

ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION!

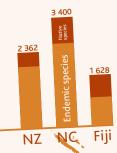
A JOURNEY INTO NEW CALEDONIA'S THREATENED FLORA

Araucarian conifers, kauri pine, orchids, palms, tree ferns... Can New Caledonians picture what riches are hidden in the forests and bush of 'Le Caillou'? And yet, New Caledonia is recognized worldwide as a biodiversity hotspot* because of the richness and vulnerability of its terrestrial flora, which includes almost 3,400 identified species, three-quarters of which are endemic (i.e. unique to New Caledonia).



New Caledonia is recognized globally as a biodiversity hotspot since one out of every 100 plants on Earth can only be found here.

Home to 3,400 species, New Caledonia is the island group with the richest range of flora in the Pacific, ahead of Hawaii and French Polynesia, which rank fourth and fifth, respectively.





Some 40% of the plant species in New Caledonia are at risk of extinction (of the 1052 species assessed since 2015).

RED LIST



* A biodiversity hotspot is a biogeographical region that is a significant reservoir of biodiversity particularly threatened



A network of experts is working to produce a major inventory of the extinctionrisk to the flora in New Caledonia. Established in line with IUCN criteria, the "Red List of Threatened Flora of New Caledonia" is underpinned by solid science and the best knowledge available. It helps identify threatened species: Where are they located? Why are they threatened? How can they be protected? Including them on the Global Red List is a first step towards saving them.

EXTINCT VULNERABLE ENDANGERED

@ndemia.nc

A TRAVELING EXHIBIT

The Endemia Association brings together keen scientists and naturalists who use the "www.endemia.nc" portal to share their knowledge about New Caledonia's fauna and flora. The association has hosted the Red List project since 2014. The photos exhibited here have been provided by 26 photographerbotanists and depict a selection of 21 threate-

ned endemic plants species. Here as elsewhere, we are in the midst of the much discussed sixth great extinction of species. Is there still time to limit the damage? Let yourself be enthralled by these photos of landscapes, trees and flowers and then plan a walk through our forests and hills and along rivers to discover this unique but endangered heritage.

















