

YOGISHAH BUNSY

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Profile

- MPhil/PhD Candidate at the University of Mauritius
- Executive Secretary for Friends of the Environment (FoE)
- Mauritius Ambassador for the Global South Bats Network (<https://www.globalsouthbats.org/>)
- Member of NatureYetu

Higher Education

July 2020 – Present: MPhil/PhD Candidate, Ecology, University of Mauritius

August 2014 – August 2017: BSc (Hons) Biology (Minor: Coastal and Marine Environmental Sciences) – Second Class Honours (2:1), University of Mauritius. Dissertation: "Selected Aspects of Pollination Ecology of the Endangered Endemic Plant *Roussea simplex*." First-class thesis (A*, 88.6%)

Professional experience

- **January 2024 – Present:** Project Coordinator (bats and flora) at the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, responsible for bat projects (Human Bat Conflict Working Group, HBCWG) and facilitating constructive dialogue with various stakeholders, including government agencies, commercial fruit producers, schools, and the private sector.
- **August 2023 – October 2023:** Project Coordinator at the NGO Natir, responsible for coordinating and supervising the implementation of nature conservation projects. Collaborated with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies (NPCS and Forestry Services), communities, and partner organizations. Developed and managed project plans, schedules, and budgets. Monitored project progress and ensured timely delivery of milestones. Prepared regular progress reports and updated organisational leadership. Conducted field visits and assessments to evaluate project activities. Promoted effective communication and teamwork among project staff and volunteers.
- **March 2022 – May 2023:** Research Assistant at the University of Mauritius for the carbon sequestration project funded by AFD, under the Tropical Island Biogeography, Ecology and Conservation (TIBEC) pole of research. Conducted field surveys, including soil sampling, setting up sampling plots, permanent marking and measurement of trees, plant identification, and data manipulation and analysis.
- **August 2018 – April 2022:** Education Officer for the Ecosystem Restoration Alliance Indian Ocean (ERA IO). Prepared and conducted educational talks on the importance of bats and biodiversity in Mauritius for diverse audiences, including schools, universities, and community groups (in French, English, Creole and Bhojपुरi). Conducted outreach via meetings, webinars, and presentations to raise awareness about human-wildlife conflict (HWC) involving fruit bats. Managed NGO communication through social media and marketing materials, collected, analysed, and presented social data on HWC, particularly focusing on the challenges and solutions related to fruit bats. Coordinated engagement with various stakeholders, developed a network of practice within the community, and promoted collaboration and knowledge sharing on HWC and biodiversity conservation. Involved in the planning and execution of events, including venue selection, scheduling, and partner coordination, to promote environmental education, address HWC issues, and enhance community involvement.

- **September 2017 – August 2018:** Conservation Biologist for reptiles on Île aux Aigrettes and Île Ronde, as part of the Mauritius Reptile Recovery Program. Main activities included surveys, capture, handling, breeding, food preparation, marking, disease screening, habitat surveys, invertebrate and plant surveys, application of biosecurity and quarantine procedures, detection, control, and/or eradication of invasive species; data collection, analysis, and report presentation.

- **August 2018:** Assisted in field activities for the awarding of a postgraduate diploma by the Durrell Wildlife Trust, Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, and the National Parks and Conservation Services (NPCS).

Volunteer experience

- **August 2019 – Present:** Mauritius Herbarium: Phenological monitoring of *Roussea simplex*, botanical surveys in various forests of Mauritius, and monitoring of permanent plots at Brise Fer.

- **June 2017 – August 2017:** Friends of the Environment: Citadelle Reforestation Project, assisting coordinators in maintaining reforestation plots, planting, and awareness activities.

- **May 2016 - July 2016:** Albion Fisheries Research Center: Intern in marine science research.

- **June 2015 - July 2015:** Professor Hassen Raffa State Secondary School: Biology Teaching Intern, preparation and delivery of lessons for Lower Six class, as well as practical sessions.

International extracurricular courses

"1st Course on Bat Ecology, Diversity, Conservation, and Ecosystem Services". Organised by the Global South Bats Network. Mombasa, Kenya. Jan 12-22, 2020

National extracurricular courses (all related to Ebony Forest conservation training)

- "Introduction to Invertebrate Surveys and Monitoring". Sept 07-10, 2021
- "Introduction to GIS". Aug 25-28, 2021
- "Introduction to Statistics and R Course". Feb 23-26, 2021
- "Introduction to Forest Restoration". Nov 24-17, 2020
- "Introduction to Reptile Surveys and Monitoring". Nov 10-13, 2020

Grants and/or Awards

- **May 2023:** ERASMUS + exchange at Université de la Réunion. Full expenses covered.

