

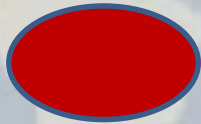
Ringed-necked parakeet Eradication Project (2011 - 2019)



Julio Agricole



Ring-necked parakeet – Global distribution



Native



Introduced

Introduced to >39 countries

Threats posed in Seychelles

- Compete with native species
- RNP carries highly contagious diseases including **Psittacine Beak & Feather Disease** (PBF); which could infect the black parrot
- Most destructive bird pest in agriculture/ horticulture



History of Ring-necked parakeet in Seychelles

- 1980s - Introduced as cage pets
- 1997 - 5 individuals were found in the wild
- 2001 - Jardin du Roi count: 20 - 25 individuals
- 2004 - 2005 - Eradication program started: 56 shot
- 2008 - Survey : 50 - 60 individuals counted
- 2011 - SIF launch the eradication project for RNPs
- 2012 - Estimate of 288 RNPs on Mahé
- 2013 - Intensive eradication phase
- 2016 - Follow up/verification phase



Methods

Observations

- Roost counts
- Feeding sites
- Flight paths
- Perching areas
- Collecting areas en route to roosts



Catching methods

- Cage traps
- Mist-netting
- Shooting



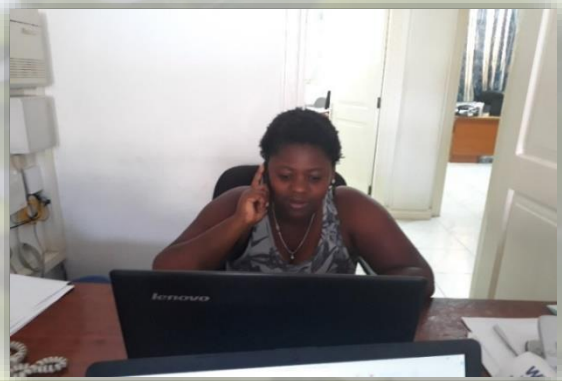
Publicity campaign

- Talking to the public/public events
- Radio and TV adverts/interviews
- Public outreach – posters, house visits
- School & public presentations
- Newspaper & magazine articles, adverts
- Facebook posts & newsletter articles



Public support

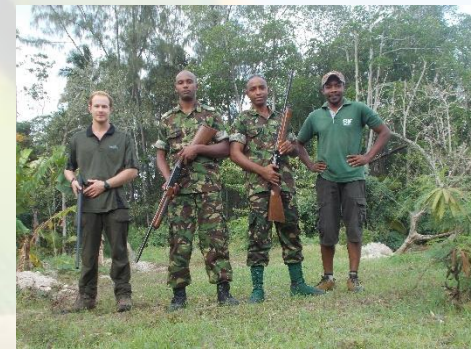
- Huge public support for project
- Reported sightings of RNPs
- Allowed shooting of birds on private properties
- Constantly updated on bird movements
- Support and encouragement



