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Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment and Related Resources in the Context of Climate Change in Wallis and Futuna

Targeted territory: Wallis and Futuna

Total project budget: 94,465 Euros

BEST 2.0 grant awarded: 94,465 Euros

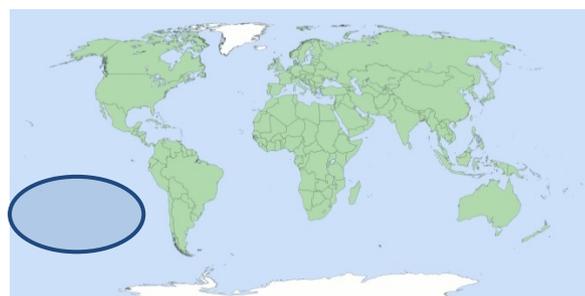
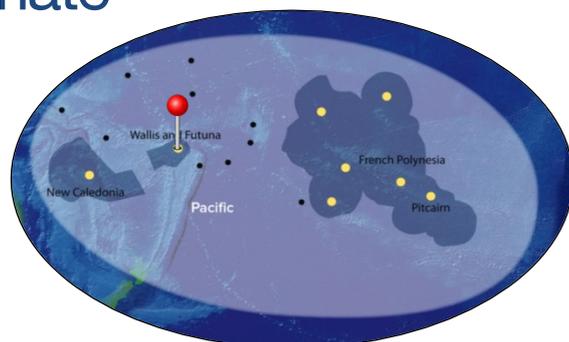
Duration: February 2017 – July 2018 (18 months)

Lead organisation: Service Territorial de l'Environnement



Partner organisation/s:

Fédération des associations pour la protection de l'environnement Haofaki te Ulufenua



Background:

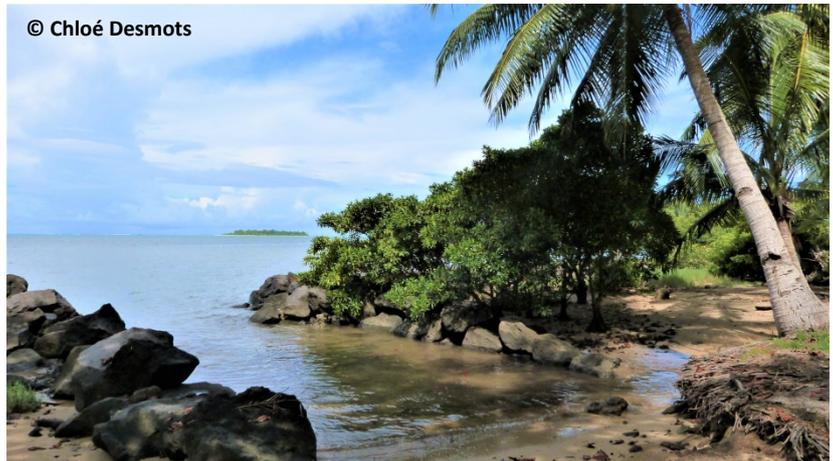
Between land and sea, mangroves constitute a remarkable habitat providing a large number of ecosystem services. However, they are still poorly understood by the general public, especially in Wallis and Futuna. The functioning of these habitats and the biodiversity that they support has not yet been seriously explored, leading to a significant gap in the knowledge and understanding of these ecosystems in the territory. Even if local associations have committed themselves in the past to protecting these habitats, by carrying out clean-ups, rehabilitation and awareness-raising activities, no lasting action has resulted. Thus, little information exists on the degradation of mangroves in Wallis and Futuna. However, it is reported that some of them are full of waste while others are cleared and harvested. In some places mangroves have declined significantly as a result of human actions but also

due to natural erosion. Approximately 65% of the Wallis' mangroves are concentrated within the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). It is in these areas that the majority of restoration actions will be concentrated.

Description of the Project:

Despite their importance in the fight against climate change there is a lack of knowledge and protection of mangroves Wallis. The first step will be to carry out an inventory of this natural ecosystem in order to improve the knowledge of their occurrence in Wallis and the biodiversity that they shelter, as well as to make a diagnosis of their current health status. In parallel, the establishment of pilot nurseries will provide a sustainable conservation tool for their rehabilitation, prioritising the most degraded mangroves. The KBAs will also be targeted by rehabilitation activities. The objective is to clean up mangroves where waste has accumulated and to restore them with trees from the nurseries. This will enhance resilience to natural disasters but also preserve the biodiversity of the Wallisian coast.

These activities will be implemented alongside an awareness raising campaign on the importance of preserving mangrove forests. In addition to those activities that are intrinsic to the project, a broad and ambitious component will be entirely devoted to awareness-raising. The restoration of the mangroves will be accompanied by the education of the local population about the need to protect them. This awareness will be supported by the implementation of a legal framework for the protection of mangroves. Each action will mobilize as many actors as possible in order to strengthen local capacities and to promote participatory management of the natural environment. It is also crucial to raise wider public awareness about the preservation of natural ecosystems and endangered species. This education for the protection of the environment is necessary in order to train eco-responsible citizens and thus ensure the sustainability of the project actions.



Intended results:

- Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services: sustain mangrove protection actions.
- Sustainable management of mangroves: reduce forest fragmentation and promote its extension and sustainable and participatory management.
- Fighting climate change: protecting an ecosystem that provides important ecosystem services.
- Integrated coastal zone management.
- Awareness-raising: informing and educating about the roles of mangroves and the importance of protecting them.

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