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# FLORE NC: Preserving Together the Floristic Heritage of New Caledonia

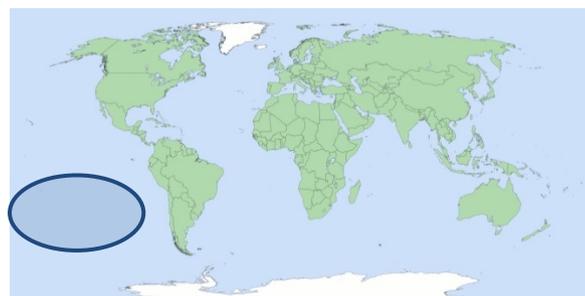
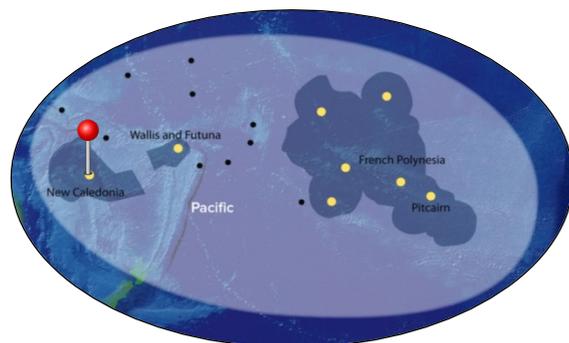
**Targeted territory:** New Caledonia

**Total project budget:** 49,609 Euros

**BEST 2.0 grant awarded:** 49,609 Euros

**Duration:** April 2017 – March 2018 (12 months)

**Lead organisation:** Endemia



## Background:

With a unique terrestrial flora of 3,389 species and a high level of endemism, New Caledonia is currently undergoing an alarming process of extinction of species and genetic loss linked in particular to mining, bush fires and the acute problem of invasive species. Severely threatened, the exceptional flora of New Caledonia is still little known, and the threatened species that have been identified are still under-protected. A Global Red List Assessment for the Conservation of New Caledonia Flora (RLA FLORE NC) is underway to assess the level of threat to New Caledonian flora, and the institutional and private actions required to enable its conservation. Of the 833 species assessed by the end of 2016, 41% are threatened with extinction, i.e. 344 species. 62% of them are not covered by the current network of protected areas and only 25% to 50% are protected by the provincial environmental codes. These disturbing figures can largely be explained by the absence of a structure that centralizes recommendations and actions for the conservation of flora, a role played by, for example, the National Botanical Conservatories in other

French Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories. Thus, in spite of the unique and exceptional diversity of plants in the New Caledonian archipelago, the territory does not have a shared territorial strategy for the conservation of flora or management tools that are up to the challenge.

### Description of the Project:

The project aims to strengthen the protection of the most endangered terrestrial flora species in New Caledonia by identifying priority species and supporting provincial and local conservation strategies. As a first step, a list of conservation priority species will be established on the basis of the results of the Red List assessments conducted since 2014 and the analysis of these data. This information will then be transferred to conservation actors (provinces, government and local actors) to facilitate the integration of priority species into



various flora safeguards such as provincial environmental codes and CITES annex-listed species that must be created or managed for species threatened by trade. This includes the exchange and facilitation of workshops, the dissemination of mappings of the most threatened species and specific technical support based on identified local needs and initiatives.

In addition, a communication campaign on a selection of 25 to 30 endangered species will be promoted to sensitize the general public and decision-makers to the threats to this flora and to communicate on conservation actions. A traveling photo exhibition and various communication media such as press releases, newsletters and media articles are planned.



### Intended results:

- Identification of the most threatened species of the flora of New Caledonia.
- Better integration of the most endangered flora species in management and conservation actions.
- Better consideration of the location of endangered species in the fight against bush fires.
- Increased awareness of the general public and decision-makers of the vulnerability of the flora of New Caledonia and the need to put in place conservation measures.

### CONTACT

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