



Management Plan for the La Digue Veuve Special Reserve 2021-2025



Seychelles
National Parks
Authority

Acknowledgements

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Overview, Reserve History and Background Information

Historically Seychelles paradise flycatchers (*Terpsiphone corvina*) known locally as Veuve or Vev, were present on La Digue, Praslin, Marianne, Félicité and Aride but disappeared from the last three in the 1930s and from Praslin by the 1980s. La Digue hosted the last viable population since 1940s until a translocation to Denis island in 2008. The population on La Digue was estimated to be c.70–80 individuals in 1971, 1977 and 1988, increasing to c.138-175 individuals in 1996, 218-290 individuals in 2001, 286-380 individuals in 2007 and 294-441 individuals in the most recent survey in 2017.

In November 2008, 23 birds were translocated to Denis Island, the first chick was successfully fledged in 2009 and the population on Denis currently stands at 84+ individuals and is still increasing. Between December 2018 and February 2019, a conservation introduction to Curieuse Island was undertaken and it is hoped this population will also establish and thrive. There are sporadic reports from Marianne, Félicité and Praslin.

Veuve have been listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN red list of threatened species since 1994. The species threat status is currently under review (July 2020) and it has been recommended by the IUCN red list team, based on updated information on distribution, numbers and threats, that the flycatcher should be downgraded to Vulnerable, which is a credit to the conservation effort and dedication put into recovering this species.

The rarity of the Seychelles paradise flycatcher raised international concern in the 1960s and in 1970 the Royal Society for Nature Conservation (RSNC) employed Mr Abraham Niole to protect and monitor the birds and their nests. From September 1979 RSNC leased the 7.8 hectares of land which is now the official Reserve from the owner Mrs Rene Payet, specifically to protect Veuve, and Christopher Cadbury paid the lease, survey work, and other running costs. The Reserve was officially opened in 1982 and managed by RSNC jointly with the Seychelles National Environment Commission through one Ranger. Upon the death of Mrs Payet, the land was acquired by the Government to be run as a nature reserve (1989), and in 1991 the Veuve Special Reserve was legally designated, and Regulations enacted.

The Seychelles government ministry responsible for environment managed the Veuve Reserve up until 2009 when SNPA took over management of the reserve. Funding was obtained from the Dutch Trust

Fund through a project grant to purchase additional land adjacent to the Veuve Reserve to increase the size of the reserve as the existing 7.8 hectares is insufficient to support a self-sustaining population of flycatchers. Some additional parcels of land were purchased for inclusion into the reserve however they have not yet been officially included in the Veuve Special Reserve.

This Management Plan deals with the management of the La Digue Veuve Special Reserve only and not the conservation of the Seychelles paradise flycatcher as a threatened species (which is covered in a separate document entitled “Species Conservation Strategy and Action Plan: Seychelles paradise flycatcher, Vev, *Terpsiphone corvina* 2016-2025”). This Management Plan was formulated by a process involving: literature review, stakeholder consultation, draft plan development, stakeholder review and revision.

The conservation values of the Veuve Reserve are primarily the population of flycatchers it supports. Secondary values are (i) the outstanding and rare example of mature Badamier (*Terminalia catappa*) and Takamaka (*Calophyllum inophyllum*) dominated lowland forest, similar to the original indigenous low lying forests of the granitic Seychelles which has mostly been destroyed for human development and (ii) the reserve contains areas of the adjoining natural freshwater wetland and numerous seasonal pools, some of which are natural, and some man-made with the aim of increasing the abundance of flying invertebrates (flycatcher food).

The intent of this plan is to guide the wise management of the La Digue Veuve Special Reserve to ensure it achieves its primary purpose of providing an area of protected and safe high-quality breeding and feeding habitat for the Seychelles paradise flycatcher (*Terpsiphone corvina*) on La Digue, while providing opportunities to make use of the area for sustainable tourism, sustainable financing of the reserve management, education, recreation and scientific purposes, as long as they do not conflict with the primary purpose.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Acknowledgements.....	2
Overview, Reserve History and Background Information	2
1. Preliminary	5
1.1. Name of the Plan	5
1.1 Plans Application	5
1.2. Intent of the plan	5
1.3. Vision of the La Digue Veuve Special Reserve	6
1.4. Conservation Values	6
1.5. Management Issues	6
1.6. Management Goals.....	7
1.7. Management and Reporting Structure	7
1.8. Stakeholder Involvement	7
1.9. Management Regulations	8
2. Zoning	8
3. Nature Conservation.....	9
3.1. Veuve	9
3.2. Native lowland plateau forest.....	10
3.3. Wetlands	11
4. Tourism and Education.....	12
5. Research and Monitoring	14
6. Reserve Administration	15
7. Training and Capacity Development.....	15
8. Equipment and Infrastructure	16
9. Costed plan of implementation (budget)	18
10. Review of Plan and Performance Evaluation	25
11. Performance Measurement System (PMS)	26
12. Annexes	38
Annex 1. Veuve Reserve Designation Order	38
Annex 2. Veuve Reserve Regulations	39
Annex 3. Useful References and Resources.....	42
Annex 4. List of suitable tree species for habitat rehabilitation in the reserve	43
Annex 5. Proposed Extension to the Reserve.....	44

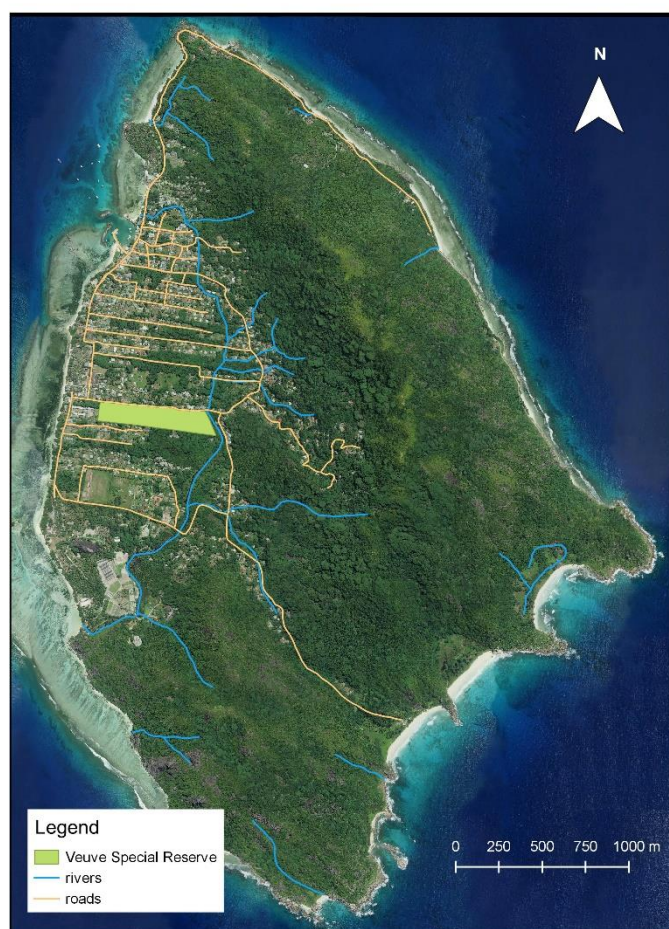
1. Preliminary

1.1. Name of the Plan

This plan is the La Digue Veuve Special Reserve Management Plan 2021-2025.

1.1 Plans Application

This plan applies to the La Digue Veuve Special Reserve as designated under the Laws of Seychelles chapter 141 National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act [15th December, 1969] in which a Special Reserve is defined as: "Special Reserve" means an area set aside in which characteristic wild life requires protection and in which all other interests and activities are subordinated to this end. Specifically, the National Park (La Digue Veuve Special Reserve) (Designation) Order. The area described in the Schedule is hereby designated as a Special Reserve. SI. 8 of 1991. The area has an extent of 7.817 hectares and is situated at Anse La Reunion, La Digue, bordering the south side of the public road from La Passe to Grand Anse, and demarcated on the ground by survey beacons: MH566, MH488, G213 and Coral 1. The area is represented on a survey plan which is deposited in the Office of the Director of Surveys and filed as ML/ADN/114. Figure 1 shows the location and extent of the site.



1.2. Intent of the plan

The intent of this plan is to guide the wise management of the La Digue Veuve Special Reserve to ensure it achieves its primary purpose of providing an area of protected and safe high-quality breeding and feeding habitat for the Seychelles paradise flycatcher (*Terpsiphone corvina*) on La Digue, while providing opportunities to make use of the area for sustainable tourism, sustainable financing of the reserve management, education, recreation and scientific purposes, as long as they do not conflict with the primary purpose.

Figure 1. Map of La Digue Island showing the location of the Official Veuve Special Reserve.

1.3. Vision of the La Digue Veuve Special Reserve

To ensure a self-sustaining population of Veuve on La Digue for the long-term and to educate and inspire both locals and visitors of the value of Veuve, wildlife and nature and the importance of protecting and nurturing it.

1.4. Conservation Values

The conservation values of the Veuve Reserve are first and foremost the population of flycatchers it supports (the 7.8 ha official reserve supports c. 8 territories). Secondary conservation values are a rare example of mature badamier (*Terminalia catappa*) and takamaka (*Calophyllum inophyllum*) dominated woodland, similar to the original indigenous low lying forests of the granitic Seychelles which was mostly destroyed early in the history of human colonisation, that supports populations of endemic flora and fauna. Thirdly the Reserve also contains areas of the adjoining freshwater wetland along the southern boundary, and numerous seasonal pools, some of which are natural, and some are man-made with the aim of increasing the abundance of flying invertebrates (flycatcher food).

Sections 3 to 8 of this document highlight the main values of the habitat, species, processes, goods and services, identify the main issues threatening these values, and propose strategies to mitigate the issues.

1.5. Management Issues

- Lack of control over access to the Reserve
- Invasive alien species (e.g. Vya (*Alocasia macrorrhiza*), Filodendron (*Epipremnum pinnatum*, Kanpes (*Pithecellobium unguis-cati*), cats (*Felis catus*), dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*), chickens (*Gallus gallus domesticus*), rats (*Rattus rattus*), mosquitoes (Culicidae family) invading the reserve
- Lack of management plan to guide reserve staff in management of the Special Reserve- this plan solves this issue
- Lack of interpretation/information provided to visitors (where trails go, what they are looking at in the reserve, the purpose of the reserve etc)
- Lack of marketing that there is a Veuve Reserve on La Digue that is a tourist attraction and well worth a visit
- Takamaka wilt disease killing takamaka trees of all ages and sizes
- Aligning reserve and management goals regarding mitigation of danger from tall trees to neighbouring properties, infrastructure, and people. (Background explanation: Veuve need trees and their preferred habitat is tall lowland native broad-leaved forest, like the current Veuve Reserve habitat. The Veuve Reserve is, however, surrounded by a residential area and very tall and leaning trees pose a potential danger to neighbouring houses and people on the main road and are a voiced concern of neighbours)
- Small size of the reserve. Land purchased for inclusion into the reserve has never been officially included into the reserve

1.6. Management Goals

- To manage the habitat within the Veuve Reserve to maximise the number of flycatcher territories in the reserve
- To monitor non- native flycatcher predators and manage if necessary, to maximise flycatcher productivity within the reserve
- To increase the size of the reserve by (i) officially incorporating (gazette) land already purchased for this specific purpose into the reserve and (ii) investigate ownership and status of plots where previous negotiations were unresolved
- To manage visitors and visitor experience to ensure visitors have a low impact, satisfying experience and leave the reserve with a positive conservation message
- To undertake education and awareness activities with La Digue school children, and with the wider La Digue community to ensure locals know flycatchers, their habitat requirements, and their value to La Digue and to Seychelles, and the importance of protecting nature in general
- To manage dangerous vegetation along the Veuve Reserve boundaries to minimise danger to neighbouring properties, infrastructure, and people, whilst maintaining its integrity as high quality Veuve habitat
- To ensure sufficient revenue is collected to support/enable the implementation of this management plan

1.7. Management and Reporting Structure

The Veuve Reserve is managed by the Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA) as per the mandate provided in Section 4(1) of the Environment Protection (Seychelles National Parks Authority) Order (SI 30 of 2009).