Status in early 2019



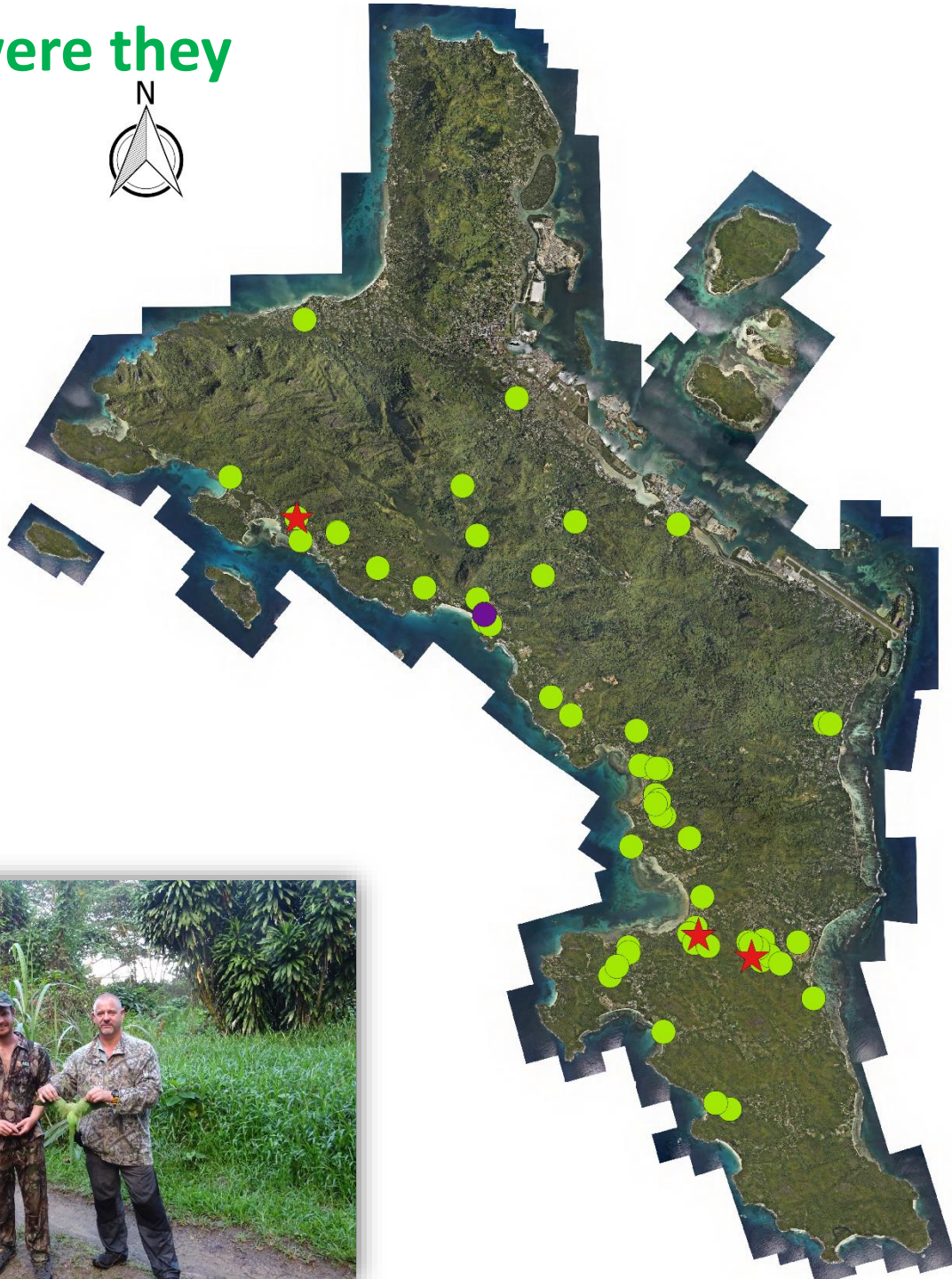
- 545 RNPs culled
- 95% RNP culled were shot
- RNPs culled on Mahé, Praslin (1 RNP) & Silhouette (1 RNP)
- 3 roost sites found
- 13 yellow RNPs
- Total of 26 team members (17 Seychellois)
- Substantially improved public awareness on invasive alien species



