MARCH 2026
PERENNE LOCAL PROJECT

ACCOMPLISHED

THE KIWA INITIATIVE IS FUNDED BY:

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

PERENNE

Protection Et REstauratioN des ripisylves de la NEra en Nouvelle-Calédonie

Project coordinator : WWF-France in New Caledonia, co-animated with CAP-NC (Chamber of agriculture and fisheries of New Caledonia)

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

April 2023 – March 2026

AMOUNT OF FUNDING

Co-financing €272,000

Kiwa €400,000

The erosion of agricultural land in the watershed of the Néra River contributes to terrigenous pollution that downstream affects the coral reefs and associated ecosystems of the Bourail lagoon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This project aims to strengthen the protection of riverbanks and adjacent plots through the restoration and protection of their riparian vegetation, and to reposition trees as a partner in the resilience of both Bourail's agriculture and its lagoon.

Specific project objectives:

- Develop the knowledge necessary for effective restoration of riverbanks and their riparian vegetation.
- Establish a network of pilot projects on farms in the Néra watershed.
- Mobilise the people of Bourail and the youth of New Caledonia in support of their riparian vegetation.

Theme

Integrated Watershed Management

Main co-benefit, in addition to climate change adaptation

Disaster Risk reduction

Through a "training project", future farmers apprenticing at the Chamber of Agriculture and Fisheries of New Caledonia become active participants in the restoration of riparian vegetation!
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Subregion: ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia

New Caledonia

Nera watershed in Bourail municipality, Southern province, New Caledonia

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Beneficiaries:

- 1,500 direct beneficiaries, including 78 farming families living near the Néra who have been made aware of the "Riparian Vegetation" issue, and 8 farms hosting a pilot project.
- 130 secondary school students fully involved in the PERENNE project
- 80 teenagers and young adults who participated in a training project
- A large proportion of New Caledonians made aware through the media of the role of riparian vegetation and the urgency of taking action.

Key results:

LEARN:

Two reports produced constitute the first works addressing New Caledonian riparian vegetation:

- "Deliverable 1 - Typology of riparian zones, diagnostic method and champion species" and
- "Deliverable 2 - Simplified diagnostic and monitoring methodology - Identification of riparian vegetation protection/restoration techniques". These deliverables have been shared with the relevant stakeholders and now serve as the reference tools for working towards the preservation of riparian vegetation on New Caledonia's west coast.

RESTORE:

- **Eight** farms spread across the Néra watershed are hosting a riparian vegetation protection/restoration project, with a combined total of **6,900 plants** from 30 different species planted in the ground, covering 2 km of restored riverbank. These **6,900 plants** were selected from a pool of more than 16,000 plants produced by the 2 partner nursery associations, which have emerged with strengthened expertise and production infrastructure. These pilot projects present a diversity of contexts and approaches: positioning within the hydrographic network (upstream/downstream), pool of species mobilised, crops or livestock (requiring fencing off), restoration methods (installation of bamboo or gaïac fascines, riverbank remodelling with gabions and/or geomat, direct planting, removal of debris jams).

SHARE:

- Youth engagement was central to the project, with two secondary schools in Bourail involved from start to finish - participating in public events and running educational nurseries to grow riparian plants. Restoration activities were also used as hands-on training for young military personnel, agricultural students, apprentice farmers, and youth centre participants.
- Communication with the broader public relied on Facebook and a summary video currently in production. Additional funding will extend the project by three years, bringing in new partners to support riparian vegetation preservation across New Caledonia and the region.

Video review of the PERENNE project : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmQknt_5dn4

DATA UNDER IUCN-ORO VALIDATION

« Maintaining my riverbank plantations takes work and time, more than you would think at the start! On the other hand, we know that we are doing something good for our children and grandchildren! »

Jean-Pierre Renevier, cattle farmer committed to the restoration of his riparian vegetation, with his grandson Renzo, a secondary school student involved in the PERENNE project - H. Géraux / WWF © Kiwa Initiative 2026.

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