Park management falls under the direct responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Seychelles National Parks Authority, who is in turn be guided by the Board of Directors. The Veuve Reserve, and all other Protected Areas, are managed under the National Parks and Forestry Unit of SNPA. On-site the Veuve Reserve is managed by an Assistant Park Officer with a team currently consisting of one ranger, two forestry workers, a receptionist/cashier and usually 1-2 Unemployment Relief Scheme (URS) participants.

This plan should be adaptive with yearly review. Proposed additions or changes in strategies will be submitted by the CEO to the Board of Directors for approval.

1.8. Stakeholder Involvement

Wide stakeholder consultation was undertaken during the development of this management plan with over 50 stakeholders individually consulted/interviewed followed by public review of the draft plan. SNPA maintains open dialogue with Veuve Reserve neighbours and holds neighbourhood meetings as activities in close proximity to the reserve can affect the reserve and visa-versa. It is hoped that travel services, DMCs and private guides will bring visitors to the Reserve for the mutual benefit of both parties.

1.9. Management Regulations

The management regulations for the La Digue Veuve Special Reserve are detailed in the National Parks (La Digue Veuve Special Reserve) Regulations. SI 9 of 1991, a copy of which can be found in Annex 2.

2. Zoning

The official gazetted Veuve Reserve is small (7.8 ha) and has one primary purpose, however zoning of priority areas for habitat rehabilitation will help direct management activities, such as removal of invasive alien vegetation, to improve habitat for flycatchers within the reserve. These areas are shown in Figure 2. Paths direct visitor use (see Figure 2).

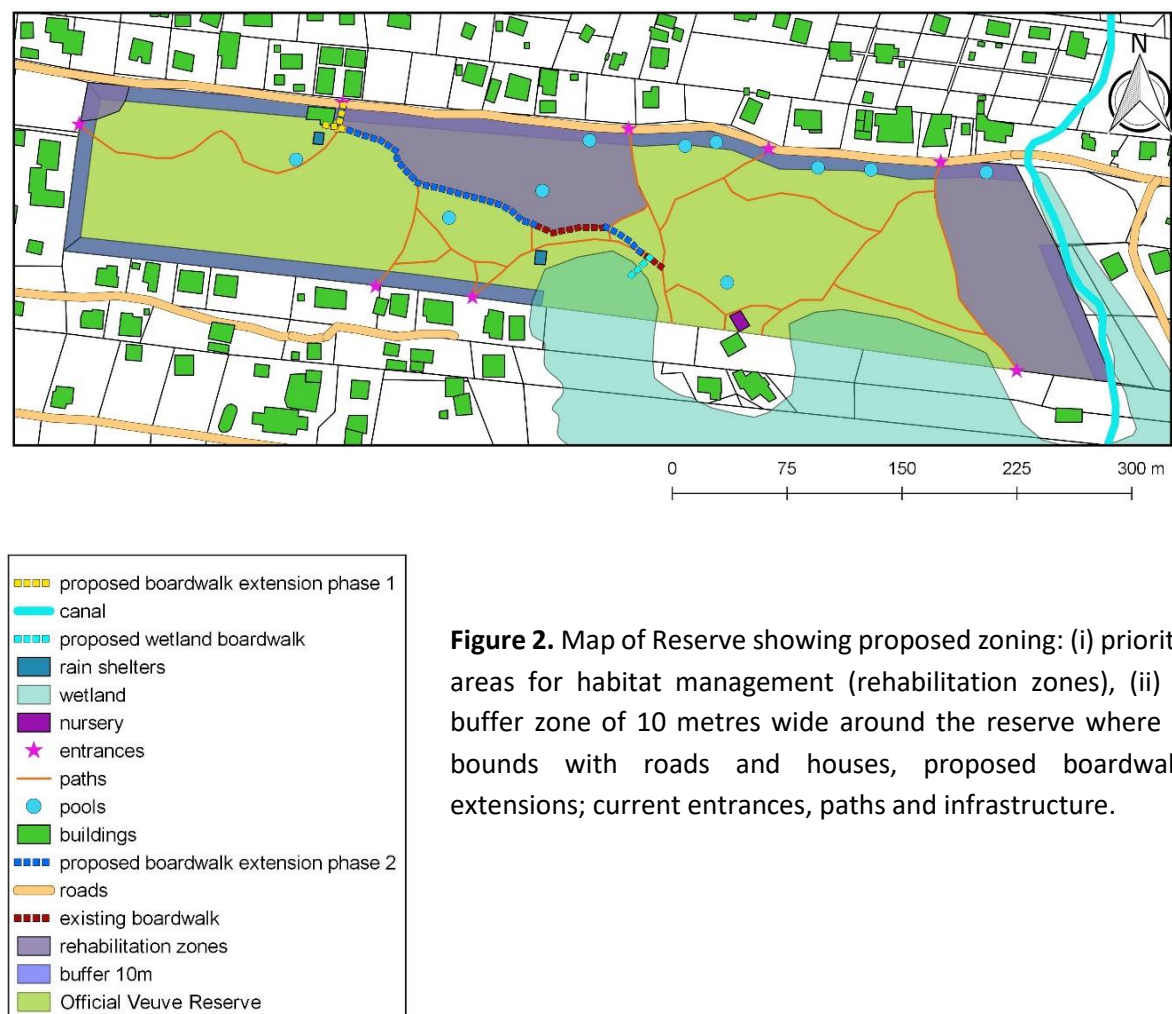


Figure 2. Map of Reserve showing proposed zoning: (i) priority areas for habitat management (rehabilitation zones), (ii) a buffer zone of 10 metres wide around the reserve where it bounds with roads and houses, proposed boardwalk extensions; current entrances, paths and infrastructure.

3. Nature Conservation

This section addresses conservation of important habitats and species within the La Digue Veuve Special Reserve. It highlights the values (the importance), the issues (threats/factors affecting functioning) and proposes strategies (plan of action) for addressing the identified issues.

3.1. Veuve

3.1.1. Values

- Critically Endangered endemic bird that is special to La Digue, holds high value with the Diguois, and is considered the emblem of the island

3.1.2. Issues

- The Veuve Reserve is too small to support a viable population of Veuve or to protect Veuve in isolation
- Tall native broad-leafed trees, primarily Takamaka and Badamier (i.e. prime Veuve habitat) along the boundaries of the Reserve pose a danger to neighbouring properties, roads, houses and people. Veuve Reserve regulations state that activities that are detrimental to Veuve must not be carried out within the Reserve, and cutting habitat is not beneficial to Veuve. However, tall trees along the reserve boundaries pose a danger to neighbouring property, infrastructure and people and therefore require management to mitigate against this danger
- Introduced rats and cats are known to predate on Veuve (adults, eggs and chicks)

3.1.3. General Objectives and Strategies

1. Manage habitat to maintain or improve high quality Veuve habitat to support the maximum number of flycatcher territories possible
 - a. Remove invasive and alien vegetation in priority areas zoned for rehabilitation/management (see fig 1) and replant any gaps created with a mix of lowland native broad-leafed tree species such as Takamaka, Badamier, Bonnen kare (*Barringtonia asiatica*), Bwa blan (*Hernandia nymphaeifolia*), Bwa d tab (*Heritiera littoralis*) etc. In areas where the canopy is dense, underplant with shade tolerant native lowland understory species such as Bwa torti (*Morinda citrifolia*), Bwa kafoul (*Allophyllus pervillei*) and Bwa sousouri (*Ochrosia oppositifolia*).
2. Increase the size of the Veuve Reserve
 - a. identify the plots of land purchased specifically to increase the size of the reserve and officially incorporate them into the Veuve Reserve (see Annex 5).
 - b. Open/re-open negotiations with landowners to purchase/swap/acquire any key privately owned plots (see Annex 5).
 - c. Ensure neighbours do not encroach into the Reserve
3. Manage the danger of falling trees to neighbouring properties and to the public road while maintaining high quality flycatcher habitat
 - a. Maintain the vegetation within a 'buffer zone' of up to 10 metres wide, along the edges of the reserve where it bounds with houses or roads, at a height of not more than 10 metres. This vegetation should be lopped at a height of c.5 metres then regularly trimmed to maintain canopy of c.10 metres to create and maintain a dense bushy leafy closed canopy of dense broad-leafed vegetation. Any gaps should be

planted with lower growing native broadleaved trees such as bonnen kare, bwa torti, bwa sousouri, bwa savon ((*Colubrina asiatica*), Porse (*Cordia subcordata*), Bwa d roz (*Thespesia populnea*), Var (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) Bwa d rennet (*Dodonaea viscosa*)- see Annex 4 for a list of suggested tree species to propagate and plant. Justification: flycatcher habitat is trees not grassy gaps so the more trees and leaf area and the less gaps, the smaller flycatcher territories are and the more territories the reserve can support). In addition to mitigating against dangerous treefall, this vegetation management will create a diversity of vegetation height within the reserve.

4. Monitor and if necessary, control alien mammalian predators of Veuve within the reserve (Justification: Rats are known to predate some flycatcher nests, however flycatchers are doing well in the presence of rats on La Digue. To maintain low numbers of rats in the Veuve Reserve would be very expensive and labour-intensive and would also have considerable negative side-effects of killing non-target organisms. Therefore, rat control should only be undertaken for limited periods of time if thresholds are exceeded and it is deemed necessary. Monitoring of both rat relative densities and flycatcher nesting success will be undertaken and if flycatcher breeding success falls below 35% (nesting success in this case meaning the percentage of eggs laid that produce a fledgling) and rat densities are considerably higher than baseline (baseline to be determined by ongoing monitoring) then rats should be controlled around nests until numbers decrease. Cats should be controlled as methods are less intensive, effective at controlling numbers and they will not cause non-target mortality. [Baseline: Flycatcher fledging success from monitoring 119 nests in 2008-2010 on the La Digue plateau averaged 49.6% (i.e. approximately half of nests where an egg was laid successfully fledged a chick. Fledging success from monitoring of 267 nests where an egg was laid in 1999-2001 was 38%].
 - a. Control cats within the reserve to minimise their numbers using live capture cage traps.
 - b. Monitor rat densities within the reserve and implement control if their numbers become an issue for flycatchers
5. Minimise disturbance to flycatchers especially near their nests (excessive disturbance can cause nest desertion and failure)
 - a. Do not approach closer than 5 metres to a flycatcher nest (this applies to visitors and reserve staff) Note: it is not necessary to check nest contents to determine whether the nest has an egg or a chick- observing the nest to see whether the parents bring food or not will answer this. Rangers may occasionally approach nest closer for very short periods of time if deemed necessary but observe the parents to ensure you are not overly stressing them and do not stay close for long.
 - b. Minimise noise in the reserve and keep quiet near flycatcher nests

3.2. Native lowland plateau forest

3.2.1. Values

- Outstanding and rare example of mature native lowland plateau forest/woodland
- Provides high quality habitat for Veuve and other native and endemic fauna and flora
- High aesthetic value – a beautiful green space in the middle of an otherwise increasingly densely developed and populated residential area

3.2.2. Issues

- Invasive vegetation (for example Vya, Filodendron)
- Introduction of non-native vegetation by reserve staff to “beautify” the reserve
- Fire danger- potentially from neighbours’ fires getting out of control, and from people smoking illegally in the reserve
- Introduced alien problematic fauna (dogs, cats, chickens, rats)

3.2.3. General Objectives and Strategies

1. Remove invasive and non-native vegetation from the reserve and replant with native lowland species in target areas (see zoning map for priority areas for habitat management and Annex 4 for a list of suitable species)
 - a. Manually remove (uproot/cut) weeds by hand rather than using chemicals (note: herbicides are not currently used in the reserve and this good practice should continue) For larger introduced/invasive trees use a chainsaw and environmentally friendly chain oil
 - b. Utilise the existing nursery to produce the required plants for rehabilitation in-house
 - c. Do not plant any introduced vegetation in the reserve
2. Control of problematic alien animals in the reserve
 - a. Control dogs and chickens within the reserve (dogs should not be entering at all and may need to speak to reserve neighbours about tying their dogs up and putting their chickens in cages) , wild chickens should be trapped and removed from the reserve
3. Mitigate against fire in the reserve
 - a. Any rubbish fires on neighbouring properties should be a minimum of 5 metres from the Reserve Boundary and government seasonal fire bans must be respected
 - b. Install ‘No Smoking’ signs at entrances and state clearly No Smoking in the Reserve in the planned reserve info leaflet.

