication.</p>	<p>AREU, AS, FASER, Traditional farmers.</p>
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	<p>1: The stakeholder workshop identified a preliminary priority list for investigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lime, petit piment, haricot rouge, café local.</li> <li>- Poultry, sheep, pig, vache creole.</li> </ul>		

	<i>Description</i>	<i>OVI</i> s	<i>Partners</i>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>2h) Repatriation of Genetic Material</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	Identify/assess overseas holdings of Rodriguan genetic resources and specimens and secure access as required.		
<b>Results</b>	International ex-situ holdings of specimens and genetic material identified and access secured.	Correspondence. Repatriation as appropriate. Evidence of access.	
<b>Activities</b>	Liaise with international ex-situ centres (Botanical gardens, museums etc...)  Identify holdings of Rodriguan genetic material and specimens.  Negotiate access to information and resources.	Correspondence  Correspondence. Documentation of holdings.  Correspondence MoUs.	FS MWF Uof Mauritius. International agencies. RRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>			

<b>Rodrigues Biodiversity Action Plan</b>			
<b>Strategic Objective 3: Enable Sustainable Use of Biodiversity</b>			
	<i>Description</i>	<i>OVI</i> s	<i>Partners</i>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>3a) Ecotourism Development</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	To develop an ecotourism strategy		
<b>Results</b>	Ecotourism strategy finalised, approved and under implementation.	Strategy document. Implementation/progress reports. Budget committed.	
<b>Activities</b>	Develop strategy through stakeholder consultation utilising a logical framework approach.  Set up a coordinating tourism office  Develop regulations for ecotourism as identified in the Island Development Strategy and the Tourism Development Plan 2001.  Implement a permit/tax system, with a portion of revenue going to environmental protection.	Draft Strategy for approval by RRA  Office mandated and operational.  Regulations gazetted.  Regulations gazetted.	RRA, AGTH, Vive Rodrigues, ACIR, APIR, OPPR, Compagnie de pecheurs, Association de tourism vert de Rodrigues, ARTO.
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>			

	<i>Description</i>	<i>OVI</i> s	<i>Partners</i>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>3b) Review Environment Protection Act</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	To better integrate issues of biodiversity concern into the functioning of the EPA		
<b>Results</b>	<p>Biodiversity issues are better represented in final EIA documents.</p> <p>Public input EIAs on large developments enhanced and maintained.</p> <p>New process for the selection of EIA consultants that ensures independence from developers.</p> <p>Activities requiring EIAs updated</p>	<p>EIA documents</p> <p>Public comments</p> <p>Regulations.</p> <p>Regulations.</p>	
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Investigate and test ways of enhancing public input to the EIA process<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>Investigate means of ensuring impartiality of EIA consultants<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>Review activities which require an EIA/PER through stakeholder consultation giving particular consideration to adding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Road construction and upgrading in the coastal zone.</li> <li>- Ecotourism projects.</li> </ul>	<p>Proposals of enhanced public participation reviewed and as appropriate applied for assessment/refinement on trial basis.</p> <p>Proposals for executive consideration.</p> <p>Recommendations for activities to require EIA submitted for Executive decision.</p>	<p>Environment Unit State Law Office</p> <p>EIA/PER Review Committee</p>
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	<p>1: The workshop discussed this subject at length and felt strongly that means should be developed to invalidate “implicit consent” suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compulsory presentation of EIAs for large developments to key stakeholders (including local communities).</li> <li>- Stream lining procedures for public comments to facilitate public input.</li> </ul> <p>2: Concerns were also expressed regarding the impartiality of EIA documents due to relationships being established between developers and EIA consultants.</p>		

	<i>Description</i>	<i>OVI</i> s	<i>Partners</i>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>3c) Traditional Use of Plants</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	To manage species of plant harvested for traditional use		
<b>Results</b>	Public awareness on protected plant species enhanced.  Sustainable use of key plant species subject to traditional use enabled	Species conservation status, Questionnaire/survey results.  Traditional practices maintained without detriment to conservation status of species.	
<b>Activities</b>	Assess effectiveness of village nursery pilot projects.  Identify aspects of best practice and expand programme as appropriate.  Create awareness of legal status of plants as per WP 2b <sup>1</sup> .  Develop programmes as appropriate to enable sustainable use of key species.	Reports and recommendations.  Proposal for enhanced programme.  Media campaigns, workshops etc...  Project Documents. Site visits etc...	MWF, FS, NPCS, CBO, SLO, CEHDA, Friends of Wildlife.
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	1: WP 2b moves to protect all threatened flowering plants. Several of these species are however subject to traditional use in terms of artisanal crafts and medicinal purposes. It is necessary therefore to address these species in terms of both conservation and sustainable use.		

