

Teaching Material on Biodiversity Conservation (TMBC)

Titel: Is Gerald a hero?

Authors: Ines Bruchmann, Björn M. Philipps & Carsten Hobohm

Quality Assessment: Carsten Hobohm (UF)

Level: primary school

Type of material: Story, questions to children and additional information for the teacher

Aim: positive thinking, emotional relationship (to an animal), idea of extinction, survival, conservation.

Is Gerald a hero?

Gerald Durrell was a director of a zoo on the island of Jersey. A zoo is a place where you can see many different kinds of animals.

On another island, called Mauritius Island, there lived a bird called the Mauritius kestrel. In the year 1974, there were only four or five birds still left on this island. At this time, the Mauritius kestrel was the rarest bird in the world.

Gerald Durrell and a colleague removed eggs from the nests to breed the birds in captivity. They supplemented the diet of the wild kestrel so the birds were able to lay new eggs. Because some birds were bred in captivity and because the food of the birds in the wild was supplemented, the number of birds slowly increased. In 1988, 21 birds were reintroduced to the wild on Mauritius.

Today there are more than 800 Mauritius kestrels.

Questions to children

What do you think of this story?

What do you not understand?

Do you know what an island is?

Did Gerald Durrell do a good job?

Why can you call him a hero?

Information for the teacher (references)

Information about the Mauritius kestrel (*Falco punctatus*):

(<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=3592>)

Aerial photographs of Jersey and Mauritius

Information about Gerald Durrell (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerald_Durrell)