

Developing future professionals in conservation, education and ecotourism for engaged youths of the East and South of Mauritius.



This internship is designed with the aim to provide training in specialist field skills, desk-based and soft skills with at least 1-year work experience to 5 interns. This initiative will increase employability and career opportunities and the skills acquired will improve the local community's outlook on conservation, which will eventually contribute to national biodiversity targets.

Overview of the financial year 2023/2024, six interns were successfully recruited; four allocated to Fauna, one to Flora and one to Ecotourism/Education. Recruitment was challenging as many applicants did not respond to our messages or did not fit the internship criteria. Due to the staggered intake and late recruitment, we recruited an additional intern. All interns received in-depth training related to their respective activities, they have proven to be enthusiastic, committed and have demonstrated an ability to learn. Julia successfully completed her internship, following which, she accepted a permanent contract of employment with the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation.

Fauna (4 interns on the Passerine projects)

Training on:

- Provision of supplementary food
- Monitoring breeding
- Capture, handling and ringing of birds
- Data collection and data entry



Photo: Fauna intern Laurine placing a feeder for the Mauritius Fody.



Photo: Fauna intern Julia providing food for the Olive White-eye.



Photo: Fauna intern Kamakshi conducting a feeder attendance watch for the Mauritius Fody.

Fauna



Photo: Fauna interns Julia, Kamakshi and Juliano extracting an Olive White-eye fledgling from the feeder for ringing.



Photo: Fauna interns Julia and Kamakshi ringing an Olive White-eye.

Flora (1 intern on the Flora team)

Training on:

- Nursery management
- Planting techniques
- Propagating techniques
- Restoration techniques
- Data collection and Data entry



Photo: Fauna intern Juliano planting an endemic plant in the Mondrain reserve.



Photo: Flora intern Rameshwar weeding potted plants.

Ecotourism/Education (1 intern with the Ecotours)

Training on:

- Delivery of professional tours in French and English to various age groups.
- Monitoring the South East Islets.
- Workshop and schools talk.



Photo: Fauna interns Julia and Kamakshi and Flora intern Rameshwar monitoring one of the South East Islets.



Photo: Ecotours intern Elynie, receiving a good review on her tour on TripAdvisor.

Classroom training

- Conservation management.
- Bird population monitoring.
- Monitoring breeding productivity in birds.
- Supplementary feeding of birds.
- Bird ringing.
- Creating digital maps with open source mapping software QGIS.



Photo: Fauna interns Juliano and Laurine during a group activity.