3.3. Wetlands

There are areas of wetland within the existing Reserve and the area of wetland will increase significantly when the extra plots of land purchased for inclusion in the Veuve Reserve are officially added as they have a large component of wetland.

3.3.1. Values

- Wetland was the natural state of much of the La Digue western plateau before it was drained, canalised, and developed.
- Healthy wetlands provide the dampness that supports the tall lowland plateau broadleaf forest habitat of the reserve and of flycatchers

3.3.2. Issues

- Wetlands are regularly inundated with salt water at spring tides
- Wetlands are polluted by non-biodegradable rubbish
- Wetlands become clogged with leaf litter and silt and become shallow which reduces their ability to hold water
- Invaded by introduced fauna and flora (e.g. water lettuce *Pistia stratiotes* and tilapia *Oreochromis mossambicus*)

3.3.3. *General Objectives and Strategies*

1. Manage wetlands and seasonal pools to maintain ecological function
 - a. Remove invasive weeds from the wetlands to keep them from clogging up
 - b. Clean and potentially dredge pools as necessary (during the dry season when they are dry) to ensure maintenance of capacity to hold water.

4. Tourism and Education

Visitor numbers were not recorded until the introduction of fees for non- Seychellois visitors to the Reserve in July 2019 (GOP holders also do not pay). One thousand three hundred and twenty-one (1321) visitors were recorded visiting the Reserve from July-December 2019 (which equates to c. 2642 per year). However, this is likely an underestimate as not all visitors would have entered the reserve via the Visitor Centre (VC) as there are numerous unmonitored entrances into the reserve. The “Friends of flycatchers” school club regularly visit the Veuve Reserve under the guidance of the Reserve staff and teachers to undertake club activities.

4.1. *Values*

- Sustainable tourism can provide a source of income for the Reserve
- Eco-tourism and education increase the awareness of both visitors and locals of the importance of protecting the Seychelles natural environment and the flycatcher

4.2. *Issues*

- Lack of signs and interpretation- only two of the eight entrances into the reserve have signs informing people that they are entering a Reserve, that they need to get off their bikes and walk, and that if they are not Seychellois they need to pay an entrance fee at the VC, that there are guided tours at certain times each day etc etc
- VC could provide more information and interpretation to Visitors (e.g. short documentary on Veuve)
- Lack of control over access into the Reserve. Currently the reserve is not fenced and there are 8 different entrances and exits, so it is impossible for current staffing to control access. As a result, only a portion of visitors pay the entrance fee so potential income is lost, people use it as a thoroughfare riding their bikes straight through the reserve, and people use it as a quiet hidden place for illegal activities such as drug transactions and drug use
- Much of the reserve, including the main entrance at the VC, floods during times of heavy rain (and for many days after) this is not a problem for Veuve but it is a big problem for visitors and results in a reduction in the number of visitors and a loss of income
- Mosquitoes are an annoyance, a deterrent and a potential health threat (e.g. dengue fever, chikungunya) for visitors
- Lack of marketing of the reserve as a visitor attraction/experience on La Digue

4.3. *General Objectives and Strategies*

1. Use tourism within the Special Reserve as a source of sustainable financing to support the reserve management
 - a. Ensure all visitors pay the entrance fees

- b. Source a range of Veuve/Reserve themed curios to sell to visitors (many visitors ask reserve staff whether they have any merchandise for sale (Veuve puzzles, books, curios, etc) and refreshments
 - c. Investigate the cost/benefit of a café in the reserve to increase revenue from visitors and to enhance visitor experience (more time spent in the reserve increases visitors' chances of seeing flycatchers)
- 2. Provide the best nature experience to visitors while keeping their impact to a minimum
 - a. Improve interpretation within the reserve (at entrances/exits, at strategic locations within the reserve and in the VC)
 - b. Provide complimentary environmentally friendly mosquito repellent at VC in a big pump top bottle like hand sanitiser for visitor use
 - c. Extend the boardwalk initially from the road beside the VC to behind the VC (staff shelter) and to c.10 metres along the trail into the reserve (heading east). This is urgent as this area floods regularly and prevents entry into the reserve. The second phase is less urgent and could be done at a later stage: conduct a needs assessment for further boardwalk to ensure visitors can get from the VC to the existing boardwalk inside the reserve beside the wetland during times of heavy rain and flooding
 - d. Seriously consider opening 7 days a week and extending opening hours till 6 pm as one of the best times to see and hear flycatchers is from 5 pm till dark.
 - e. Maintain current benches throughout the reserve; put a picnic table and some benches under the existing rain shelter
 - f. Provide high quality in- house guided tours (Veuve Reserve staff currently run 2 tours per day - at 10.30am and at 2.30pm)
 - g. Investigate the cost-benefit of other potential visitor attractions for example wetland boardwalk or pontoon (extend the current boardwalk out into the adjacent wetland), night tours, captive terrapins, and implement if make sense
 - h. Maintain trails in good clean and tidy state (currently swept once per week and rubbish picked up at same time – and it looks well maintained)
 - i. Conduct visitor survey (annually) to assess visitor experience
 - j. Monitor visitor numbers and impact. Currently overuse is not an issue as visitor numbers are low, however it could become an issue in the future and mitigations/caps on numbers may need to be introduced
- 3. Improve the marketing of the Veuve Reserve
 - a. Ensure all visitors to La Digue know that the Veuve Reserve is an attraction worth visiting, where it is, opening hours and times of guided tours, either prior to arriving on La Digue as soon as they arrive
 - b. Enlist the support of tour operators (DMCs reps), tour guides and La Digue hotels and guesthouses to help with marketing
- 4. Undertake regular activities with La Digue school children in the reserve to increase their awareness, knowledge and love for nature
 - a. Monthly activities with school kids (for example environment theme day activities, learn about Veuve days, learn about bat days etc)
- 5. Control access to the Veuve Reserve to maximise income and eliminate illegal uses
 - a. Fence and densely plant portions of the reserve boundary to block existing entrances and access points to direct access solely through the VC where it can be monitored

- b. Employ a security guard(s) to patrol the reserve to discourage illegal uses and to ensure guests have paid
- c. Consider installing surveillance cameras to monitor unauthorised entry and use of the reserve

5. Research and Monitoring

The habitat requirements of flycatchers are relatively well studied and understood. Their preferred habitat is tall native broad-leaf (takamaka and badamier dominated) woodland like that found within the Veuve Reserve. Flycatchers are more productive in lowland areas than at higher altitudes up the mountain. It is important to measure the effectiveness of any habitat management undertaken to provide feedback and guidance for future management actions

5.1. *Values*

- Enables evaluation of the effectiveness of management interventions
- Provides data to assess the status of priority species/habitats

5.2. *Issues*

- Currently limited monitoring and no research undertaken in the Reserve
- Reserve staff have limited capacity to undertake research and monitoring and will require external input

5.3. *General objectives and strategies*

1. Monitor flycatcher numbers and productivity in the reserve over time
 - a. Monitor the number of flycatcher territories, their breeding frequency and breeding success within the reserve (regular weekly monitoring for breeding activity and then check nests every 2-3 days to determine success or failure)
2. Assess effectiveness of management activities on flycatcher population size and productivity within the reserve.
 - a. Monitor flycatcher territory size (boundaries) and vegetation structure within territories over time (long-term periodic monitoring of vegetation c.1x per year)
 - b. Analyse data collected on number of territories, breeding frequency, and breeding success, territory sizes and vegetation structure to assess management effectiveness

[The flycatcher and vegetation monitoring strategies above will enable assessment of territory quality, what constitutes good quality habitat, whether habitat rehabilitation has improved habitat quality in the reserve for flycatchers and vegetation change in the reserve over time. Long-term monitoring of vegetation e.g. tree size, canopy height, tree density, tree species, proportion takamaka and badamier etc, will quantify vegetation changes over time and combined with the flycatcher productivity and territory size data will show if the vegetation changes are beneficial changes for Veuve.]

3. Support targeted research to benefit reserve management
 - a. Develop a list of research priorities/wants
 - b. Facilitate access to the reserve for other research/researchers that will benefit the Reserve or management of the Reserve

- c. Produce a list of fauna and flora found in the reserve
- 4. Good management of research and monitoring data
 - a. Ensure that results of monitoring and research (both by Reserve Staff and External researchers) is reported back to SNPA and stored safely and appropriately by SNPA in a database

6. Reserve Administration

The Reserve at the time of management plan development has 5 staff (1 Assistant Park Officer, 1 Ranger, 2 Forestry Workers, 1 cashier/receptionist) and usually also 1-2 Unemployment Relief Scheme (URS) volunteers who are assigned to the Reserve for 6-month stints. The administration section based at the Head Office on Mahé provides support to the operation of the La Digue Veuve Special Reserve.

6.1. *Values*

- Administrative support and staffing is necessary for the smooth running of the Reserve

6.2. *Issues*

- Field staff are not respected and sometimes made to feel embarrassed when trying to enforce Reserve regulations
- Current level of staffing is not adequate to control access or enforce payment of entrance fees with the existing open boundary with many access points
- Not all staff have SNPA uniform (uniform is important for professional corporate image and so visitors can easily identify all Reserve staff)

6.3. *General objectives and strategies*

1. To operate the Special Reserve in a professional and cost-effective manner
 - a. Ensure sufficient staff are employed to implement management plan
 - b. Ensure all reserve staff have uniforms to project a professional SNPA image (currently the cashier does not have uniform – she should have because she is the first point of contact for all reserve visitors. All other staff have SNPA corporate uniform)
 - c. Provide training to Veuve Reserve staff in visitor management - see below in training and capacity development section
 - d. Prepare an annual workplan/operations plan to ensure effective implementation of this management plan
 - e. Regularly report reserve activities, developments, successes, issues, and progress against work programme

7. Training and Capacity Development

7.1. *Values*

- A staff contingent with the skill-set necessary to undertake their jobs to a high standard is the pre-requisite to a well-managed and efficiently run reserve

7.2. *Issues*

- Training is not always targeted to the needs of individual reserve staff

7.3. *General Objectives and strategies*

1. Provide adequate training to reserve staff in the monitoring activities they will need to undertake to implement this management plan
 - a. Train all reserve staff in visitor relations, visitor management and nature trail tour guiding including the forestry rangers so they can help with daily guided tours and the cashier/receptionist as she is the first point of contact for all visitors to the reserve
 - b. Train conservation and forestry staff in plant identification of species found within the reserve
 - c. Train conservation and forestry staff in standardised monitoring and data recording of flycatchers (territory mapping/breeding monitoring) and vegetation monitoring
 - d. Identify training needs and develop annual training plans for staff

8. Equipment and Infrastructure

Appropriate equipment and infrastructure are essential to support the efficient implementation of the management plan.

