

# IUCN SSC New Caledonia Plant Red List Authority

2019 Report



Shankar Meyer

## Red List Authority Coordinator

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## Location/Affiliation

Endemia Association, Nouméa,  
New Caledonia, France

## Number of members

48

## Social networks

Facebook: Endemia.nc

Website:

<http://endemia.nc/en/page/le-rla-flore-nc>

## Mission statement

Our goal is to assess the conservation status of the whole flora of New Caledonia by 2020. New Caledonia contains some 3,371 native species of vascular plants, of which 74% are considered endemic. This exceptional floristic diversity is threatened by accelerating development. The Red Listing activities will: (1) bring a valuable tool for local institutions in charge of setting conservation priorities, and (2) allow knowledge improvement by identifying Data Deficient species.

## Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we intend to assess the entire New Caledonian flora using the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, to generate the critical information needed to catalyse and prioritise conservation actions on the most threatened plants of New Caledonia. Through this process, we are generating information on their distribution, habitats, ecology, population trends, threats and ultimately their probability of extinction (extinction risk), which is the starting point for conservation. This information will then be used for conservation planning and priority setting at the national level, to inform private sector decision making and for education and public awareness, which will impact positively the conservation status of New Caledonian flora and sustainable development at the national level.

## Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

### Assess

Red List: complete the IUCN Red List assessment of the entire New Caledonian Flora (3,400 species).

Research activities: publish scientific papers about our Red List Authority's (RLA) work and its results.

### Communicate

Communication: (1) raise awareness among citizens and decision makers about the vulnerability of New Caledonian flora; (2) expand the scope of communication beyond local citizens and decision makers.

## Activities and results 2019

### Assess

#### Red List

**i.** Two hundred and fifty-five species were assessed in 2019. This year we have essentially reached the halfway point of the RLA's work, having roughly assessed 50% of the New Caledonian flora. Maintaining a good working pace for five years was a great accomplishment per se, but now we need to recalibrate our original goal. The main reason for this is that taxonomic issues will prevent us from keeping up the pace in the coming years. We will not stop altogether, of course, but assessments will demand more work and the pace should certainly slow down a little. (KSR #2)

#### Research activities

**i.** Publication of scientific papers about our Red List Authority's (RLA) work had been discussed by former RLA Coordinator Vincent Tanguy with a couple of experts and was projected to be re-launched with the help of the current Endemia/RLA coordination team. Unfortunately, none of the members could make time in 2019 to work on this publication. (KSR #32)



*Retrophyllum minus*, Endangered  
Photo: Vanessa Héquet

*Pichonia munzingeri*, Critically Endangered  
Photo: Gildas Gâteblé



*Acropogon paagoumenensis*, Endangered  
Photo: Dominique Fleurot

## Communicate

### Communication

- i. The photo exhibit raising awareness among citizens and decision makers about the vulnerability of New Caledonian flora has kept on traveling throughout New Caledonia, with nine presentations in eight different venues. In addition, a new exhibit was created to communicate about New Caledonian endemic lizards (66 days of presentations), assessed in late 2017 by Endemia and a group of experts. Overall, the photo exhibits have been displayed for 191 days of presentations. (KSR #36)
- ii. The work of the New Caledonia Plants RLA was presented during three conferences in mainland France and in Réunion Island. In addition, contacts were made with botanical gardens in the US and Australia in order to present the photo exhibit there, but this could not come to fruition. Another opportunity will present itself in 2020, when New Caledonia will be hosting the Pacific Conference for Biodiversity (April). (KSR #36)

## Acknowledgements

We thank the following donors, who helped Endemia set up the New Caledonia Plants Red List Authority in 2014 and allowed it to coordinate the assessment effort: the North and South Provinces of New Caledonia, the French government (by way of the Direction for Agriculture, Forest and Environment), as well as Société Le Nickel, Koniambo Nickel SAS and Vale NC. We would also like to thank the French Biodiversity Agency and the National Centre for Technological Research on Nickel and its Environment, who provided grants for specific Red Listing projects in the coming years. Moreover, we want to thank our scientific and technical partners in and outside of New Caledonia: IRD (French Research Institute for Development), IAC (Agronomical Institute of New Caledonia), NOU and P herbaria, etc. And of course we give huge thanks to all members of our RLA and outside contributors, whose outstanding efforts have helped us accomplish all this work.

## Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 2/5

Assess	2	
Communicate	2	

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 32, 36

KSR: Key Species Result