



# ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN NEW CALEDONIA'S NORTHERN PROVINCE

Activities came to an end in late July 2018 with a participatory lessons-learned workshop in Touho (the report will be available shortly) and the departure of the Coordinator, Quentin Delvienne. The stakeholders involved expressed their high level of overall satisfaction with the project's outcomes, its linkages with provincial and local priority areas and the synergy that existed with the INTEGRE project, which ended in early 2018.

The final RESCCUE project report for the Northern Province can be found <a href="here">here</a>: it summarises all the project activities and outcomes at the North-Eastern Coastal Zone pilot site. All the project reports are available <a href="here">here</a>.

Focusing on the municipality of Touho, RESCCUE - Northern Province developed its activities in an integrated management and climate change resilience perspective. In line with its overall rationale, the project worked to reduce non-climate stressors on the ecosystems so as to increase their resilience and, in that way, the resilience of the communities that depend on them. The initiatives were divided in three broad areas working in synergy with each other.

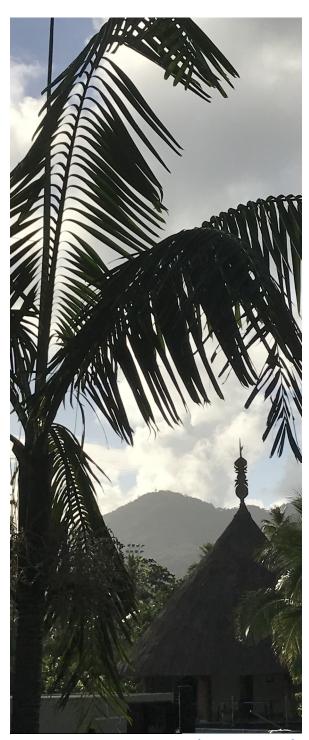


Photo: Margot Mesnard









Photo: Quentin Delvienne

# GAINING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF SOIL EROSION MECHANISMS

Setting up a hydrological, meteorological and erosion monitoring system on three very different plots of lands was designed to enhance understanding of how various types of land status and use impact sediment flow. This is a major issue in terms of drinking water catchments for local communities. Now fully operational, the system has led to innovative partnerships coordinated by the Northern Province, in particular with ONFi, IRD and the University of New Caledonia. Such partnerships ensure sustained use of the system and provide an opportunity for research to feed directly into provincial policies (contact: Caroline Tramier).

# **INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL**

Feral pigs and Rusa deer have spread widely and are causing significant damage to forests, farmland and water resources, with major economic impacts. In order to better regulate the populations of these two species, RESCCUE:

- a. Built the capacities and strengthened the operational capabilities of a local tribal hunting association, Tipwoto, to increase hunting activities, particularly in the drinking water catchment area;
- b. Tested a lottery and individual hunting competition, also designed to strengthen hunting activities. The test came to an end on 25 August 2018 during Touho's municipal festival. The results are being analysed and will soon be available on line;
- c. Studied the possibilities of selling wild venison from hunts in New Caledonia as a potential incentive mechanism. This study, which was conducted in partnership with the New Caledonia Natural Areas Conservancy (CEN) and which received extensive media coverage, was presented to the public on 30 July 2018 and is available here.



### **ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION OF WATERSHEDS**

Ecological restoration of watersheds, particularly the Haccinen drinking water catchment area: in partnership with the Poyes tribal council of clans and the Cèmi Acuut A mulip ("A tree for a life") association, a large number of forest restoration and wildfire awareness operations were undertaken along with tests of small-scale erosion-control structures.



Photo: Quentin Delvienne

### **ECONOMIC ASSESSMENTS**

To support those activities and provide food for thought about developing custom land in the Province, two economic assessments were carried out:

- a. An economic valuation of the services provided by the ecosystems in the Thiem watershed;
- b. An economic assessment of the various management scenarios for managing the Touho watershed.

## **INNOVATIVE FUNDING MECHANISMS**

Finally, RESCCUE studied the feasibility of funding mechanisms to support World-Heritage management associations with trials in the municipalities of Poum and Poindimié, and supported the Northern Province in implementing a fee rate structure for the sea cucumber industry. These local mechanisms supplement the range of possibilities explored at the territorial level as part of RESCCUE, notably by <u>strengthening the mitigation hierarchy</u> and <u>greening taxes and public subsidies</u>.

These outcomes are the result of multiple collaborations involving a large number of stakeholders, more specifically provincial departments; the municipality of Touho; traditional leaders; partners such as IRD, CEN and the New Caledonia Fauna and Hunting Federation; INTEGRE project colleagues and SPC support services;, as well as, of course, the operator consortium made up of ONF International, BioEko and Vertigo Lab.