8.1. *Values*

- Visitors Centre is small but has more-or-less sufficient space for SNPA Veuve Reserve staff and displays for visitor information and for a small shop
- Rangers house and nursery have sufficient capacity for purpose

8.2. *Issues*

- Currently missing some basic equipment for effective monitoring of flycatchers within the reserve
- Currently provide office space to Ministry of Environment Energy and Climate Change (MEECC) staff which makes space tight and occupies office space that SNPA Veuve Reserve staff could use
- Currently nowhere for Reserve staff to sit for lunch, breaks etc during rain. They have a small kiosk behind the VC but it has no walls and rain enters

8.3. *General Objectives and Strategies*

1. Maintain all equipment and infrastructure in good working condition
 - a. Maintain all reserve buildings, boardwalks, benches, signage, fences etc in good working condition
 - b. Upgrade the staff kiosk to be weatherproof (i.e. add see-through plastic blinds that can be rolled down in rain and rolled up in sunshine)
2. Ensure the Reserve has the following essential equipment in good working order at all times:
 - a. Equipment for monitoring Veuve (2x binoculars (10 x magnification), extendable pole and mirror, notebooks to record field observations)
 - b. Office equipment (computer, printer, laminator)

- c. Trail and tree cutting maintenance equipment (rakes, secateurs, sea boots, machetes, lopper, chainsaw and appropriate safety clothing)
 - d. Nursery and habitat rehabilitation equipment (spades, secateurs, trowels, potting bags, hose pipes, watering cans)
 - e. Equipment for invasive animal control (e.g traps)
- 3. Maintain stocks of essential consumables e.g. potting bags, coffee, toilet paper, office cleaning products, stationery etc

9. Costed plan of implementation (budget)

All costs are in Seychelles Rupees

Heading/Objective	Strategy	Activities	Implementation Period				
			2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
3. Nature Conservation							
3.1 Veuve							
3.1.3 (1) Manage habitat to maintain or improve high quality Veuve habitat to support the maximum number of flycatcher territories possible	a. Remove invasive and alien vegetation in rehabilitation zones and replant any gaps created with mix of lowland native broad-leafed tree species as listed in Annex 4	- Weekly weeding and removal of invasive alien vegetation in rehabilitation zones - Propagation of native lowland broad-leafed tree species from list in Annex 4 in reserve nursery - Plant the propagated trees into gaps in the buffer and rehabilitation zones	Staff wages and equipment are budgeted under 6. Reserve Administration and 8. Equipment and infrastructure				
3.1.3 (2) Increase the size of the Veuve Reserve	a. Identify the plots of land already purchased to increase the size of the reserve and officially incorporate into the Veuve Reserve	Determine ownership of plots of land listed in Annex 5					
		Incorporate government owned plots officially (gazette) into the Veuve Reserve	7000				
	b. Open/re-open negotiations purchase/swap/acquire any key privately owned plots (listed in Annex 5) and officially incorporate into reserve	Open/re-open negotiations with landowners to purchase/swap/acquire any key privately owned plots - listed in Annex 5 and officially incorporate into reserve any successful acquisitions		7000			
	c. Ensure neighbours do not encroach into the Reserve	Regularly patrol reserve boundary and ensure neighbours do not encroach into the reserve (note: already some encroachment on south side of reserve to deal with)					
3.1.3 (3) Manage the danger of falling trees to neighbouring properties and to the public road while maintaining high quality flycatcher habitat	a. Maintain the vegetation within a ‘buffer zone’ of up to 10 metres wide along the edges of the reserve where it bounds with houses or roads to achieve a dense leafy vegetation with a canopy not more than 10 metres high.	- Lop all potentially dangerous trees within the buffer zone (max. 10 metres from the Veuve Reserve boundary) to c. 5m tall - Plant gaps in buffer zone with trees from the list in Annex 4 to create a dense leafy low canopy vegetation - Trim trees annually to maintain canopy of 5-10 metres height	No budget required for tree felling as currently either reserve neighbours pay for felling of trees endangering their property, or the contractors who cut the dangerous trees take the wood as payment for the tree felling				
3.1.3 (4) Monitor and control alien mammalian predators	a. Control cats in the reserve to minimise numbers	Live capture cat traps built and set in the reserve	2000	200	200	200	200
		Monitor rat relative densities in the reserve	7000	200	200	200	200

of Veuve within the reserve	b. Monitor rat densities within the reserve and control if their numbers become an issue for flycatchers	Control rats around nests if rat numbers reach densities that become problematic					
3.1.3(5) Minimise disturbance to flycatchers especially near their nests	a. Keep a minimum of 5 metres from active flycatcher nests	No approaching closer than 5 metres to a flycatcher nest					
	b. Minimise noise in the reserve especially near flycatcher nests	Keep quiet in the reserve and do not make loud noise near flycatcher nests					
3.2. Native lowland plateau forest							
3.2.3 (1) Remove invasive and non-native vegetation from the reserve and replant with native lowland species in rehabilitation and buffer zones	a. Manually remove weeds/invasive species by hand rather than using chemicals	See 3.1.3 (1) as activities are same	Costs are included in equipment, maintenance, staff wages (as work is in-house)				
	b. Utilise the existing nursery to produce the required plants for rehabilitation in-house See Annex 4 for a list of suitable trees for rehabilitation	See 3.1.3 (1)	As above				
	c. Replant with the different tree species listed in Annex 4 for canopy gaps, understory planting and buffer zone	See 3.1.3 (1)	As above				
3.2.3 (2) Control of problematic alien animals in the reserve	a. Control dogs and chickens within the reserve	Capture any dogs roaming in the reserve					
		Catch chickens in live capture traps	2000				
3.2.3 (3) Mitigate against fire in the reserve	a. No fires within 5 metres of Reserve Boundary & respect government seasonal fire bans	Inform neighbours of fire protocol of no fires to be lit within 5 metres from reserve boundary. Enforce no fires during national fire bans					
	b. No smoking signs placed at all reserve entrances in reserve info leaflet	No smoking signs at all entrances, at VC and in Reserve leaflet	See 4.3.2 below				
3.3. Wetlands							
3.3.3 (1) Manage wetlands and seasonal	a. Remove invasive weeds from the wetlands to prevent wetlands clogging up	Weed wetlands regularly					

pools to maintain ecological function	b. Clean and potentially dredge pools as necessary (during the dry season when they are dry) to ensure maintenance of capacity to hold water	Clean out pools every dry season Dredging only required if pools become too shallow and clogged			12000		12000
4. Tourism and Education							
4.3 (1) Use tourism within the Special Reserve as a source of sustainable financing to support the reserve management	a. Ensure all visitors pay the entrance fees	Block all entrances into the reserve except the one at the VC so all visitors must enter at the VC where they pay on entry	Budgeted under section 4.3(5)a below				
	b. Source a range of Veuve/Reserve themed curios to sell to visitors	Research and source Veuve themed curios /products for sale at VC	25000				
		Curio shop opened in VC	3000				
	c. Investigate the cost/benefit of a café in the reserve to increase revenue from visitors and to enhance visitor experience	Hire consultant to conduct cost/benefit analysis of opening a Café in Reserve	35000				
4.3 (2) Provide the best nature experience to visitors while keeping their impact to a minimum	a. Improve interpretation within the reserve (at entrances/exits, at strategic locations within the reserve and in the VC)	Design, produce and install additional interpretation signs in VC and at Reserve entrances/exits to include no smoking/no biking/ you are entering Veuve Special Reserve please pay entrance fee/guided tours available at xxx times etc	30000				
		Produce a short (<5 minute) documentary on Veuve and the Reserve and play on big screen TV in VC	50000				
		Design, produce and distribute info leaflet with a map of the reserve, explaining the different path markers, opening hours, times of guided tours, suggest wear long pants and sleeves and mozzie repellent, and some interesting facts and interpretation for visitors	25000		12000	12000	12000
		Produce interpretation board /display on mosquitoes	4500				
		Produce temporary interpretation as needed in-house with printer and laminator	500	500	500	500	500
	b. Provide mosquito repellent at VC for visitors	Provide complimentary environmentally friendly mosquito repellent at VC in a big pump top bottle like hand sanitiser for visitor use	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
	c. Extend the boardwalk (2 phases) to ensure access during times of heavy rain and flooding	Phase 1 – extend the boardwalk at the VC from the public road to the visitors' path behind the VC	120000				
		Phase 2 – conduct needs assessment for further boardwalk to ensure visitors can get to the existing boardwalk inside the reserve during times of heavy rain and flooding	in house				

		Phase 2- build any extra boardwalk needed based on needs assessment					600000	
	d. Seriously consider extending the Reserve opening hours to increase both number of visitors and the chance of them seeing Veuve	Discuss revision of opening hours to open 7 days a week and extending opening hours till 6 pm and if agreed implement						
	e. Maintain current benches throughout the reserve; put a picnic table and benches under the existing rain shelter	New benches and table constructed and new and existing maintained under regular maintenance plan	10000	Maintenance budgeted under maintenance section 8.3(1)a below				
	f. Provide high quality in- house guided tours	Provide expert training in tour guiding and visitor management to all Reserve staff	Budgeted under training and capacity development section 7.3(1)a below					
	g. Investigate the cost-benefit of other potential visitor attractions in reserve	Consultant hired to investigate the cost- benefit of other potential visitor attractions in the Veuve Reserve that are in line with the Reserves vision and conservation values, for example wetland boardwalk or pontoon, night tours, captive terrapins, and implement if make sense		80000				
	h. Maintain trails and rubbish bins	Trails and rubbish bins maintained in a clean tidy state						
	i. Conduct visitor surveys to assess visitor experience	Survey to assess visitor experience designed, implemented, analysed and reported annually	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500
	j. Monitor visitor numbers and impact. Currently overuse is not an issue as visitor numbers are low, however it could become an issue in the future and mitigations/caps on numbers may need to be introduced	Monitor visitor numbers and impact on the Reserve						
4.3 (3) Improve the marketing of the Veuve Reserve	a. Ensure all visitors to La Digue know that the Veuve Reserve is an attraction worth visiting, where it is, opening hours and times of guided tours, either prior to arriving on La Digue or as soon as they arrive	Produce and widely distribute an information leaflet -see 4.3 (2) activity to produce leaflet	Budgeted under section 4.3(2)a above					
		Maintain the recently installed signboard and Veuve models on the La Digue jetty	Budgeted under maintenance of equipment and infrastructure – section 8.3(1)a below					
	b. Enlist the support of tour operators (DMCs, reps), tour guides and La Digue hotels and guesthouses to help with marketing	Invite the La Digue tour operators (DMCs & reps) and private tour guides to the Veuve Reserve for a guided tour and an information session annually so they are fully aware of the product they are promoting/recommending to potential clients	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
		Provide information leaflets to tour operators						