	<i>Description</i>	<i>OVI</i> s	<i>Partners</i>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>3d) Fishing</b>		
<b>Sub work programme</b>	<b>3di) Lagoon fishing and gleaning</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	Enable sustainable utilisation of lagoon fishery resources		
<b>Results</b>	Protected area network strengthened and expanded (x-ref WP 1c).  Stakeholders effectively involved in beneficial management regimes.  Lagoon resources better managed and providing improved sustainable yields.	Gazette. Maps, site verification.  Management approaches generated through stakeholder consultation.  Catch statistics.	
<b>Activities</b>	To investigate and identify means of reducing fishing pressure in the lagoon <sup>1</sup> .  Increase scope of protected areas and introduce no-take zones <sup>2</sup> .  Strengthen legislation on collection and ban trade (import and export) in marine shells.  Establish shell reference collection and train enforcement officers in species identification.  Investigate means of developing community stewardship of the lagoon resources.  Assess the ecological impact of sand mining in the lagoon environment.	Recommendations for enhanced management of lagoon fishery resources.  Gazette.  Gazette.  Collection accessible. Trained staff.  Minutes of consultations. Recommendations.  Report and recommendations.	Environmental Unit, RRA, Shoals, RUG, Fisherman's assoc.
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	1: e.g. Review mesh size regulations for Seine netting review the bad weather allowance develop programmes to reduce numbers of in lagoon fishers (i.e. transition to pelagic fishing). Investigate scope for development of rights fisheries in the lagoon. 2: The implementation of this WP should be undertaken with due reference to the national programme to review PA classifications based upon IUCN criteria.		

<b>Sub work programme</b>	<b>3dii) Game fishing</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	Develop strategy for game fishing development		
<b>Results</b>	Strategy developed, approved and under implementation.  Game fishing industry continues to develop in sustainable manner.  Negative interactions between game fishers and artisanal fishers reduced.	Implementation reports.  No. of operators. Revenues.  Fishing authority records. No. of complaints.	
<b>Activities</b>	Work to mitigate conflict between sports fishing and artisanal fishing operations.  Investigate feasibility of zoning sports and artisanal fishing activities.  Review game fishing industry and develop strategy for its optimisation and sustainability.	Minutes of stakeholder meetings.  Report and recommendations.  Situation analysis Stakeholder workshop reports. Draft Strategy.	RRA Environment Unit Fisherman assoc. Game fishing operators.
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>			

	<b>Description</b>	<b>OVI</b> s	<b>Partners</b>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>3e) Agrobiodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture.</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	Encourage the utilisation of native agrobiodiversity and increase the sustainability of agricultural practices.		
<b>Results</b>	Usage of traditional varieties is increased and economically viable.  Organic farming practices more widely utilised.	No. of producers. Volume of trade.  Site verification	
<b>Activities</b>	Develop a niche and labelling for traditional local products.  Increase the availability of seed stock from local varieties <sup>1</sup> .  Maintain livestock gene pool (x-ref WP 2g).  Investigate the potential for the expansion of organic farming practices <sup>2</sup> .	Certified labelling regime.  Breeding centres and ex-situ collections.  Ex-situ collections.  Assessment and recommendations.	AREU, AS, FASER, Traditional farmers.
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	1: Improved phytosanitary controls are important to protect local varieties from disease, whilst improved biosecurity can lower the risk of loss local varieties through hybridisation with commercial varieties (x-ref with WP 2a). 2: This should include the increased composting of biodegradable solid waste under the Solid Waste Strategy.		

