



Strengthening Conservation Measures and Tools for Threatened Conifers and Palms of the Rainforests and Scrublands of New Caledonia

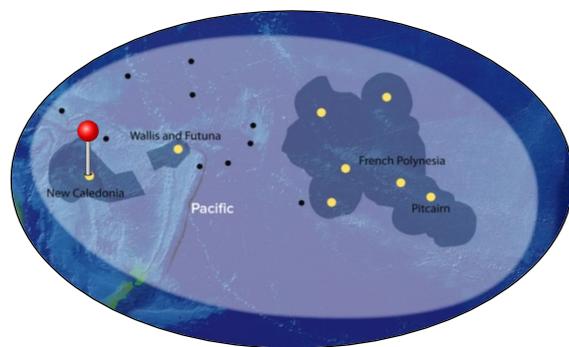
Targeted territory: New Caledonia

Total project budget: 90,279 Euros

BEST 2.0 grant awarded: 90,279 Euros

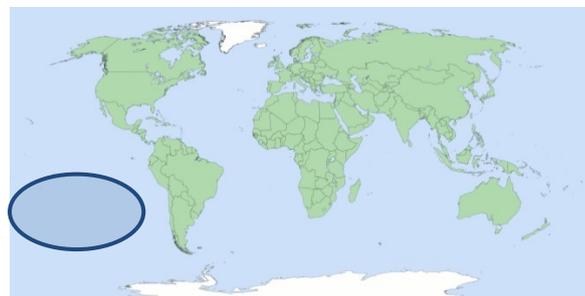
Duration: February 2017 – May 2018 (16 months)

Lead organisation: Noé Conservation



Background:

Due to its wealth in terms of biodiversity, New Caledonia has been designated as one of the 35 "Hotspots" of global biodiversity. The rainforest, containing 83% of endemic species, constitutes an exceptional natural heritage: it is home to more than 2,000 plant species and emblematic animals of the archipelago and covers about 20% of the territory, only around 30% of its original area. On the other hand, the mining scrublands are among the most unique environments in New Caledonia, in particular because of a very diverse flora: 1,140 listed species of which 1,020 are endemic. In terms of diversity, it is second for terrestrial environments only to the rainforest.



Palm trees and conifers are emblematic species of the rainforest and mesophilic forest, as well as mining scrubland, and are symbols of the biological and cultural heritage of New Caledonia.

They are characterized by a high level of endemism and high sensitivity to disturbances, in particular from human activities. Half of conifers and a quarter of palms in the archipelago are in danger of



extinction according to the IUCN Red List. Bush fires, mining activities and invasive species are the main threats to these species and their associated environments.

Description of the Project:

To address this issue and build on the achievements of the "Palmiers et Conifères de Nouvelle-Calédonie" program implemented by Noé since 2009, this project aims to implement a 16-month action plan to contribute to the preservation of 5 palm and conifer species and the protection of their habitats.

The project adopts an integrated approach based on 3 axes:

- Implementation of measures and tools for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of the target species (including capacity building of 4 conservation nurseries for the cultivation of three of the target species, as well as the formalization of a guide for the conservation of the five target species).
- The creation and dissemination of recognition tools to combat illegal trafficking of the target species.
- Awareness-raising of the general public in order to promote the practices and guarantee the long-term sustainability of the project.

Intended results:

The main objective of the project is to strengthen measures and tools for the conservation of threatened palm and coniferous trees in the rainforests and scrublands of New Caledonia and the sustainable management of their natural environments. This objective is broken down into three components:

- Maintain viable populations and promote the conservation of their habitats through the implementation of a concerted conservation strategy integrating local development based on the sustainable use of natural resources.
- Develop and disseminate tools to strengthen the institutional, legal and regulatory framework for the conservation of target species and their habitats in order to consolidate long-term project results.
- Raise awareness of the conservation issues of New Caledonia's palms and conifers and their habitats, rainforest and scrubland, based on the five target species of the project.



CONTACT

Alice GOUZERH
Noé Conservation
agouzerh@noe.org

