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Saving the Endangered Flora of the Raised Anaa Atoll and the Definition of Priority Areas for Conservation based on the Flora and Fauna

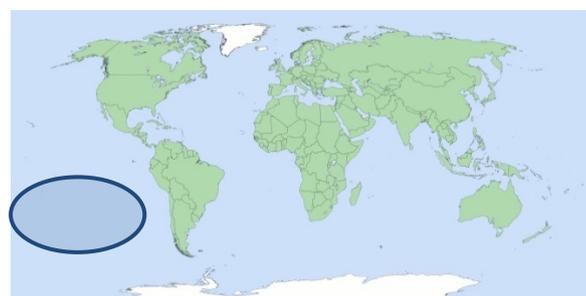
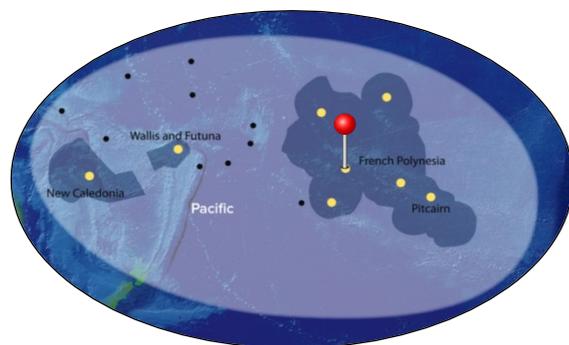
Targeted territory: French Polynesia

Total project budget: 49,916 Euros

BEST 2.0 grant awarded: 49,916 Euros

Duration: April 2017 – March 2018 (12 months)

Lead organisation: Association Pu Tahī Haga no Ganaa



Background:

The project is implemented in the context of a scarcity of natural forests in the atoll due to intensive copraculture and recurrent fires related to agricultural practices. The flora and fauna of the Tuamotu (mostly Makatea, Niau and Anaa) atolls are much richer than those of the neighbouring low atolls with generally 2 to 3 times more indigenous plants and several endemic plants and birds restricted to raised atolls. In this regard, and at the level of the Tuamotu archipelago, conservation actions concerning these atolls are a priority.

Description of the Project:

This project aims at safeguarding the threatened flora of the Anaa atoll by *in situ* and *ex situ* management of these species, by safeguarding the least degraded natural formations, by preparing a project to reintroduce a green pigeon that disseminates the fruits of certain endangered species, and communicating with the local population.

Populations of endangered plant species that are already known will be the subject of a precise census and threat assessment. Plant material (seeds, seedlings and cuttings) will be collected in a non-detrimental way to the mother plants and populations in order to be propagated in a nursery. The plants raised will then be reintroduced into the natural environment or planted within a conservatory and pedagogical plot located in the main village.

A feasibility study and an operational plan for the reintroduction of the green pigeon will be carried out.

The least degraded vegetal formations identified in the flora and avifauna studies already conducted on the atoll since 2006 will be more precisely determined by targeted inventories of molluscs and insects. The conservation sites thus defined at the island scale will be the subject of management proposals that will be made to the owners and authorities and initial conservation actions if necessary (e.g. plantations, fight against invasive species etc.). In addition to actions to communicate with the authorities (commune, country) and owners of land with plant formations and vegetal species, actions will be carried out more widely among the population and schools (public lectures, botanical visits, practical work in nurseries and plantations etc.). A botanical trail (path and signage) will also be set up in the relics of natural forests of the main village as well as within the conservatory plot of patrimonial plants.



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Intended results:

This project will help to safeguard the threatened flora of the Anaa atoll by managing natural populations and preserving priority conservation areas. The population will be sensitized to the preservation of the natural heritage of the atoll to enable sustainable ecotourism to develop. Useful plants (food, pharmaceutical etc.), and water resource will be better preserved along with the forests developing on coral formations exuded and acting as protective dykes for the inhabited areas located on the lagoon side against strong swells, depressions or cyclones.

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