

Press release

Few months ago, numerous releases of petrels of Barau were made in various sites of the island thanks to the mobilization of inhabitants of Reunion Island who participated to rescue these failed birds and brought them to the SEOR's care center. This period of massive grounding is due to the young petrels of Barau, born at the beginning of the year, attracted by light of cities.

However, this sea birds continue to run aground all year, we had the proof today !

Indeed, the SEOR, the National park of Reunion Island and his partners : University of Reunion Island, ONCFS-BNOI, DEAL and the Departement (institute) released on Friday, July 10th early in the morning, a Mascarene Black Petrel, an endemic species of our island that may disappear in few years.

This release were possible thanks to the participation of an inhabitant of Salazie, Mister HOAREAU, who found a Mascarene Black Petrel on July 4th (of this year). This bird has been in observation during few days at the SEOR's care center to have some rest and be back in good conditions to be able to return very soon on our lands and reproduce there.

The Mascarene Black Petrel is the rarest bird in the world !

This endemic species is a part of the sad list of 15 sorts the most threatened with our planet. Recognized internationally « by critical danger of extinction » by the UICN, it represents an urgency and a priority of local preservation.

The only available knowledge this day results from **46 individuals failed since 1834**. Considered as disappeared during more than 70 years, this species was rediscovered in 1970 and stays nowadays a real riddle for the Science. Since 2004, no grounding was listed in the municipality of Salazie !

The population of Mascarene Black Petrel is estimated between 10 and 50 couples, but no nest was discovered yet again to this day.

A lot of actors unite their strengths to implement actions to avoid the disappearance of this species. The European Commission recently granted its support to set up a project of large-scale territory until 2020: the LIFE program + Petrels, which groups the following partners : national park of Reunion Island, SEOR, University of Reunion Island, ONCFS - BNOI, DEAL and The Departement.

So, this morning was the opportunity to officialize the partnership between the LIFE program + Petrels and the company 0-3000 which gave a lot of mountain equipment of high-quality to the team LIFE+ Petrels in order to look for the Mascarene Black Petrel in a lot of sites, even in places the least approachable of the island.

With the LIFE + Petrels program, actions of large-scale preservation are going to be led to pursue the steps led in favour of the Petrel of Barau, and to discover the mystery of the Mascarene Black Petrel, an enigmatic species. This program will combine actors and users of the island to save these species at the edge of the extinction, strongly threatened by the growing urbanization and its associated lightings and the predation by the introduced predators : cats and rats on the distants naturals sites.

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