- **March 2023:** International Congress for Conservation Biology Symposium. Awarded by Bat Conservation International. Full expenses covered.

- **February 2021:** Bat Conservation International's Annual Student Scholarship Program. Tune: \$3,000 USD (for spatio-temporal estimation of cave-dwelling bat colonies in Mauritius).

- **January 2021:** Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology. Tune: MRU 74,000 (for acoustic monitoring of cave-dwelling bats in Mauritius).

• **January 2020:** Scholarship to attend the 1st Course on Bat Ecology, Diversity, Conservation, and Ecosystem Services by the Global South Bat Network in Mombasa, Kenya. Tune: \$700 USD.

Journal Publications

Bunsy, Y., Bissessur, P., Oleksy, R. Z., Gujudhur, T., Dupré, M. O. D., Monty, M. F., & Florens, F. B. V. (Submitted). Cave-roosting specialisation in the Mauritius endemic *Mormopterus* elevates extinction risks as caves face multiple threats. *Journal for Nature Conservation*

Bissessur, P., **Y. Bunsy**, C. Baider & F. B. V. Florens (2019). Non-intrusive systematic study reveals mutualistic interactions between threatened island endemic species and points to more impactful conservation. *Journal for Nature Conservation* 49: 108-117. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2019.04.002>

Florens, F.B.V., Bissessur, P., **Bunsy, Y.**, Ramdonee, D., 2017. *Cibdela janthina* (Klug 1834) (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae), Réunion's biocontrol agent of *Rubus alceifolius* Poir., recorded on Mauritius. *African Entomology* 25: 271–274. <https://doi.org/10.4001/003.025.0271>

International conferences

Bunsy, Y., Oleksy, R., Florens, F.B.V., 2023. Conservation challenges of an Endangered endemic insectivorous bat species on an ecologically devastated oceanic island. Presented at the 31st International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB 2023, Kigali, Rwanda).

Bunsy, Y., Oleksy, R., 2019. Education and sensitization of Mauritians to conserve the Mauritius fruit bat, *Pteropus niger*. Presented at the 18th International Bat Research Conference (IBRC), Thailand, Phuket, p. 256.

National conferences

Bunsy, Y., Ruchaia, E., Martinussen, M., Florens, F.B.V., 2024. Spatio-temporal activity patterns of an Endangered Mauritian endemic insectivorous bat through passive-acoustic monitoring: conservation implications. Presented at the Doctoral Colloquium 2024, 3rd Edition, 2-3 May 2024, University of Mauritius, Réduit.

Bunsy, Y., Oleksy, R., Florens, F.B.V., 2023. "Seeing" in the dark: short-term passive acoustic monitoring reveals the role of habitat matrix in the foraging patterns of an Endangered Mauritian endemic insectivorous bats. Presented at the UoM Research and Innovation Week 2023: Promoting sustainability and resilience through interdisciplinary research and innovation, University of Mauritius, Réduit, p. 1778.

Dupré, M.O.D., **Bunsy, Y.**, Florens, F.B.V., 2023. Roosting preferences of the Mauritian free-tailed bat (*Mormopterus acetabulosus*) in lava tube caves in oceanic island Mauritius. Presented at the UoM Research and Innovation Week 2023: Promoting sustainability and resilience through interdisciplinary research and innovation, University of Mauritius, Réduit, p. 191.

Bunsy, Y., Gujudhur, T., Oleksy, R., Florens, F.B.V., 2022. Ubiquitous human disturbance to lava tube cave ecosystems in Mauritius does not bode well for an Endangered and endemic insectivorous bat. Presented at the University of Mauritius Research Week 2022, 15th Edition, Fostering research through SDGs to empower society, 7-11 November 2022.

Bissessur, P., González, A.M., Baider, C., **Bunsy, Y.**, Dalsgaard, B., Florens, F.B.V., 2022. Control of invasive alien rats improves seed production of a declining island plant. Presented at the University of Mauritius Research Week 2022, 15th Edition, Fostering research through SDGs to empower society, 7-11 November 2022.

