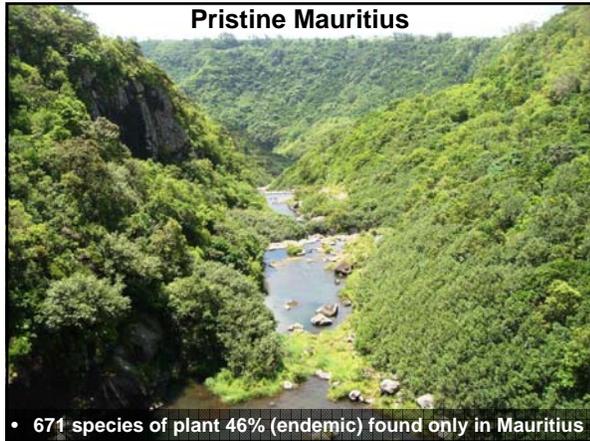




Imagine Mauritius
371 years ago

Before people lived in
Mauritius



- With no terrestrial mammals, Mauritius was a reptile and bird dominated island
- **REPTILIAN BIRD AND BAT DOMINATED ISLAND** - Reptiles and birds were the primary consumers of plants and animals, showing their role in the ecosystem through browsing & grazing.

1638 people settled in Mauritius and the forests were rapidly destroyed

Many animals from other countries
1800s <2%

Reptiles

Birds

Mammals

- Some that were introduced from other countries rose outside of their intended use, causing the loss of native reptiles. This disturbance was not as severe.

Round Island

- One of the few places not invaded by rats - the worst invasive animal in the World

Round Island

- Because the last sloppies had very low populations of other endemic and native reptile species

HOME TO A REPTILE COMMUNITY THAT USED TO OCCUR THROUGHOUT MAURITIUS

Other Islands of importance




Lesser night gecko

Ilot Vacoas Bojer's skink



Other Islands of importance




Orange-tail skink

Photo: Nicole Lottermann

Preventing further extinction

- ~~Mauritius Wildlife Foundation~~ reptiles found
- ~~Nature Parks and Conservation Service~~
- ~~Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust~~
- ~~extinction is very high~~
- Restoring islands – removing introduced species, such as rats from islands



- With the threats that caused the loss of the reptiles removed from some of the islands



- We have started moving endangered reptiles back to islands where they used to occur



- Reducing the risk of extinction
- ~~Gunners Quoin~~ Ilot Vacoas Bojer's skink, once widespread throughout the SE, restricted to Ilot Vacoas
- ~~Defunct skink~~ once widespread, restricted to Ile aux Aigrettes
- Continue to restore other islands and replace their lost wildlife
- Ile aux Aigrettes





Keel-scaled boa

Top predator of Mauritius





Completely harmless to us

Black River Gorges National Park

- Just as important for Mauritian reptiles



Upland forest day gecko Macchabé skink

Black River Gorges National Park

- Just as important for Mauritian reptiles



Lowland forest day gecko

Black River Gorges National Park

- Just as important for Mauritian reptiles



Ornate day gecko Blue-tailed day gecko

Like the reptiles on the islands

- They serve a major role in the ecosystem



Like the reptiles on the islands

- They serve a major role in the ecosystem



Like the reptiles on the islands

- They serve a major role in the ecosystem



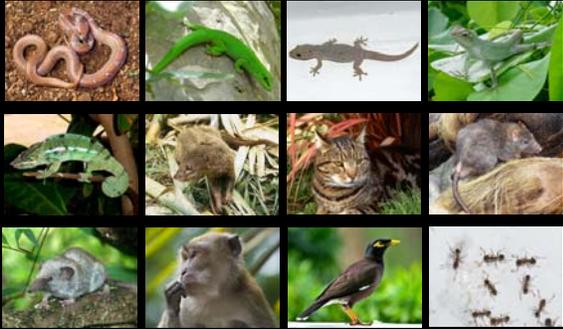
- Bouton's skink
- Native - not restricted to Mauritius
- Found on several islands
 - Lost from most of Mauritius
 - Poste Lafayette
 - Cap Malheureux



We are working to protect these reptiles, but we have many challenges



Introduced animals are the greatest threat, especially if they reach the islands



Disturbed habitats is also a major threat



Mauritian reptiles are part of the Nation's Heritage



Anou sap nu lezar

The Rare Campaign
"Miss-Ti" as the mascot
Carries the colours of the flag!




Anou sap nu lezar

The future survival of these unique animals is dependent upon your awareness and help in preventing extinction

