JANUARY 2025
DAYU BIIK LOCAL PROJECT

ACCOMPLISHED

THE KIWA INITIATIVE IS FUNDED BY:
European Union · France AFD · Canada · Australian Aid · New Zealand Foreign Affairs & Trade

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:
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HÙN MÔÔ'M KAHOK

Human behaviour in New Caledonia

Project coordinator : Dayu Biik, Association for the Conservation and Management of Mount Panié - ACCMP

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

Jan. 2023 – Jan. 2025

AMOUNT OF FUNDING

€ 85,924

Theme

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

Main co-benefit, in addition to climate change adaptation

Disaster Risk reduction

In Hienghène, Northern Province of New Caledonia, forest ecosystems are under serious **threat from wildfires and the spread of invasive Caribbean pine trees**. This project supports the restoration of biodiversity in the Mont Panié forest ecosystems and preserves their vital ecosystem services to help mitigate the impacts of climate change. In addition, the project strengthens the capacity of three tribes, to consolidate **customary fire management practices**, and raise awareness about the impacts of wildfires and invasive Caribbean pines on forest ecosystems.

Specific objectives:

- **Restore forest ecosystems** (savanna and forests on volcano-sedimentary substrate) in the municipality of Hienghène, North Province of New Caledonia.
- **Strengthen customary fire management rules** with local communities (three tribes).
- **Communicate with and raise awareness among the general public and school audiences** about the impact of fires and exotic invasive Caribbean pine.
- Build the capacity and skills of local communities in restoring forest ecosystems and in producing communication materials.

COPIL venue of the Hun môô'm Kahok project, Dayu Biik
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Subregion: ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia

New Caledonia

The 3 tribes of Wharé, Ouenpouès and Wândjik (Hienghène municipality)

Beneficiaries:
Over 400 direct beneficiaries in the three target sites.

Key results:

Forest ecosystem restoration

- Restoration activities were carried out over 10.3 hectares, with **3.5 hectares cleared of invasive Caribbean pine trees, 9 000 seedlings planted,** and 200 meters of firebreaks established to protect savannah and forest areas on volcano-sedimentary substrates.

Community engagement and nursery establishment

- **Three community tree nurseries were set up** at Wharé, Ouenpouès and Wândjik, fostering local involvement in ongoing restoration efforts.

Customary fire management rules

- Customary fire management practices were strengthened through four meetings with local authorities and tribal communities, resulting in new regulations: "**It is forbidden to set fire from the mountain to the seashore.** Anyone identified as causing a fire must have their clan take responsibility for restoring the damaged area and organize replanting efforts." These rules will be displayed on signboards near the restoration sites.

Awareness and education

- An awareness session was held at the Wharé private Catholic school, engaging the public and students on the impacts of fire and invasive Caribbean pine on forest ecosystems. Students created **four educational panels** on these topics.

Capacity building

- Local skills were enhanced through training, with ten **young people trained in tree felling** and safety protocols, six in nursery management, and another six in video production. Educational materials were also produced to support these activities.

During the second half of 2023, an accidental fire affected the reforested area of Wândjik. The responsible clan honored their commitment by replanting the affected areas.

DATA UNDER IUCN-ORO VALIDATION

"The project has had a very positive impact on our tribes. It has enabled us to contribute to the restoration of the forests, and our youth have committed themselves to it with determination. Women have also participated actively. This project has mobilized our entire community to strengthen, at our level, resilience to the impacts of climate change."

Fransceca FISDIEPAS, Private Catholic School of Wharé, Hienghène

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