		Request feedback from DMCs regarding in-house tour as they are experts in this field and may have good advice					
		Push to get Veuve Reserve included in Tour Operator full day excursion packages on La Digue					
		Provide leaflets to guesthouses and hotels on La Digue and ask that they display for guests					
4.3 (4) Undertake regular activities with La Digue school children to increase their awareness, knowledge, and love for nature and for Veuve	a. Monthly activities with school kids (e.g. be environmental theme day activities, learn about Veuve days, learn about other endemic wildlife found in the reserve (eg bats, terrapins) days, etc)	Monthly activities planned and undertaken in the Veuve Reserve with La Digue school children	12000	12000	12000	12000	12000
4.3 (5) Control access to the Veuve Reserve to maximise income and eliminate illegal uses	a. Fence/densely plant portions of the reserve to block existing entrances and access points to direct access solely through the VC where it can be monitored	All accesses blocked with a combination of wooden fencing and dense vegetation planting (see Annex 4 for a list of suitable plants to create dense barrier), and a big lockable gate at the drive-in entrance to the reserve that goes to the nursery to make access difficult anywhere apart from through the VC	25000				
	b. Employ security to patrol the reserve to discourage illegal uses and to ensure tourists have paid entrance fees	Full-time security guard(s) employed to patrol reserve	Budgeted under Reserve Admin. - section 6.3 (1)c below				
	c. Consider installing surveillance cameras to monitor unauthorised entry and use of the reserve	Discuss cost/benefit of installing surveillance cameras and if benefit outweighs cost – research most appropriate cameras system, purchase and install	If surveillance cameras are a go- this activity will have additional budgetary implications				
5. Research and Monitoring							
5.3 (1) Monitor flycatcher numbers and productivity in the reserve over time	a. Monitor the number of flycatcher territories, their breeding frequency and breeding success within the reserve (regular weekly monitoring for breeding activity and if nesting - check nests every 2-3 days to determine success or failure)	Design protocols and datasheets for flycatcher monitoring	Budgeted under section 7.3(1)c below				
		All flycatcher territories in the reserve checked once per week for signs of breeding activity following protocol					
		All nests checked every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to determine if they are still active, fledged or failed following protocol					
		Breeding activity recorded in flycatcher monitoring forms in protocol					

		Assess and report annual breeding success, number of territories and number of individuals in the reserve and compare to previous years data (no additional budget required as part of in-house annual reporting)					
5.3 (2) Assess effectiveness of management activities on flycatcher population size and productivity within the reserve.	a. Monitor flycatcher territory size (boundaries) and vegetation structure within territories over time (long-term periodic monitoring of vegetation c.1x per year)	Design methods (protocols) for long-term monitoring of flycatcher territory boundaries and vegetation structure in territories/reserve	Budgeted under section 7.3(1)c below				
		Undertake vegetation and territory boundary monitoring annually following protocols					
	b. Utilise data collected under Objective 5.3(1)a & 5.3(2)a above to assess territory and habitat quality and to inform future habitat management	Analyse flycatcher productivity and habitat data to assess current and inform future vegetation management. This analysis will need to be undertaken by SNPA research section or by external researchers					
5.3 (3) Support targeted research to benefit reserve management	a. Facilitate research/ researchers that will benefit the Reserve or management of the Reserve	Develop a list of research priorities/wants (in-house)					
		Support applications to undertake research in the Reserve if it benefits SNPA/Veuve Reserve					
		Solicit partnerships with UniSey or other if SNPA has specific research you want done in the Reserve (student support/stipend)		6000	6000	6000	6000
	b. Produce a list of fauna and flora found in the reserve	Produce list of Fauna and flora found in the reserve (in-house)					
5.3 (4) Good management of research and monitoring data	a. Ensure that results of monitoring and research (both by SNPA Staff and External researchers) is reported back to SNPA and stored safely and appropriately by SNPA in a database	Protocols for data sharing and data management developed by SNPA head office and agreed with researchers/staff					
		Data sharing agreement signed with external researchers					
		SNPA database/data management system developed, installed and managed at SNPA Head Office	Not budgeted for in this management plan- head office responsibility and budget				
6. Reserve Administration							
6.3 (1) To operate the special reserve in a professional and cost-effective manner	a. Ensure sufficient staff are employed to implement management plan	Maintain current complement of 5 staff	465000	470000	475000	480000	485000
		Employ security guard(s) to patrol the reserve to discourage illegal uses and to ensure all visitors have paid the entrance fees (Note budgeted for 1 full time security guard)	108000	110000	111000	112000	113000
	b. Ensure all reserve staff have full uniforms	Uniforms supplied to all staff and staff informed they must wear uniform while at work	8000	80000	8000	8000	8000

	c. Provide training to Veuve Reserve staff in identified priority capacity development areas -see section 7 below	Covered in section 7 below	Budgeted in section 7 below				
	d. Prepare workplans to ensure effective implementation of this management plan	Prepare annual workplan/operational plan	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500
	e. Regularly report reserve activities, developments, successes, issues, and progress against work programme	Monthly reporting against workplan					
		Annual Reporting against management plan					
	f. Office running costs/transport costs	Electricity & water	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000
		Transport & boat fares	30000	30000	30000	30000	30000
		Telephones/printing/stationery	25000	25000	25000	25000	25000
7. Training and Capacity Development							
7.3 (1) Provide adequate training to reserve staff in the skills they will need to implement this management plan effectively	a. Train all reserve staff in visitor relations & management, enforcement and nature trail tour guiding including the forestry rangers and the cashier/receptionist	Hire on short term consultancy/contract an expert in visitor management and nature tour guiding to train Reserve staff and to produce a Veuve Reserve visitor management and nature guiding toolkit/handbook for future staff in-house training and guidance	40000				
	b. Train conservation and forestry staff in plant identification of species found within the reserve	In-house training provided by SNPA in plant ID to Veuve Reserve staff	2000		2000		2000
		Produce (in-house) a plant ID guide for staff with pics and notes on each species	2000				
	c. Train conservation and forestry staff in standardised monitoring and data recording of flycatchers (territory mapping/breeding monitoring) and vegetation monitoring	Hire on short term consultancy/contract an expert to design methods, protocols and datasheets and provide training to reserve staff	35000				
	d. Identify priority training needs and develop annual training plans for staff	Organise annual refresher training for all staff and induction training for new staff	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
		Prepare induction materials/manual for new staff (to include the training materials developed above)	2000				
8. Equipment and Infrastructure							
8.3 (1) Maintain all equipment and	a. Maintain all buildings, boardwalks, benches, signage,	Prepare annual maintenance plan for all equipment and infrastructure					

infrastructure in good working condition	rubbish bins, fences etc and equipment in good working condition	Maintain and repair/replace as necessary all equipment and infrastructure	15000	20000	20000	25000	25000
	b. Upgrade the staff kiosk to be weatherproof (for example see-through plastic blinds that can be rolled down in rain and rolled up in sunshine)	Prepare plan for kiosk upgrade, source materials and undertake upgrade in-house (e.g. blinds can be made to order and fitted by SNPA carpenter)	25000				
8.3 (2) Ensure the Reserve has the essential equipment to implement of this plan	a. Ensure the Reserve has, in good working order at all times, all the equipment listed in Section 8.3 (objective 2, strategies a-e) of this plan	Create an essential equipment list and purchase any items that the reserve does not already have ASAP.	20000				
		Maintain stocks of consumables e.g. potting bags, toilet paper, coffee.....	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
		Look after and maintain all equipment as if it was your own (see 8.3 (1) a above.	Budgeted in section 8.3 (1) a above				
TOTALS (SCR)			1158000	863900	736900	1333900	753900

10. Review of Plan and Performance Evaluation

This plan will be reviewed annually based on a performance evaluation with the objective of ensuring that lessons learnt are integrated into ongoing plan implementation. Performance evaluation of this plan will be based on the Performance Measurement System (PMS) detailed in Section 11. The PMS lists the target(s) in terms of deliverables, the timeline for each activity and the indicator which should be used to assess performance. Performance evaluation for the preceding year will be undertaken annually during the first quarter of each year and a report on its performance will be prepared for submission to the SNPA's Board of Directors by April.

11. Performance Measurement System (PMS)

Heading/Objective	Strategy	Activities	Targets	Performance Indicators
3. Nature Conservation				
3.1 Veuve				
3.1.3 (1) Manage habitat to maintain or improve high quality Veuve habitat to support the maximum number of flycatcher territories possible	a. Remove invasive and alien vegetation in rehabilitation zones and replant any gaps created with mix of lowland native broad-leafed tree species as listed in Annex 4	Weekly weeding and removal of invasive alien vegetation in rehabilitation zones	Initial weeding of priority rehabilitation zones completed in 24 months.	Invasive species removal/weeding implemented to target
			Re-weeding of whole rehab. zone completed every 6 months to limit regrowth of invasive species and to promote growth of native species	As above
		Propagation of native lowland broad-leafed tree species from list in Annex 4 in reserve nursery by reserve staff	Total of 200 native lowland broadleaf trees propagated per year – some of each species listed in Annex 4	Native plants propagated to target
		Plant the propagated trees into gaps in the buffer and rehabilitation zones	200 trees planted into the reserve in rehabilitation and buffer zones each year	Native trees planted into reserve to target
3.1.3 (2) Increase the size of the Veuve Reserve	a. Identify the plots of land purchased specifically to increase the size of the reserve and officially incorporate them into the Veuve Reserve	Determine ownership of plots of land listed in Annex 5	Ownership confirmed by MHILT by March 2021	Land ownership confirmed to target timeframe
		Incorporate government owned plots officially (gazette) into the Veuve Reserve	Officially and legally incorporated into Veuve Reserve by December 2021	Reserve officially extended to target timeframe
	b. Open/re-open negotiations with landowners to purchase/swap/acquire any key privately owned plots – see Annex 5	Open/re-open negotiations with landowners to purchase/swap/acquire any key privately owned plots - listed in Annex 5	Negotiations opened by March 2021 and negotiations completed by December 2021	Negotiations implemented to target timeframe
			Any successful land acquisitions officially incorporated into the Veuve Reserve by June 2022	Reserve officially extended to target
	c. Ensure neighbours do not encroach into the Reserve	Regularly patrol reserve boundary and ensure boundaries are respected and neighbours do not encroach into the reserve	Walk reserve boundary monthly to check for encroachment	Boundary checked for encroachment to target
			In cases of encroachment speak directly to the landowner within 1 week of noting the offence; if this does not work SNPA to initiate legal action	Encroachment followed up to target
3.1.3 (3) Manage the danger of falling trees	a. Maintain the vegetation within a 'buffer zone' of		All potentially dangerous trees lopped by December 2021	Dangerous trees lopped to target timeframeVegell

