



# Strengthening Participative and Integrated Management of the UNESCO Site in Touho

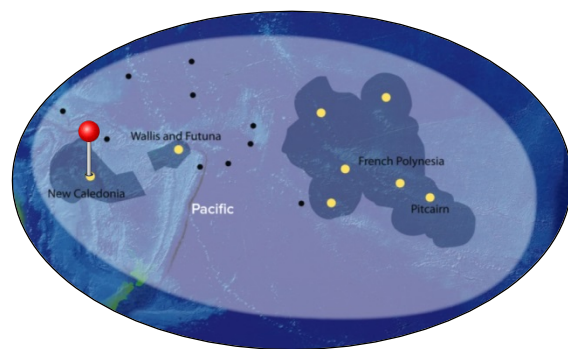
**Targeted territory:** New Caledonia

**Total project budget:** 48,108 Euros

**BEST 2.0 grant awarded:** 48,108 Euros

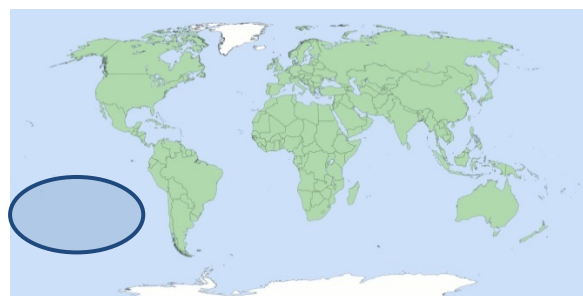
**Duration:** January 2018 – December 2018 (12 months)

**Lead organisation:** Association Hô-üt



## Background:

Recognized for its exceptional biodiversity, the North East Coastal Zone, which includes the commune of Touho, has been listed as an UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2008, along with 5 other lagoon areas in New Caledonia. The majority (64%) of these sites are located in the North Province.



The elected representatives of the North Province wished to engage in the implementation of a participative and integrated management of the provincial part of the World Heritage site. The participatory approach is an essential element in the management of an area with a strong environmental stake and recognized for its exceptional biodiversity. It brings together local actors and the North Province with common objectives for preservation and enhancement of the World Heritage site. Through their involvement in the management of the property local actors are empowered, their

capacities are strengthened and thus they can contribute to the sustainable maintenance of the integrity of the UNESCO site. Associations and management committees are responsible for leading and implementing a management plan with the presence of a facilitator from the Ho-ut Association.

### Description of the Project:

The project will strengthen the participative management of the UNESCO site through the implementation of participatory actions accessible to the whole population and organized by the Ho-üt management association, which is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage management plan.

The project will focus on mangroves. This ecosystem is particularly vulnerable because it is sensitive to human activities and climate disruption. It is however essential to the balance of the lagoon.

Upstream of the participatory actions, field studies will be conducted by consulting firms in order to update and deepen the knowledge acquired on this remarkable ecosystem at the time of the site's inscription by UNESCO. These studies will also make it possible to inventory the different species of mangroves present, to identify degraded areas to be rehabilitated and to ensure the coherence of the actions at the ecological level.

The association will then organize specific training for its members by calling on the expertise of specialists in this area, thus ensuring quality learning. The sharing and dissemination of this knowledge through participatory days, aimed at all (school, women, customary) will involve the local population in the monitoring, management and conservation of this remarkable ecosystem.

### Intended results:

- Improvement of knowledge on the mangroves of the municipality of Touho and definition of degraded spaces.
- Training of members of the association by specialists in planting techniques and mangrove monitoring.
- Reforestation of degraded mangrove areas to ensure their restoration and rehabilitation.
- Participatory actions to preserve the mangrove ecosystem and ensure its sustainability and thus ensure the conservation of associated ecosystems (seagrass beds, coral reefs etc.).
- Increased awareness of the general public as well as municipal and provincial agents.



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