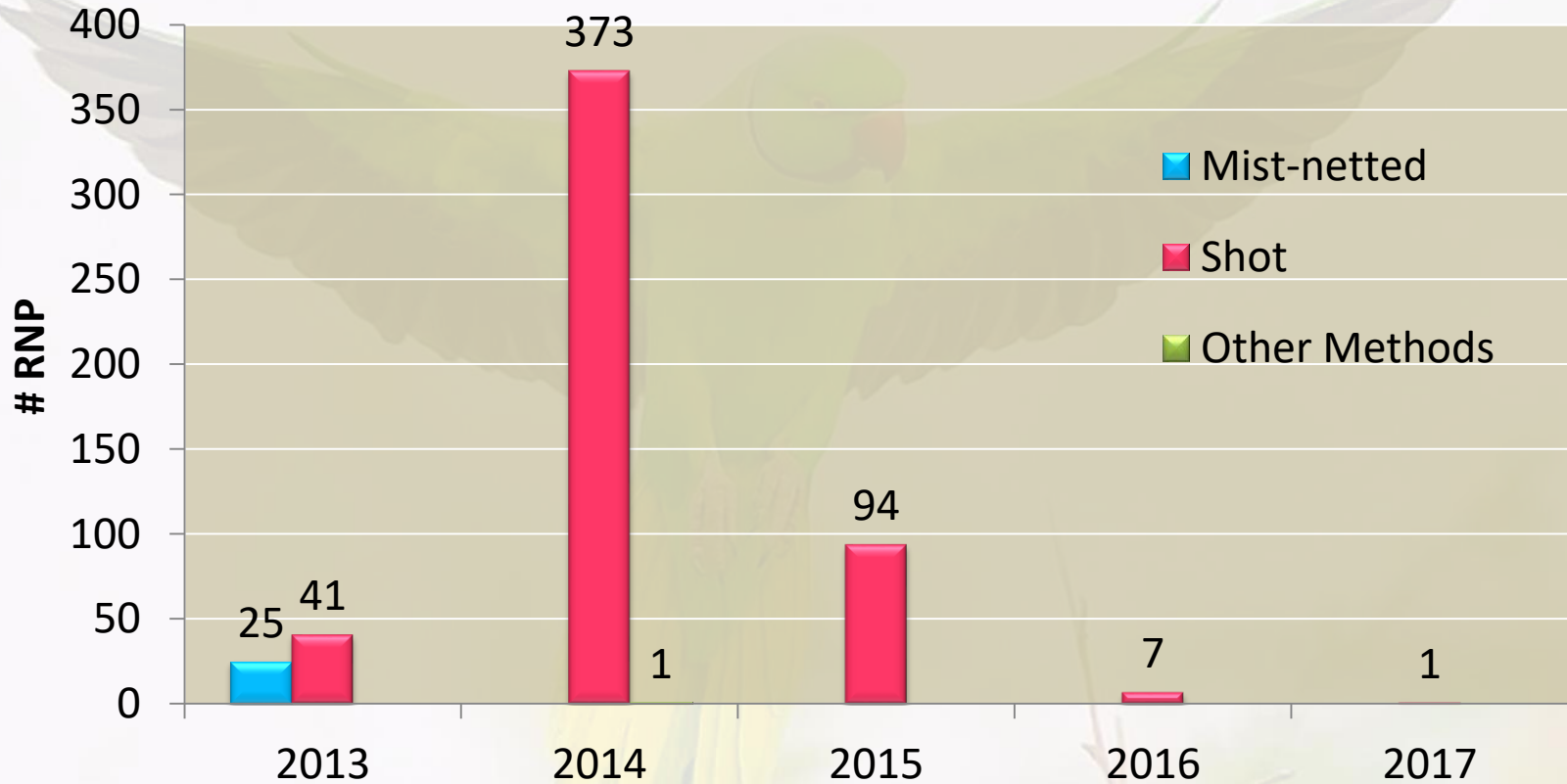


**No more kato
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Seychelles!!!!**

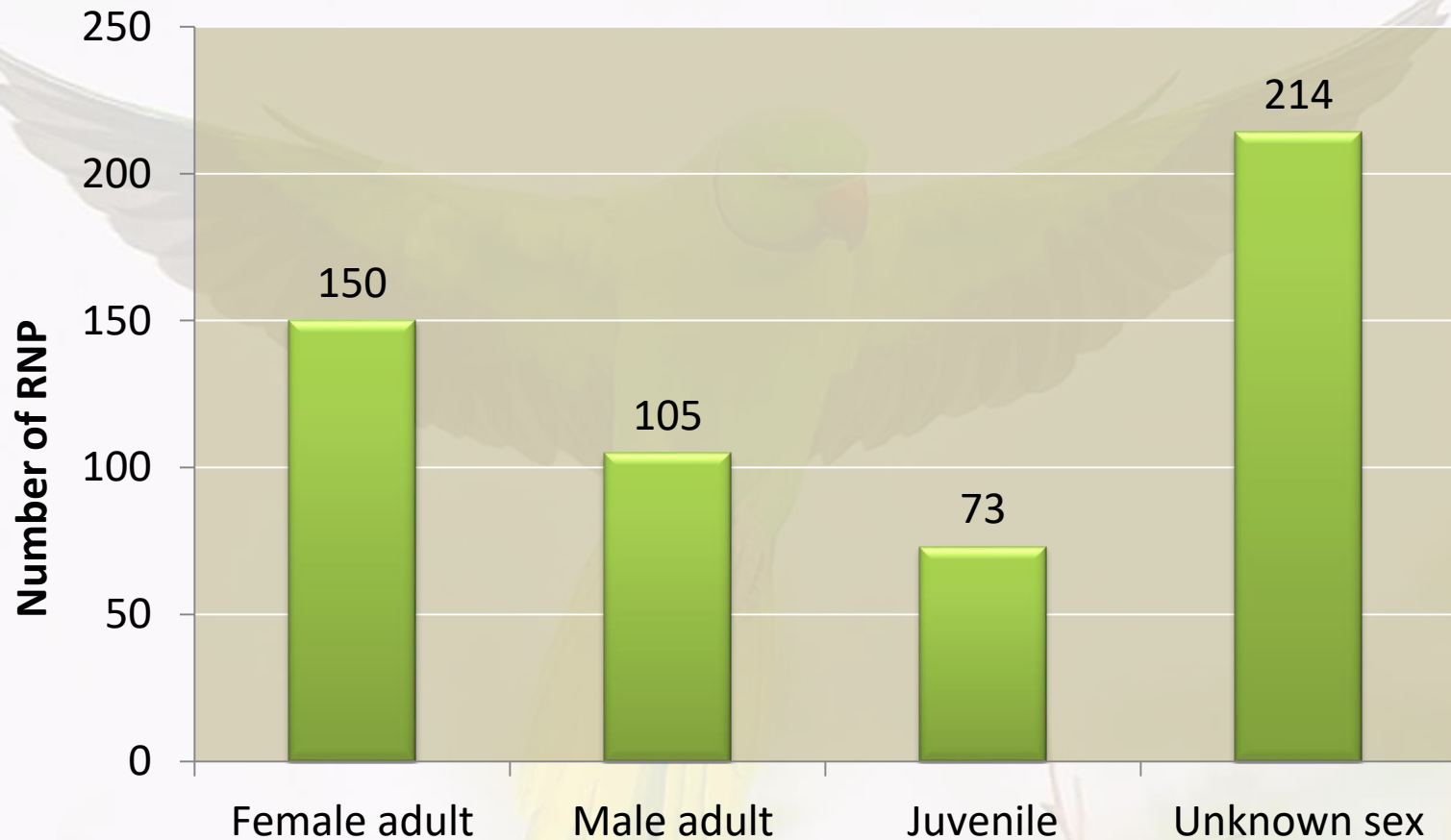
Where were they caught?