to neighbouring properties and to the public road while maintaining high quality flycatcher habitat	up to 10 metres wide along the edges of the reserve where it bounds with houses or roads to achieve a dense leafy vegetation with a canopy not more than 10 metres high.	Lop all potentially dangerous trees within the buffer zone (max. 10 metres from the Veuve reserve boundary) to c. 5m tall	Annual trimming to maintain buffer zone vegetation at c.10 m height	Proportion of vegetation in buffer zone that is not taller than 10m
		Plant gaps in buffer zone with trees from the list in Annex 4 to create a dense leafy low canopy vegetation	Ongoing	Proportion vegetation in buffer zone that is dense
3.1.3 (4) Monitor and control alien mammalian predators of Veuve within the reserve	a. Control cats in the reserve to minimise numbers	Live capture cat traps built and set in the reserve	3 live capture traps built and in use in the reserve by June 2021. Ongoing trapping. Dispose of the cats humanely.	Records of Number of days cat traps open/month Number of cats trapped in the reserve/month Number of cats seen in the reserve/month
	b. Monitor rat densities within the reserve and control rats if their numbers become an issue for flycatchers	Monitor rat relative densities in the reserve	Rat relative density monitoring (100 trap nights) every 8 weeks (2 months) using standardised methods described in Cunningham and Moors 1996 -see Annex 3	Rat index trapping records
		Control rats around nests if rat numbers reach densities that become problematic (i.e. nests failing more than usual)	Rat control implemented around nests using traps or poison tunnels if flycatcher breeding success drops below 35 %	Rat control records
3.1.3(5) Minimise disturbance to flycatchers especially near their nests	a. Keep a minimum of 5 metres from active flycatcher nests	No approaching closer than 5 metres to a flycatcher nest	Flycatcher nests do not fail due to human disturbance	Number of nests failing due to human disturbance
	b. Minimise noise near flycatcher nests	Keep quiet and do not make loud noise near flycatcher nests	Flycatcher nests do not fail due to noise disturbance	
3.2. Native lowland plateau forest				
3.2.3 (1) Remove invasive and non-native vegetation from the reserve and replant with native lowland species in rehabilitation and buffer zones	a. Manually remove (uproot/cut) weeds by hand rather than using chemicals	See 3.1.3 (1) as activities are same	See 3.1.3 (1) as targets are same	
	b. Utilise the existing nursery to produce the required plants for rehabilitation in-house See Annex 4 for a list of suitable trees for rehabilitation	See 3.1.3 (1)	See 3.1.3 (1) as targets are same	

	c. Replant with the different tree species listed in Annex 4 for canopy gaps, understory planting and buffer zone	See 3.1.3 (1)	See 3.1.3 (1) as targets are same	
3.2.3 (2) Control of problematic alien animals in the reserve	a. Control dogs and chickens within the reserve	Capture any dogs roaming in the reserve and return to owners with warning that poison will be placed in reserve so keep their dogs tied up and out of reserve in future	Ongoing as required	Dog capture and return records
		Catch chickens in live capture cages and dispose of them (kari koko)	Ongoing as required	Chicken trapping records: Number of trapping days/month Number of chickens trapped/month Number of chickens observed in reserve/month
3.2.3 (3) Mitigate against fire in the reserve	a. Any rubbish fires on neighbouring properties should be a minimum of 5 metres from the Reserve Boundary and government seasonal fire bans must be respected	Inform neighbours of fire protocol of no fires to be lit within 5 metres from reserve boundary. Enforce no fires during national fire bans	Inform all neighbours of protocol by March 2021	Neighbours informed of fire protocol to target timeframe
			Ongoing surveillance and enforcement by Reserve staff	Records of number of fires closer than 5 metres to Reserve boundary
	b. No smoking signs placed at all reserve entrances and stated clearly in the planned reserve info leaflet.	No smoking signs at all entrances, at VC and on Reserve leaflet	Signs in place by April 2021	No smoking signs installed to target timeframe
			For leaflet see 4.3 (2) d as targets the same	
3.3. Wetlands				
3.3.3 (1) Manage wetlands and seasonal pools to maintain ecological function	a. Remove invasive weeds from the wetlands to keep wetlands from clogging up	Weed wetlands regularly	Ongoing as necessary (there is currently limited wetland inside the Official Reserve – but it stands to increase greatly when reserve is extended	Proportion of wetlands maintained free of weeds

	b. Clean and potentially dredge pools as necessary (during the dry season when they are dry) to ensure maintenance of capacity to hold water.	Clean out pools every dry season Dredging only required if pools become too shallow and clogged	Weed, remove rubbish and debris annually in the dry season when the pools are dry	Proportion of pools clean and functioning as water traps
4. Tourism and Education				
4.3 (1) Use tourism within the Special Reserve as a source of sustainable financing to support the reserve management	a. Ensure all visitors pay the entrance fees	Block all entrances into the reserve except the one at the VC so all visitors must enter at the VC where they pay on entry	All 7 other entrances/exits blocked by June 2021 (see 4.3 (5) below)	Proportion of Reserve visitors entering via VC entrance and paying entrance fees
	b. Source a range of Veuve/Reserve themed curios to sell to visitors	Research and source Veuve themed curios /products for sale at VC	A range of suitable Veuve themed curios sourced by September 2021	Curio shop running by end 2021 or not
		Curio shop opened in VC	Curio shop opened by end 2021	
	c. Investigate the cost/benefit of a café in the reserve to increase revenue from visitors and to enhance visitor experience	Hire consultant to conduct cost/benefit analysis of opening a Café in Reserve	Cost/benefit analysis and final report and recommendations completed by end 2021	Report received by SNPA by end 2021
4.3 (2) Provide the best nature experience to visitors while keeping their impact to a minimum	a. Improve interpretation within the reserve (at entrances/exits, at strategic locations within the reserve and in the VC)	Design, produce and install additional interpretation signs in VC and at Reserve entrances/exits to include no smoking/no biking/ you are entering Veuve Special Reserve please pay entrance fee/guided tours available at xxx times etc	Additional signs produced and installed by June 2021	Signs produced and installed in Veuve Reserve to target timeframe
		Produce a short (<5 minute) documentary on Veuve and the Reserve and play on big screen TV in VC	Consultant hired to produce short (max 5-minute) video about Veuve and the Reserve by March 2021	Consultant hired to target timeframe
			Film produced by June 2021	Film produced to target timeframe
			Documentary installed and playing on loop on big screen TV in VC by July 2021	Documentary playing in VC to target timeframe
			Leaflet produced and printed by June 2021	Leaflet produced to target timeframe

		(you are here etc and explaining the different path markers found in the reserve) opening hours, times of guided tours, suggest wear long pants and sleeves and moszi repellent, and some interesting facts and interpretation to visitors to all visitors to the reserve)	Leaflet widely distributed La Digue to hotels, guesthouses (pin on their noticeboards), Visitor info bureau on La Digue and to Travel Service offices in addition to the Veuve Reserve VC by July 2021 and thereafter bi-annually as needed	Leaflet distributed to target timeframe
		Produce interpretation board /display on mosquitoes explaining that they are a natural part of the environment, that controlling mosquitoes would also kill flycatcher food so it is NOT an option.	Mosquito interpretation in place in VC by June 2021	
		Produce temporary interpretation as needed in-house with printer and laminator	For example – Daisy the rescued fruit bat needs some signs/interpretation explaining she was rescued, and you saved her life (otherwise visitors might think you have cruelly locked her up in a cage	Temporary interpretation produced promptly as necessary
	b. Provide mosquito repellent at VC for visitor use	Provide complimentary environmentally friendly mosquito repellent at VC in a big pump top bottle like hand sanitiser for visitor use	Complementary environmentally friendly mosquito repellent provided in VC by June 2021	Mosquito repellent available in VC to target timeframe
	c. Extend the boardwalk to ensure access during times of heavy rain and flooding	Phase 1 – extend the boardwalk at the VC from the public road to the visitors’ path behind the VC	Phase 1 completed by June 2022	Boardwalk extension completed to target timeframe
		Phase 2 – conduct needs assessment for further boardwalk to ensure visitors can get to the existing boardwalk inside the reserve during times of heavy rain and flooding	Phase 2 assessment of additional boardwalk needs completed by June 2023	Assessment completed to target timeframe
			Any additional boardwalk deemed necessary (based on Phase 2 assessment) completed by December 2024	Any additional boardwalk completed to target timeframe
	d. Seriously consider extending the Reserve opening hours to increase both number of visitors and the chance of them seeing Veuve	Discuss opening 7 days a week and extending opening hours till 6 pm and if agreed- implement	Discuss revision of opening hours and make informed decision by October 2021	Decision re opening hours made to target timeframe
			Implement and agreed changes to opening hours by December 2021	Any revised opening hours in place to target timeframe
	e. Maintain current benches throughout the reserve; put a picnic table	New benches and table constructed	New benches and picnic table constructed and in place by September 2021	New benches and picnic table constructed to target timeframe

	and benches under the existing rain shelter	All benches maintained under regular maintenance plan	6 monthly assessment and maintenance of all outdoor benches and tables	6 monthly assessments show all furniture to be in good working condition
	f. Provide high quality in-house guided tours	Provide expert training in tour guiding and visitor management to all Reserve staff [see 7.3 (1) a below]	Annual tour guiding and visitor management training provided to Veuve Reserve staff [see 7.3 (1) a below]	Percentage of staff trained in tour guiding.
	g. Investigate the cost-benefit of other potential visitor attractions for example wetland boardwalk or pontoon (extend the existing boardwalk out into the adjacent wetland), night tours, captive terrapins, and implement if make sense	Consultant hired to investigate the cost-benefit of other potential visitor attractions in the Veuve Reserve that are in line with the Reserves vision and conservation values	Consultant hired by June 2022	Signed contract
			Consultancy completed by December 2022	Completed consultancy report received by SNPA by December 2022
			Costed implementation plan and timeline for any ideas taken on board by SNPA produced by June 2023 and followed	Implementation plan document received and followed to target timeframe
	h. Maintain trails and rubbish bins	Trails and rubbish bins maintained in a clean tidy state	All trails swept and cleaned weekly	Trails maintained to target
			Rubbish bins emptied weekly or more often if full	Rubbish bins maintained to target
	i. Conduct visitor surveys to assess visitor experience	Survey to assess visitor experience designed, implemented, analysed and reported annually (can also include questions to assess guided tours, mosquito mitigation measures etc, etc)	Survey report produced annually and seen by CEO and Board	Survey completed and reported to target timeframe
			Survey results feedback to improve visitor experience	Visitor experience improved
	j. Monitor visitor numbers and impact on the Reserve. Currently overuse is not an issue as visitor numbers are low, however it could become an issue in the future and mitigations/caps on numbers may need to be introduced	Monitor visitor numbers and impact on the Reserve	Visitor impact on the Veuve Reserve remains low	Number of visitors
			flycatcher nests do not fail due to human disturbance	Number of nests that fail due to human disturbance
			flycatcher numbers (number of individuals and number of territories) remain stable in the reserve	Number of flycatcher individuals and territories in the reserve
4.3 (3) Improve the marketing of the Veuve Reserve	a. Ensure all visitors to La Digue know that the Veuve Reserve is an attraction worth visiting,	Produce and widely distribute an information leaflet -see 4.3 (2) activity to produce leaflet	See 4.3 (2) leaflet targets	

	where it is, opening hours and times of guided tours, either prior to arriving on La Digue or as soon as they arrive	Maintain the recently installed signboard and Veuve models on the La Digue jetty	Signboard and model Veuve on La Digue jetty maintained and updated as necessary to ensure information provided is accurate and signboard and models are in good condition	Signboard and Veuve models prominent, in good state of repair and with accurate info assessed in scheduled monthly checks
	b. Enlist the support of tour operators (DMCs, reps), tour guides and La Digue hotels and guesthouses to help with marketing	Invite the La Digue tour operators (DMCs & reps) and private tour guides to the Veuve Reserve for a guided tour and an information session so they are fully aware of the product they are promoting/recommending to potential clients	DMC, rep tour guide ½ day orientation at Veuve Reserve undertaken by end January 2021 and in 2023 (every 2 years)	Number of DMCs who attend annual orientations Percentage of DMCs invited who attend annual orientations
		Provide information leaflets to tour operators	Leaflets provided by July 2012	Leaflets distributed to target timeframe
		Request feedback from DMCs regarding in-house tour as they are experts in this field and may have good advice	Feedback received at the orientation day. Reserve Assistant Park Officer to record pertinent feedback in monthly report.	Feedback improves in-house guided tours
		Push to get Veuve Reserve included in Tour Operator full day excursion packages on La Digue	Request made to DMCs to include Veuve Reserve in packages at end of orientation visit	Proportion of Travel service companies asked to include Veuve Reserve in excursions
				Number of companies that include Veuve Reserve in excursions
		Provide leaflets to guesthouses and hotels on La Digue and ask that they display for guests	Leaflets delivered to all guesthouses and hotels on La Digue with a request to display on noticeboard where clients can see it	Leaflets distributed to target
4.3 (4) Undertake regular activities with La Digue school children in the reserve to increase their awareness, knowledge, and love for nature and for Veuve	a. Monthly activities with school kids (e.g. be environmental theme day activities, learn about Veuve days, learn about other endemic wildlife found in the reserve (eg bats, terrapins) days, etc)	Monthly activities planned and undertaken with La Digue school children	Minimum of 20 school children visit the reserve for planned educational activities each month	Number of children that attend organised activities in the Veuve Reserve per month
4.3 (5) Control access to the Veuve Reserve to maximise income	a. Fence a portion of the reserve to block existing entrances and access points in order to direct	All accesses blocked with a combination of wooden fencing and dense vegetation, planting to make access difficult anywhere apart from through the VC.	All alternative accesses blocked by March 2021	Proportion visitors using main entrance at VC by March 2021

