APRIL 2026
BLOSSOM LOCAL PROJECT

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: Pacific Community Communauté du Pacifique, SPREP, IUCN

BLOSSOM
Biodiversity and Landscape restoration for Oceanic islands using Sustainable Strategies and innOvative Methodologies in New Caledonia

Project coordinator : Conservatoire Botanique de Nouvelle-Calédonie

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

August 2025 — March 2027

AMOUNT OF FUNDING

€ 400,000

Theme

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation

Biodiversity conservation

Socio-economic resilience

The project sites are experiencing significant ecological degradation due to increased climate variability, notably prolonged droughts, intensified cyclonic events, rising sea levels, and coastal erosion. These climate risks threaten the region's biodiversity and directly impact community livelihoods reliant on local natural resources.
The overall expected result of the project is to significantly enhance terrestrial ecosystem resilience and biodiversity conservation in New Caledonia.

- Perform advanced spatial analysis and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping to strategically identify and prioritize restoration areas, effectively guiding ecological restoration interventions and optimizing their impact within targeted provinces.
- Successfully restore and enhance ecological resilience by multiplying and planting adapted sandalwood varieties and a range of endemic and native species with ecosystem and economic co-benefits, covering at least 10 hectares.
- Directly engage and empower at least 500 local community members through targeted training programs, Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) approaches, public awareness campaigns, and participatory restoration activities.

Nursery plants arriving on the beach for the coastal ecological restoration operation at Biga - town of Koumac
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Subregion: ■ Melanesia/Timor Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia

New Caledonia

North Province: Koumac communities
Loyalty Islands Province: Maré and Lifou Islands

Beneficiaries:

- **Local Youth** (~50–60 individuals) will benefit from theoretical and practical trainings on ecological restoration, plant nursery techniques, and leadership development. Many participants will be under 30, aiming to enhance their employability and environmental awareness.
- **Community Nursery Staff and Farmers** (~30–40 individuals): technicians, horticultural specialists, and small-scale farmers will receive capacity building and direct support in seed collection, plant propagation, and field planting.
- **Customary Authorities, Women's Associations, and Local Leaders** (~20–30 individuals): they will participate in planning and decision-making processes, ensuring restoration aligns with traditional governance and gender-inclusive frameworks.
- **Institutional Partners and NGOs** (~20 individuals): provincial officers, municipal staff, education centers (CFPPA, EPIFE), and local NGOs (Endemia, Gardien des Îles) will collaborate on training, ecological monitoring, and outreach.
  - **Estimated total population of targeted municipalities**: ~19,000
  - **Total number of direct beneficiaries:** ~120–150

Key results to date:

Spatial analysis and prioritization

- Scoping missions identified Wabao and Pénélo (Maré) as priority pilot sites, with the CADRL as a production and training platform. In Koumac, initial surveys at Biga and Grande Forêt enabled the georeferencing of seed trees, the identification of target species and the establishment of GIS tools. A shared methodological framework was consolidated to rank sites and document their initial condition.

Ecological restoration and biodiversity

- A participatory demonstration project was carried out at Biga (Koumac), combining botanical awareness raising, invasive species control, mulching and planting. Nursery operations began in Koumac across a wide range of species. As of 25 March 2026, 446 native and endemic plants had been recorded in the logical framework, with several thousand additional units currently in production. The sandalwood component began with the identification of seed trees in collaboration with UNC, and the species lists for Maré were refined.

Training, GEDSI, awareness raising and communication

- The Biga fieldwork constituted the first action-training sequence, mobilising the RSMA, CLSPD, Handijob, the municipality and the public in a technical, educational and inclusive approach. In Koumac, the capacity building of staff continues around species identification, nursery techniques and production monitoring. The project also structured its internal tools: illustrated reporting, monitoring tables and shared working documents.

DATA UNDER IUCN-ORO VALIDATION

« This project creates opportunities for exchanges with young people, particularly those facing difficulties; it helps us better understand their needs, and the nursery is a way of introducing techniques, highlighting their abilities and improving their mastery of the cultivation of useful local plants. »

Elise Lapenmal - Town of Koumac / CLSPD - BLOSSOM Team
Photo: Nicolas Rinck / CBNNC @ Kiwa Initiative 2025.

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