



© Pascal Sawva

Strengthening the Drinking Water Supply System of the Commune of Houailou by Maintaining the Ecosystem Services of the Upstream Water Catchment

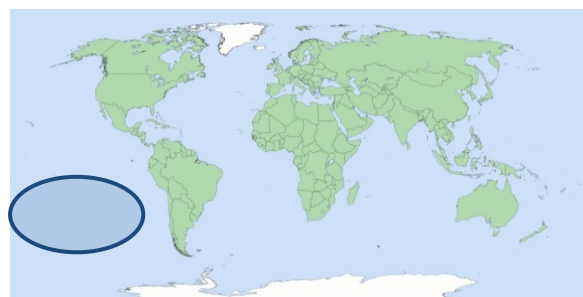
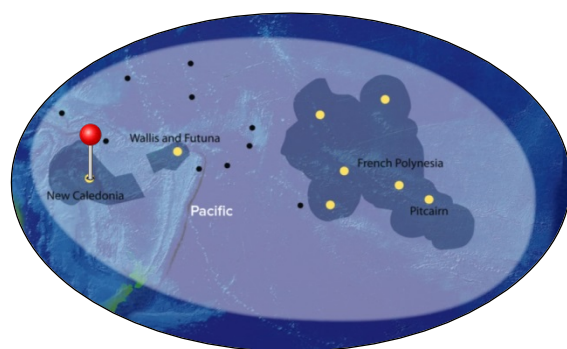
Targeted territory: New Caledonia

Total project budget: 100,000 Euros

BEST 2.0 grant awarded: 100,000 Euros

Duration: March 2017 – May 2018 (15 months)

Lead organisation: Mairie de Houailou



Background:

The municipality of Houailou has 4,250 inhabitants (municipal population on a territory of 980 km²). It is the 3rd municipality of the North Province of New Caledonia. The majority of the population lives in tribes. The municipality has 33 tribes and 2 villages. The whole population is supplied with drinking water through a network of more than 500 km of linear water and more than 10 surface water catchments. There are 14 production units for water in the municipality. Environmental issues (e.g. wild animals, bush fires, landslides, loss of existing vegetation) in certain water catchments leads to both quantitative and qualitative problems in relation to water supply. It is necessary to remedy these

problems quickly, in particular through the involvement of riverside tribes in the attenuation of degradation factors in forest environments upstream, which provide an array of services including reducing erosion, decreasing evaporation and filtering anti-erosive services, limiting evaporation and filtering suspended matter and organic matter.

Description of the Project:

The project will protect and manage the environment of the upstream catchment supplying water to the population of the commune of Houailou to ensure the supply of safe and drinkable water. The management of "wild animals" and humans as well as the protection and replanting of the forest within the perimeter of the surface water catchment will allow an improvement to the quality and the quantities of water.

The maintenance of ecosystem services in the upstream catchments requires the attenuation of the factors of degradation to enable the conservation and the good health of the ecosystem.

To carry out this project the municipality of Houailou will make every effort to ensure the protection of the ecosystem and ensure the safety of infrastructures. Protection of the areas concerned will also be implemented by technical means (erecting of fencing and barriers). The objective achieved will be perpetuated through action, follow-up, maintenance, etc. Carried out by the competent municipal technical services and involving the local populations will ensure its realization and its perpetuation. Subsequently, the municipality will be able to replicate, after evaluation and assessment, this first implementation by means of a general multiannual plan for the protection of all catchments not covered by this project.



Intended results:

- Perimeters for immediate protection of catchment water will be secured.
- Forest ecosystem services will be energized on the perimeters of protection of the catchment water.
- Capacities for intervention and monitoring of populations near the catchments will be strengthened.

CONTACT

Pascal SAWA

Mairie de Houailou

mairie-houailou@lagoon.nc