and eliminate illegal uses	access solely through the VC where it can be monitored	The drive-in entrance to the nursery fitted with a locked gate (and keys given to houses with no alternative access).		
	b. Employ security to patrol the reserve to discourage illegal uses and to ensure tourists have paid entrance fees	Full-time security guard(s) employed to patrol reserve	Security guard employed by June 2021	Security guard employed by target month
	c. Consider installing surveillance cameras to monitor unauthorised entry and use of the reserve	Discuss cost/benefit surveillance cameras and if benefit outweighs cost – research most appropriate cameras system, purchase and install	Discuss and decide on use of surveillance cameras to help with monitoring reserve access and use by September 2021	Decision on Surveillance cameras to target
			If decide YES- research and decide on appropriate camera system, source and install (note will have budgetary implications) by March 2022	If yes for cameras- installation to target
5. Research and Monitoring				
5.3 (1) Monitor flycatcher numbers and productivity in the reserve over time	a. Monitor the number of flycatcher territories, their breeding frequency and breeding success within the reserve (regular weekly monitoring for breeding activity and if nesting - check nests every 2-3 days to determine success or failure)	Design protocols and datasheets for flycatcher monitoring (can be designed in-house if have expertise, otherwise hire expert to develop under short term consultancy)	Methods, protocols and associated datasheets designed and approved by July 2021 (see section 7.3(1)c below)	Finalised data monitoring protocols produced and in use to target timeframe
		All flycatcher territories in the reserve checked once per week for signs of breeding activity following protocol	All flycatcher territories monitored weekly for breeding activity	Monitoring records
		All nests checked every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to determine if they are still active, fledged or failed following protocol	All nests checked every 2-3 days to record if they are still active, fledged or failed following protocol	Monitoring records
		Breeding activity recorded in flycatcher monitoring forms in protocol	Data recorded to protocol	Monitoring records
		Assess and report annual flycatcher breeding success, number of territories and number of individuals in the reserve and compare to previous years data	Annual assessment included in Annual Report (see section 6.3(1)e below)	Annual assessment produced to target
5.3 (2) Assess effectiveness of management activities on flycatcher population size and	a. Monitor flycatcher territory size (boundaries) and vegetation structure within territories over time (long-term periodic	Design methods (protocols) for long-term monitoring of flycatcher territory boundaries and vegetation structure in territories/reserve	Protocols for monitoring flycatcher territory boundaries and vegetation structure designed and approved by July 2021 (see section 7.3(1)c below)	Protocols produced to target
			Flycatcher territory size and vegetation structure monitored annually	Reported as section in Annual Report

productivity within the reserve.	monitoring of vegetation c.1x per year)	Undertake vegetation and territory boundary monitoring annually following protocols	Results written up annually and data and reports stored in appropriate database at SNPA	Data entered and safely stored in SNPA database - see 5.3(4)a
	b. Utilise data collected under Objective 5.3 (1) a and 5.3 (2) a above to assess territory and habitat quality and to inform future habitat management	Analyse flycatcher productivity and habitat data to assess current and inform future vegetation management. This analysis will need to be undertaken by SNPA research section or by external researchers	Analysis undertaken in 2025 using 5 years of data	Analysis undertaken to target timeframe
5.3 (3) Support targeted research to benefit reserve management	a. Facilitate research/ researchers that will benefit the Reserve or management of the Reserve	Develop a list of research priorities/wants	List developed by December 2021 and updated annually	List developed and updated as per target
		Support applications to undertake research in the Reserve if it benefits SNPA/Veuve Reserve	Applications to undertake priority research supported by SNPA	Number priority research projects undertaken by external researchers
		Solicit partnerships with UniSey or other if SNPA has specific research you want done in the Reserve	Partnerships with UniSey and others sought to undertake identified priority research	Number of UniSey student projects in Veuve Reserve
	b. Produce a list of fauna and flora found in the reserve		List compiled by June 2022	List produced to target timeframe
5.3 (4) Good management of research and monitoring data	a. Ensure that results of monitoring and research (both by Reserve Staff and External researchers) is reported back to SNPA and stored safely and appropriately by SNPA in a database	Protocols for data sharing and data management developed and agreed with researchers/staff	Protocols developed and agreed in house by end 2021	Protocols developed ad agreed to target timeframe
		Data sharing agreement signed with external researchers	Data sharing agreement template finalised by end 2021	Data sharing agreement finalised to timeframe
		SNPA planned data management system/database is finalised and working by end 2021 (head office)	Internal (SNPA) data management system developed, installed and managed by Head Office by end 2021	Database and appropriate data management system in place to target timeframe
6. Reserve Administration				
6.3 (1) To operate the special reserve in a professional and cost-effective manner	a. Ensure sufficient staff are employed to implement management plan	Maintain current complement of 5 staff	Current staff positions maintained	Current staff complement maintained
		Employ security guard(s) to patrol the reserve to discourage illegal uses and to ensure all visitors have paid the entrance fees	New post created for security guard(s) for the Veuve Reserve and security employed by June 2021	Security employed to target timeline

	b. Ensure all reserve staff have uniforms including the cashier/receptionist to project a professional SNPA image	Uniforms supplied to all staff and staff informed they must always wear uniform while at work	All staff provided with minimum of 3 full uniforms by end January 2021	All staff provided with sufficient uniforms
			All staff in uniform at all times while at work by end January 2021	% of time staff in uniform
	c. Provide training to Veuve Reserve staff in identified priority capacity development areas -see section 7 below	Covered in section 7 below	See section 7 below	See section 7 below
	d. Prepare an annual workplan/operations plan to ensure effective implementation of this management plan	Prepare annual workplan/operational plan for Veuve Reserve	Annual workplans prepared by end of January each year	Annual workplans prepared to target timeframe
	e. Regularly report reserve activities, developments, successes, issues, and progress against work programme	Monthly reporting against workplan	Monthly reports compiled by Assistant Park Officer and sent to head office at the end for the first week of the following month	Proportion monthly reports sent to head office to target timeline
		Annual Reporting against management plan	Annual report compiled by Assistant Parks Officer with input from Head Office by the end of the following February	Annual Report submitted to CEO to target timeframe
7. Training and Capacity Development				
7.3 (1) Provide adequate training to reserve staff in the skills they will need to implement this management plan effectively	a. Train all reserve staff in visitor relations, visitor management, enforcement and nature trail tour guiding including the forestry rangers so they can help with daily guided tours and the cashier/receptionist as she is the first point of contact for all visitors to the reserve	Hire on short term consultancy/contract an expert in visitor management and nature tour guiding to train Reserve staff and to produce a Veuve Reserve visitor management and nature guiding toolkit/handbook for future staff in-house training and guidance	TOR developed and expert hired by July 2021	Signed contract to target timeframe
			Toolkit/handbook developed and provided to SNPA by October 2021	Toolkit received to target timeframe
			All staff completed training by October 2021	All Reserve staff receive training to target timeframe
	b. Train conservation and forestry staff in plant	In- house training provided by SNPA in plant ID to all Veuve Reserve staff (except security and reception)	Veuve Reserve staff receive plant ID training by December 2021	Training completed to target timeframe

	identification of species found within the reserve	Produce (in-house) a plant ID guide for staff with pics and notes on each species	Plant ID guide produced by December 2021	ID guide produced to target timeframe
	c. Train conservation and forestry staff in standardised monitoring and data recording of flycatchers (territory mapping/breeding monitoring) and vegetation monitoring	Hire expert on short term consultancy/contract to develop methods, protocols and datasheets for flycatcher monitoring and provide training to reserve staff	Consultant hired by April 2021	Signed contract
			Veuve monitoring and data recording methods, protocols and datasheets developed and provided to SNPA and Reserve staff trained by July 2021	Completed to target timeframe
	d. Identify priority training needs and develop annual training plans for staff	Organise personalised annual refresher training for all staff	Annual refresher training from 2021	Proportion staff who receive refresher training each year
		Prepare induction materials/manual for new staff (to include the training materials developed above)	Manual prepared by December 2021	Manual produced to target timeframe
		Organise induction training for new staff	Induction training undertaken within 2 months of employing new staff	Proportion of new staff who receive induction training to target
8. Equipment and Infrastructure				
8.3 (1) Maintain all equipment and infrastructure in good working condition	a. Maintain all buildings, boardwalks, benches, signage, rubbish bins, fences etc in good working condition	Prepare and implement an annual maintenance plan for all equipment and infrastructure	Prepare annual maintenance plan by December or preceding year	Maintenance plan prepared to target timeframe
			Implement annual maintenance plan	Maintenance plan implemented to schedule
	b. Upgrade the staff kiosk to be weatherproof (for example add see-through plastic blinds that can be rolled down in rain and rolled up in sunshine)	Prepare plan for upgrade, source materials and undertake upgrade in-house (e.g. blinds can be made to order and fitted by SNPA carpenter)	Staff kiosk upgrade completed by December 2021	Staff kiosk upgrade completed to target timeframe
8.3 (2) Ensure the Reserve has the essential equipment to enable implementation of this plan	a. Ensure the Reserve has, in good working order at all times, all the equipment listed in Section 8.3 (objective 2, strategies a-e) of this plan	Create an essential equipment list and purchase any items that the reserve does not already have ASAP.	All essential equipment listed in section 8.3 (2) a-e and any other equipment deemed essential by SNPA acquired by end June 2021	Veuve Reserve has full complement of essential equipment to target
		Maintain stocks of essential consumables e.g. potting bags, toilet paper, coffee, office cleaning materials)	Produce a list of essential consumables with a minimum amount to be maintained in stock. When stock depleted to minimum amount- re-order/purchase new stock	Essential consumable stock maintained in Reserve

		Look after and maintain all equipment as if it was your own	Equipment included in annual maintenance plan [see 8.3 (1) above]	Equipment maintained in good working order following target maintenance plan
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12. Annexes

Annex 1. Veuve Reserve Designation Order

SI. 8 of 1991

NATIONAL PARKS (LA DIGUE VEUVE SPECIAL RESERVE) (DESIGNATION) ORDER

1. This order may be cited as the National Park (La Digue Veuve Special Reserve) (Designation) Order.

2. The area described in the Schedule is hereby designated as a Special Reserve.

SCHEDULE

The area has an extent of 7.817 hectares and is situated at Anse La Reunion, La Digue, bordering the south side of the public road from La Passe to Grand Anse, and demarcated on the ground by survey beacons: MH566, MH488, G213 and Coral 1.