Bunsy, Y., Florens, F.B.V., Oleksy, R.Z., 2021. "Investigating drivers of decline of an Endangered oceanic-island endemic insectivorous bat" 13th Research Week - Building Resilience through Research in the COVID-19 Era. 08 - 12 November 2021, University of Mauritius, Réduit, p. 201.

Bunsy Y., F. B. V. Florens, R. Z. Oleksy (2020). Rapid decline of endangered endemic insectivorous Mauritian bat (*Mormopterus acetabulosus*): Why? Workshop on the Setting up of Research and Development component of the Observatoire de L'Environnement by Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change and University of Mauritius, 08 Sep. 2020, University of Mauritius, Réduit. Poster presentation

Bunsy, Y., F. B. V. Florens, Baider, C., Ramdonee, D., 2017. Is the Mauritian Bulbul (*Hypsipetes olivaceus*) a potent pollinator of the Mauritius endemic and endangered Liane Rousseau (*Roussea simplex*)? 10th Research Week - Connecting Research to the Industry and Community, University of Mauritius, 18 – 22 September 2017, pp. 440–441.

Bissessur, P., **Bunsy Y.**, Florens, F.B.V., 2017. Camera-trapping on a threatened island endemic plant reveals new flower visitors and ecological interaction patterns helping to elucidate the species' decline. 10th Research Week - Connecting Research to the Industry and Community, University of Mauritius, 18 – 22 September 2017, pp. 451–452.

Professional affiliations

- Member Association Tropical Biology & Conservation (ATBC)
- Member Society for Conservation Biology (SCS)
- Mauritian ambassador for Global South Bats Network
- Member of NatureYetu

Communication/media visibility

• "Let's talk about bats: a conversation with Yogishah Bunsy, the Mauritian Ambassador of Global South Bats Network." –
<https://medium.com/people-meet-nature/lets-talk-about-bats-a-conversation-with-yogishah-bunsy-the-mauritian-ambassador-of-global-126c7a6600a8>

• "Knowledge Gaps on Bats in Open Access Platforms" -
<https://globalsouthbats.org/knowledge-gaps-on-bats-in-open-access-platforms%EF%BF%BC>

• "Petits molosses, grandes vertus..." -
<https://www.lagazette-mag.io/petits-molosses-grandes-vertus/>

• "L'abattage des chauves-souris nuit à la biodiversité" -
<https://lexpress.mu/article/384379/labattage-chauves-souris-nuit-biodiversite>

• "La Roussette de Maurice" -
<https://www.lemauricien.com/le-mauricien/la-roussette-de-maurice/387116/>

• “Ile Maurice: Journée mondiale de l'environnement - La jeunesse mauricienne milite pour l'écologie” -

<https://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201906060773.html>

• “Partage d’expériences de scientifiques Malgaches et Mauriciens” - <https://parallelesud.com/ocean-indien-protoger-la-nature-a-petits-pas/>

[17/international-bat-appreciation-day--lets-celebrate-the-mauritius-cave-bat](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=906109491273383)

• “International Bat Appreciation Day - Let's celebrate the Mauritius Cave Bat” - <https://www.mauritian-wildlife.org/news/2024-04->

• “Scientists call for advancement of Bat conservation research in Africa” - <https://moneyandmarkets.co.ke/scientists-call-for-advancement-of-bat-conservation-research-in-africa/>

• “Arbres fruitiers: Il existe des façons non-létales d'éloigner les chauves souris” - <https://lexpress.mu/s/article/342390/arbres-fruitiers-il-existe-facons-non-letales-deloigner-chauves-souris>

“Point Virgule, Ecologie” - https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=906109491273383

• “*Bulbophyllum mascarenense*, nouvelle espèce d'orchidée” - <https://www.lemauricien.com/le-mauricien/bulbophyllum-mascarenense-nouvelle-espece-dorchidee/430965/>

Skills

- Software: R, SPSS, QGIS, dnrtps, MS Windows and Office, Google Suite, Bibliography referencing (Zotero)
 - Basic Mauritian plant identification
 - Plant and bat survey and monitoring techniques
 - Capture, handling and maintenance of reptiles, bats and small passerines
 - Possess a valid Driving License (international)
- Languages: Excellent in English, French, Mauritian Creole, Bhojpuri.
Basic Hindi (oral)