<b>Rodrigues Biodiversity Action Plan</b>			
<b>Strategic Objective 4: Maintain Ecosystem Services</b>			
	<b>Description</b>	<b>OVI</b> s	<b>Partners</b>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>4a) Forest management</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	Protect watersheds and soils by increasing forest cover		
<b>Results</b>	<p>Equitable consultation mechanism between grazing and forestry interests established.</p> <p>Forestry policy and current livestock grazing practices harmonised enabling an extension of forestry cover in priority areas.</p> <p>Priority areas for erosion, catchments and biodiversity management (re)planted as appropriate.</p>	<p>Minutes of meetings Modus operandi etc...</p> <p>Approved Policy document</p> <p>Site verification, maps, etc...</p>	
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Establish a consultation mechanism</p> <p>Determine priority areas for reforestation (e.g. key water catchment, erosion or biodiversity areas) (x-ref WPs 1a-b and WPs 2b-f).</p> <p>Negotiate equitable terms for the extension of forested areas and the mitigation of impacts on grazing practices<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>Investigate feasibility of conversion of permanent catchment forestry to native species<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>Increase native components of watershed forestry cover.</p>	<p>Minutes of meetings</p> <p>Recommendations for priority areas for reforestation.</p> <p>Draft policy or agreement document.</p> <p>Pragmatic targets established for the conversion of exotic plantation into stands of native species.</p> <p>Records, maps aerial photos, site verification etc...</p>	<p>FS, Agriculture, Federation of Associations of livestock Owners</p>
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	<p>1: Rodrigues has historically undergone near complete deforestation resulting in severe impact to or loss of many freshwater sources. One of the primary difficulties today preventing extensive reforestation is ongoing customary grazing practice. In order to enable an expansion of forestry cover it is essential that an equitable arrangement be reached between grazing and forestry interests.</p> <p>2: 50% of current forestry coverage has been designated as permanent for water catchment maintenance. The workshop agreed that it would be desirable to convert exotic plantation forestry to stands of native species.</p>		

	<i>Description</i>	<i>OVI</i> s	<i>Partners</i>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>4b) Water quality</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	To reduce water pollution		
<b>Results</b>	<p>Baseline established for water quality in freshwater sources and lagoon.</p> <p>Point sources for pollution identified and mitigated.</p> <p>Adaptive management improves ambient water quality.</p>	<p>Reports and database.</p> <p>Reports, management activities, legal actions,</p> <p>Results of ongoing water quality monitoring.</p>	
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Monitor water quality in main rivers and water sources (incl. Wells and boreholes). (x-ref WP 1b)</p> <p>Monitor ground water quality around Petit Gabriel for impacts of pit latrines and soak aways<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>Enforce regulations and improve management practices.</p>	<p>Results of monitoring, database.</p> <p>Monitoring results</p> <p>Reports, warning notices, legal actions etc...</p>	<p>Water Resources Unit, Environment Unit, FRTU, Public Health Office.</p>
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	1: Petit Gabriel was selected as a pilot project to investigate the impact of population centres on water quality.		

<b>Rodrigues Biodiversity Action Plan</b>			
<b>Strategic Objective 5: Manage Biotechnology and its Products</b>			
	<b>Description</b>	<b>OVI</b> s	<b>Partners</b>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<b>5) The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	To implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety		
<b>Results</b>	<p>Public receives balanced information on the use of biotechnology.</p> <p>Societal choice with regard to the handling transfer and use of LMOs and their products in Rodrigues is determined.</p> <p>Administrative and legislative framework is put in place in line with requirements specified under the National Biosafety Framework document and local circumstances.</p>	<p>Media Campaigns. Brochures. Pamphlets. Posters. Public meetings etc...</p> <p>Stakeholder consultation or form of referendum as appropriate.</p> <p>Mandated agencies. Regulations approved by the RRA.</p>	
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Initiate public education and awareness programme on the potential benefits and risks of the handling, transfer and use of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).</p> <p>Undertake broad consultations to determine the public's attitude to the introduction and use of LMOs and their products.</p> <p>Implement the National Biosafety Framework<sup>1</sup> as appropriate in the context of Rodrigues.</p> <p>Develop Bill to address Biosafety, bioethics and Intellectual Property Rights as applied to biotechnology.</p>	<p>Media Campaigns. Brochures. Pamphlets. Posters. Public meetings etc...</p> <p>Public meetings Stakeholder consultations etc...</p> <p>Focal point agencies and personnel identified. Correspondence with National Biosafety Committee.</p> <p>Draft bill to RRA for consideration.</p>	<p>Environment Unit Agriculture Civil Society, ACIR.</p>
<b>Notes and Guidance</b>	1: The National Biosafety Framework was near to completion at the time of the workshop		