



Sustainable Management of the Forests of Wallis and Futuna

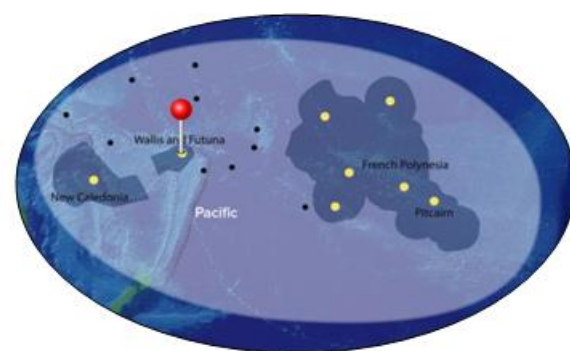
Targeted territory: Wallis and Futuna

Total project budget: 100,000 Euros

BEST 2.0 grant awarded: 100,000 Euros

Duration: March 2017 – August 2018 (18 months)

Lead organisation: Direction des Services de l'Agriculture, de la Forêt et de la Pêche



Background:

Natural forests (dense wetlands and coastal), which previously covered the Wallis and Futuna Islands, were largely cleared for agricultural purposes and replaced by secondary vegetation. Degradation problems are aggravated by the absence of any forestry regulations and the loss of the traditional protection practice, the "vao tapu" (translated as "sacred, forbidden").

Today, the natural forests of Wallis (Uvea), the largest and most populous island in the archipelago, cover a surface of about 800 ha, or 11% of the island area, in patches with very little connectivity and consequently with a corridor effect for the then very restricted species. It is therefore urgently necessary to put in place actions of protection and restoration of the forests on Wallis.

Description of the Project:

This project will implement actions in the following 4 following areas in Wallis:

1. Forest inventory: establish a forest inventory by collecting and analysing data, delineating areas for action, setting up a monitoring system, mapping land use.
2. Local consultations to define conservation measures and develop a strategy for the forest, including existing areas and areas to reforest or extend the forest.



3. Forest rehabilitation pilot project: planting of seedlings in degraded secondary forests.
4. Development of a management plan and a territorial forest policy for sustainable forest management.

A forest inventory will be used to assess forest resources, determine the health and vitality of forest ecosystems, identify the various forest species present in the area and their status, and the ecosystem and economic services provided by the forest.

Consultation and involvement of local stakeholders involved in forest management through the organization of participatory workshops and meetings will also help to identify their expectations regarding forest management and to define strategies for conservation and sustainable management of the forest.

In order to effectively involve villages in forest rehabilitation, three pilot sites, one for each district, will be designated in meetings with customary chiefs and authorities (chiefs of districts and villages and minister of land, fisheries and forestry). The sites will be chosen according to their location (Key Biodiversity Areas containing dense forest) and land availability.

Intended results:

The project aims to promote the conservation of forest biodiversity and the management and sustainable use of forest ecosystems in Wallis. It aims at 4 main results:

1. Realization of the inventory of the forests and its uses in Wallis.
2. Definition of conservation measures with the local population.
3. Implementation of a forest rehabilitation pilot project.
4. Drafting of a management plan and a forestry policy.



CONTACT

Marie Monrolin

Direction des Services de l'Agriculture, de la Forêt et de la Pêche

Marie.monrolin@agripeche.wf