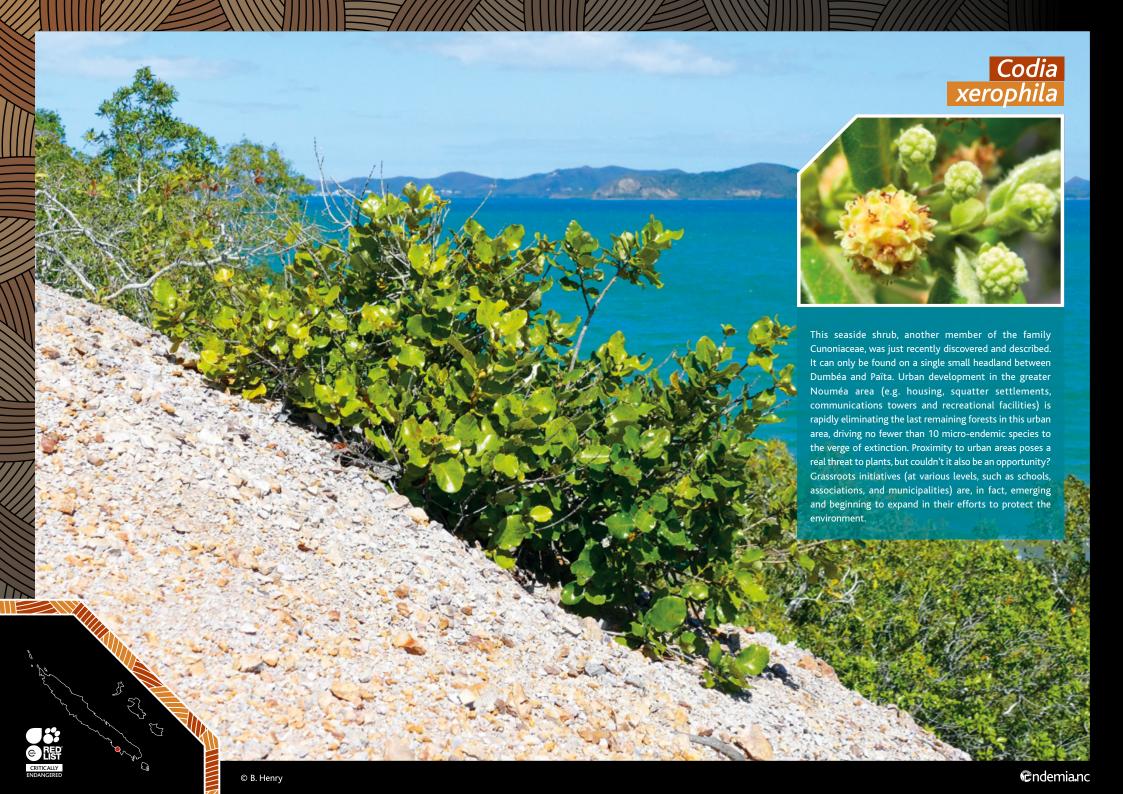














Mezoneuron ouenensis



This vine, a member of the pea family (Fabaceae) described based on a 19th century (1868) collection from Ouen Island, was not found by botanists during field work for the IUCN Red List assessment. The vegetation on this island, located at the extreme southern end of New Caledonia, has been severely damaged by past mining activities and by bush fires that led to heavy erosion. It was considered extinct until a team composed of botanists and the Ouen Island management committee found about 30 individuals along a stream in August 2016. The Ouara tribe is now fully aware that a unique species grows in their area that needs to be protected.











Close to 59% of all threatened species in New Caledonia are affected by the bush fires that rage in low and middle altitude areas, destroying about 20,000 hectares (50,000 acres) of vegetation every year, especially during the dry season, i.e. almost 4% of the territory's total land area.



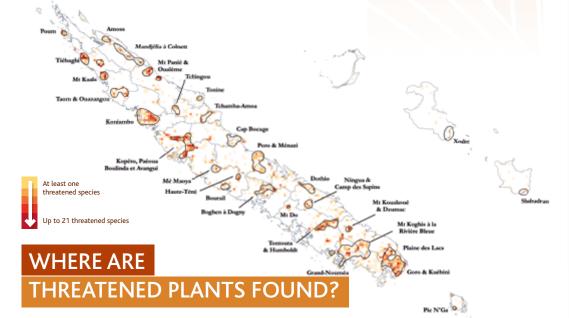
39%

Since the late 19th century, mining activities have led to land clearing and erosion. Operations at two new processing plants at Goro and Vavouto, plus an increase in exports, resulted in the doubling of nickel ore extractions between 2007 and 2016. Meanwhile, replanting efforts have not been sufficient to put an end to the loss of biodiversity.



38%

Invasive animal and plant species seriously damage forests. The rapid spread of deer and wild pigs has resulted in destruction of the undergrowth and can completely prevent the regeneration of certain plant species, eventually driving them to extinction.



YOU CAN HELP BY GETTING INVOLVED IN PROTECTING **NEW CALEDONIA'S PLANTS NEAR YOU!**



PROTECT

Protecting forests, wetlands and maquis vegetation is the best way to preserve species. However, New Caledonia's current network of nature reserves provides protection to only 40% of threatened species. The information gathered in preparing the IUCN Red List has made it possible to identify many natural sites that should be protected.

ENHANCE

Only 4% of threatened species are protected outside their natural habitats. Setting up a Botanical Conservatory in New Caledonia would help organize research and conservation activities, while offering a showcase of native flora for the public through a garden of New Caledonian plants.

REACT

Several associations and groups of local inhabitants are organizing activities to protect nature. They arrange botanical walks so that people can learn more about the plants growing near them, promote efforts to eradicate invasive species, and plant native species. There are many ways to get involved.

DISCOVER

About 18% of the critically endangered species have not been seen during the past 20 years. Exploratory expeditions involving botanists and local habitants can be very useful, as shown by the fact that since 2014, four species long considered to be extinct were re-discovered.

PLANT LOCAL SPECIES

Recent progress in growing plants endemic to New Caledonia has been promising. Several plant nurseries are now selling local species that are both beautiful and useful for replacing exotic species in private gardens and town landscaping. It's time to start planting!