The area is represented on a survey plan which is deposited in the Office of the Director of Surveys and filed as ML/ADN/114.

Annex 2. Veuve Reserve Regulations

NATIONAL PARKS (LA DIGUE VEUVE SPECIAL RESERVE) REGULATIONS

SI. 9 of 1991

1. These Regulations may be cited as the National Parks (La Digue Veuve Special Reserve) Regulations.

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires -

"Commission" means the Seychelles National Environment Commission established under the provisions of section 3 of the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act.

"Director" means the Director of Conservation and National Parks in the Department of Environment.

"Reserve" means La Digue Veuve Special Reserve as defined by the National Parks (La Digue Veuve Special Reserve) (Designation) Order.

"Warden" means any officer of the Commission appointed under paragraph 6 of the Schedule to the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act.

3. Subject to regulation 9, any person who, within the Reserve :

- (a) kills, captures, takes or wilfully injures, has in his possession, disturbs or destroys by any means whatsoever any animal, or the eggs, spawn, nests or shells thereof, whether vertebrate or invertebrate and whether living or dead; or
- (b) disturbs, removes or destroys for any purpose any plant or the fruit or seeds of any plant; or
- (c) removes or wilfully disturbs any humus, soil, sand mud, gravel, or rock for any purpose whatsoever from or in any part of the Reserves,

is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of R 2,000 and to imprisonment for twelve months.

4. Subject to regulation 9, any person who wilfully introduces into the Reserve any living creature, or any plant, or egg of any living creature, or any seed or other part of any plant, is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of R 2,000 and to imprisonment for six months.

5. Subject to regulation 9, any person who, other than in receptacles provided for that purpose, throws down, drops, discards, or otherwise deposits anything whatsoever in such circumstances as to cause, contribute to or tend to lead to the defacement by litter or the pollution by chemicals or other noxious substances or domestic effluent of any part of the Reserve, is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of R 2,000 and to imprisonment for six months.

6. Subject to regulation 9, any person who introduces into or has in his possession in the Reserve any weapon or device designed for or capable of being used for the capture, injury or killing of wildlife,

or any explosive, explosive device or firework or any poisonous substance, is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of R 2,000 and to imprisonment for six months.

7. Subject to regulation 9, any person who lights a fire or does anything likely to cause a fire in the Reserve, is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of R 2,000 and imprisonment for six months.

8. Any person who removes, defaces, damages or obscures any marker, notice, structure, or equipment belonging to or placed by the Commission is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of R 2,000 and to imprisonment for six months.

9. (1) Subject to sub-regulation (2) the Director may, with the agreement of the Commission, authorize subject to such conditions as he think fit, any act which otherwise is prohibited by regulation 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

(2) Any authorization referred to in sub-regulation (1) shall be confined to lawful acts related to the management of the Reserve or to scientific research within the Reserve and to the securing of the objectives of these Regulations and of the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act.

(3) Any person who fails to comply with any conditions of authorization granted by the Director under sub-regulation (1) is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of R 2,000 and to imprisonment for six months.

10. The Director may, with the agreement of the Commission:

- (a) close any part or parts of the Reserve to public access;
- (b) indicate days or times when the public may be allowed access to the Reserve;
- (c) impose such other restrictions on public access as may be in the interest of good wildlife management.

11. (1) A warden or police officer may, without warrant, arrest any person whom he shall find committing any offence under these Regulations or the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act.

(2) A warden or police officer may at any time within or in the vicinity of the Reserve, without a warrant, stop and search any vehicle where he reasonably believes that the vehicle is or has been used in connection with the commission of an offence under these Regulations.

12. (1) The Director may, with the agreement of the Commission, impose a fee or charge of a maximum of R 100 for:

- (a) entry into the Reserve;
- (b) the performance of acts in the Reserve; or
- (c) services provided in relation to the Reserve.

(2) The Director shall give notice in the Gazette of fees or charges imposed under sub-regulation (1).

S.I. 4 of 2020 NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE CONSERVANCY ACT (Cap 141) National Parks Fees (Amendment) Regulations, 2020

5. Regulation 12(1) of the National Parks (La Digue Veuve Special Reserve) Regulations, 1981, is amended by deleting the words “R 100” and substituting therefor with the words “SCR 200”

Annex 3. Useful References and Resources

- Cunningham DM and Moors PJ (1996) *Guide to the identification and collection of New Zealand rodents* (Third Edition). Department of Conservation, Wellington, New Zealand. ISBN 0-478-01814-2
- Bristol RM (2016) Species Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2025, Seychelles paradise flycatcher, Vev, *Terpsiphone corvina* (draft document)
- Currie D, Bristol R, Millett J, Hill M, Bristol U, Parr SJ, Shah, NJ (2003b) Habitat requirements of the Seychelles Black Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone corvina*: a re-evaluation of translocation priorities. *Ibis*, 145, 624-636.

Annex 4. List of suitable tree species to plant for habitat rehabilitation in the reserve

Tree species for planting in canopy gaps in the Reserve:

Takamaka (*Calophyllum inophyllum*)

Badamier (*Terminalia catappa*)

Bonnen kare (*Barringtonia asiatica*)

Bwa blan (*Hernandia nymphaeifolia*)

Bwa d tab (*Heritiera littoralis*)

Understory shade tolerant species to plant where the canopy is dense and the understory vegetation sparse:

Bwa torti (*Morinda citrifolia*)

Bwa kafoul (*Allophylus pervillei*)

Bwa sousouri (*Ochrosia oppositifolia*)

Lower growing tree species to plant in the buffer zone around the edge of the reserve include the lower growing native broadleaved trees such as:

Bonnen kare

Bwa torti

Bwa sousouri

Bwa savon (*Colubrina asiatica*)

Porse (*Cordia subcordata*)

Bwa d roz (*Thespesia populnea*)

Var (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*)

Bwa d rennet (*Dodonaea viscosa*)

Vouloutye (*Scaevola tacadda*)

Vakwa bordmer (*Pandanus balfourii*)

Species to plant along the reserve boundary especially along the road edge to create a dense low growing barrier to discourage unauthorised entry through the vegetation:

Vakwa bordmer

Vouloutye

Var

Vakwa bordmer has nasty serrated leaves that would discourage people entering the reserve through the vegetation.

Annex 5. Proposed extension to the Reserve

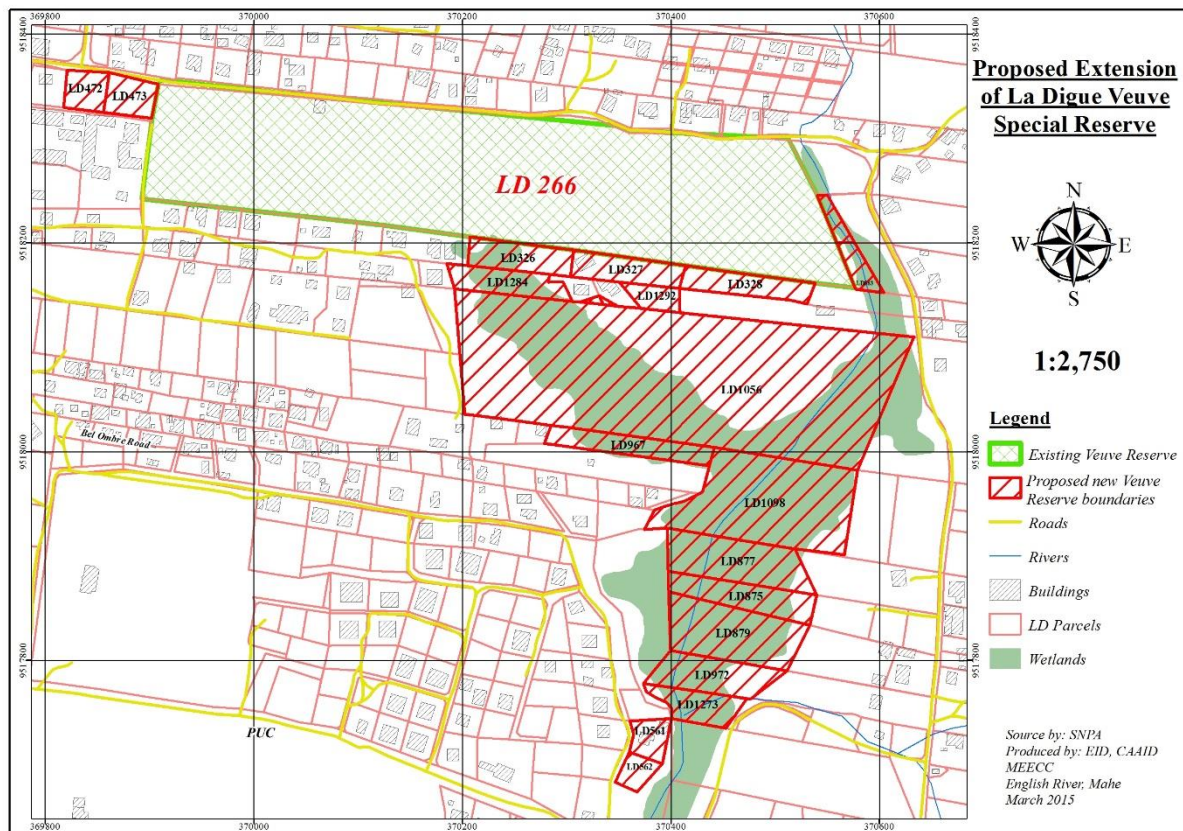


Figure 3. Proposed extension of the Veuve Reserve. The plots of land highlighted in red with black parcel numbers are the plots that have been proposed for including in the Veuve Reserve.

Some of these plots of land have already been purchased/acquired by the Government with financial assistance from the Dutch Trust Fund for the specific purpose of extending the Veuve Reserve while negotiations for several plots were not completed. The plots of land that were purchased have not been officially added to the Special Reserve. It is a priority activity to confirm ownership of these plots of land, negotiate with owners for any plots that are not government owned, and gazette them into the official La Digue Veuve Special Reserve. See also the scanned letter on the following page.



Seychelles National Parks Authority

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Please address all correspondence to the Chief Executive Officer

Date: 10th January 2011

Mr. Christian Lionnet
Principal Secretary
Ministry of Land Use and Housing
Victoria
Mahé
Seychelles

Dear Mr. Lionnet,

RE: EXTENSION OF VEUVE RESERVE ON LA DIGUE

With the financial contribution from the Dutch trust Fund and the support of the Seychelles' Government, the Environment Department managed to purchase several plots of land from private landowners and transfer two plots from Government for the extension of the Veuve Reserve on La Digue. 12 plots were originally purchased from private landowners whilst two were exchanged for two plots on Mahé (See Table below and attached letter). The process was made possible following intense negotiations between MND and the private owners.

According to our records, the following can be deduced from the project. The status of known and unknown plots of private and Government lands are tabulated below.

Table 1: Status of various plots for the extension of the Veuve reserve boundary.

Plot Number	Status
LD863	Purchased
LD1222	Purchased
LD 327	Land exchanged for a piece on Mahé
LD 328	Land exchanged for a piece on Mahé
LD 967	Purchased
LD 1284	Purchased
LD1286	Purchased
LD 1287	Purchased
LD1292	Purchased
LD1056	Purchased
LD877	Purchased
LD875	Purchased
LD879	Purchased
LD1273	Purchased
LD326	Belonged to GOS a
LD472/473	3 months acquisition noticed published- status unknown
LD1284	Status unknown
LD 433 LD 561/LD 562 & LD 563	Status Unknown
LD972	-Unknown



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