THE KIWA INITIATIVE IS FUNDED BY: European Union, France AFD, Canada, Australian Aid, New Zealand Foreign Affairs & Trade
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: Pacific Community Communauté du Pacifique, SPREP, IUCN

KIWA INITIATIVE — SARA

SARA
SAfeguarding, Restoration and Adaptation of seabird colonies and associated ecosystem services

PROVINCE NORD

Project coordinator : Northern Province (Province Nord)

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

April 2023 — March 2027

AMOUNT OF FUNDING

€ 160,797

Theme

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

Main co-benefit, in addition to climate change adaptation

Biodiversity conservation

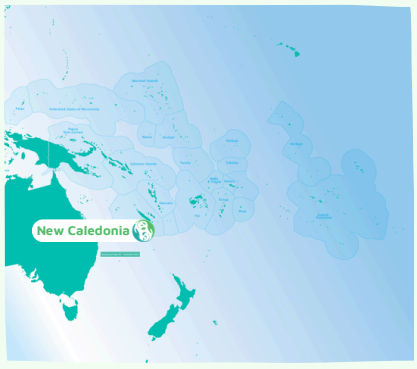
Seabirds play a vital role in maintaining healthy island ecosystems, yet their populations are threatened by invasive species, human activities, habitat loss, and climate change.
This project aims to **collectively protect and restore seabird colonies**, specifically terns (black-naped, roseate, fairy, crested etc.) and their associated ecosystem services in New Caledonia, contributing to biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.

Specific objectives:

- **Protect seabird habitats** on low coral islands to support biodiversity and resilience.
- **Build local capacity** to apply Nature-based Solutions for island and seabird conservation.
- Raise awareness among the public and lagoon users and **promote responsible practices.**
- Coordinate, monitor and share project outcomes locally and regionally.

Monitoring of tern populations on an islet in the far north of New Caledonia - P.Nord © Kiwa Initiative - 2026

Subregion: ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia



New Caledonia

This project will work to restore seabird nesting habitats on 17 Important Bird Area islets, covering a total of 74 hectares within a marine area of 1,240 km².
The project focuses on the islands and islets within Yan'Dagouet, Magone, Pouh, Cayao and Deverd in New Caledonia's Northern Province.

Beneficiaries:
The project aims to engage 500 lagoon users, 500 children, and over 100 marine professionals.

Key results to date:

For contextual and internal reasons within the Northern Province, the SARA project has been revised to become more realistic, more focused and more easily operational. The project duration has been extended to 54 months, with a deadline set for 31 March 2027.

- The awareness-raising objectives have been scaled back: the number of schoolchildren targeted has been reduced from 500 to 200 and the territorial scope has been refocused on three municipalities.
- Ambitious technical actions have been removed, such as the activity of stimulating petrels and storm petrels through vocal playback and artificial burrows.
- The control of certain invasive species has been reformulated in a more flexible way, shifting from a logic of total eradication to an approach of control, or eradication where possible.
- The technical guide initially announced has become a set of illustrated fact sheets, distributed primarily in digital form.
- The project therefore appears less demonstrative and less oriented towards broad or regional dissemination.
- **A new emphasis has been placed on a social and acceptability dimension: the revised project includes consultation of users and regulation of uses, through the addition of surveys, discussion workshops and questionnaires.**

FOCUS on rodent eradication

A significant investment of effort from the teams is required for the implementation of the various phases of rodent eradication work on the islets.
The field steps (cutting of tracks every 20 m for the installation of trapping lines, abundance checks to assess densities and collect genetic samples from individuals, placement of boxes containing baits and spreading, regular checking of boxes, post-intervention abundance checks, evaluation and analysis of results), which are time-consuming and painstaking, have nevertheless led to the eradication of these predatory species on the Deverd islet after two years of effort.
The work carried out makes it possible to optimise the nesting of Nereis terns and other seabirds on unaffected islets, and thus contributes to the maintenance and resilience of these populations.

DATA UNDER IUCN-ORO VALIDATION

« As part of the SARA project, in which our association was involved, I had the opportunity to take part in concrete and stimulating actions consisting of designing and installing plaster bird decoys on islets, in order to encourage their establishment for reproduction and nesting. I particularly appreciated the very hands-on nature of this activity, the fact of contributing directly to the protection of biodiversity on our islets, as well as the richness of the exchanges with the people encountered in the field. An experience that was both human, collaborative and meaningful, which further strengthens my commitment. »

Sophie COLLIN (présidente de l'association Nixumwââk Environnement, géomaticienne et océanographe).
Photo: Sophie Collin @ Kiwa Initiative 2026.

Website: www.province-nord.nc
Email: communication@province-nord.nc