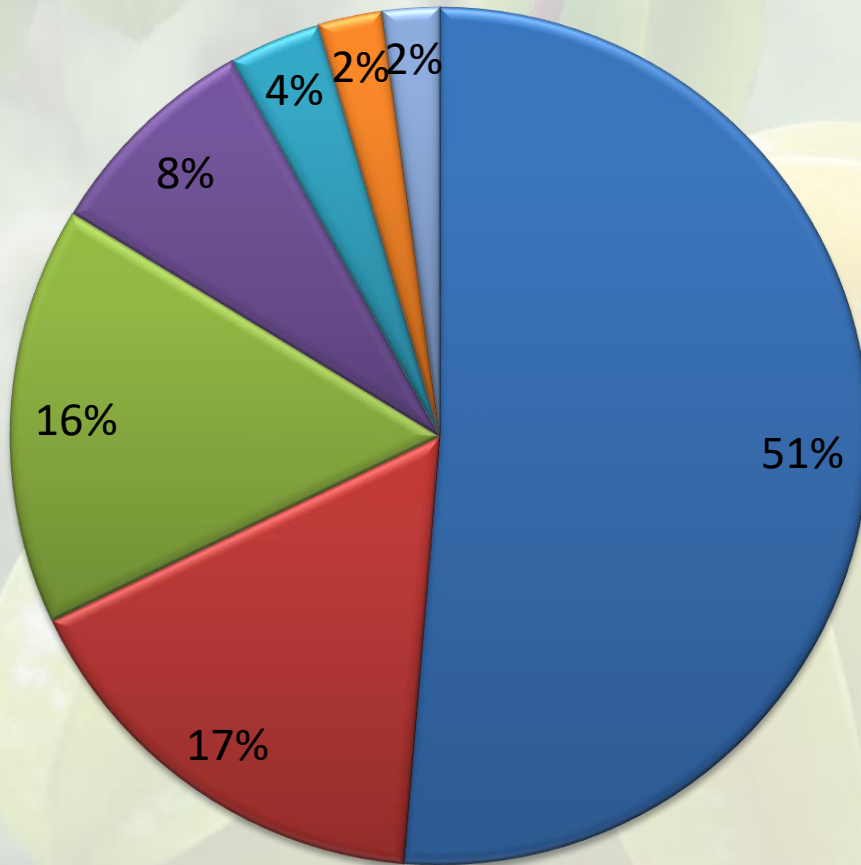
Number of ring-necked parakeets caught each year



Gender and age of RNPs caught



Stomach contents of RNPs caught



- Unknown seeds
- Fruit pulp
- Tree bark
- Albizia seeds
- Grit
- Mango
- Cassi



Outcomes

- Threat to endemic black parrot eliminated
- Agricultural pest species removed
- Seychelles' 1st 'public' eradication
- World's 1st successful RNP eradication!
- Important lessons for other countries
- Highly trained local invasive species staff
- We have shown that it CAN be done!



Acknowledgments

Project would not have been possible without support from:

- European Union
- Department of Environment
- Environment Trust Fund Seychelles
- GEF/UNDP-PCU
- Police Security Services Wing
- Seychelles People's Defence Force
- The Seychelles Public



...all past members of the RNP team

