

Eradication of Black Rats (*Rattus rattus*) from Curieuse Island

Indian Ocean Tortoise Alliance



Photo: Richard Baxter



HOTSPOT

Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands



KEY BIODIVERSITY SITES (KBAs):

Curieuse Island



AMOUNT

US \$ 149,928.15



DATES

December 2023 to November 2025

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project intends to eradicate Black rats (*Rattus rattus*) from Curieuse Island, Curieuse Marine National Park, Seychelles. An array of approximately 440 Goodnature A24 self-resetting rat traps will be the primary method of eradication, deployed using a dynamic mainland island approach, progressively eradicating from east to west. While this technology employs no toxic materials and has no rat welfare concerns, it is expected there will be small areas of the island inaccessible for trapping at the required trap density. Therefore in these areas it is intended to hand broadcast cereal block brodifacoum poison bait.

The aim is to not only remove rats from the island but also establish long-term biosecurity against reinvasion. This will halt IAS predator mediated decline in biodiversity allowing natural processes to resume and recovery of species and ecological processes.



INDIAN OCEAN TORTOISE ALLIANCE

Indian Ocean Tortoise Alliance (IOTA) is a Seychelles registered non-profit focused on habitat restoration of Seychelles islands with Aldabra giant tortoises. IOTA drives and supports the rewilding of islands with Aldabra giant tortoises and strengthens conservation initiatives of this tortoise and regional tortoise species in the wild.

SUPPORTED BY THE CEPF REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (RIT)

CEPF has enlisted a consortium of nongovernmental organizations to be its Regional Implementation Team (RIT) in the hotspot. Coordinated by IUCN NL, the RIT includes SAF/FJKM for Madagascar, ID-ONG for Comoros, FORENA for Mauritius and SeyCCAT for Seychelles. These organizations are working with CEPF to implement a five-year conservation strategy for the hotspot and build local civil society capacity. The RIT can be reached via the following email address: cepfproposals@iucn.nl.

