

# IUCN SSC New Caledonia Plant Red List Authority

2020 Report



Shankar Meyer

## Red List Authority Coordinator

Shankar Meyer

## 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

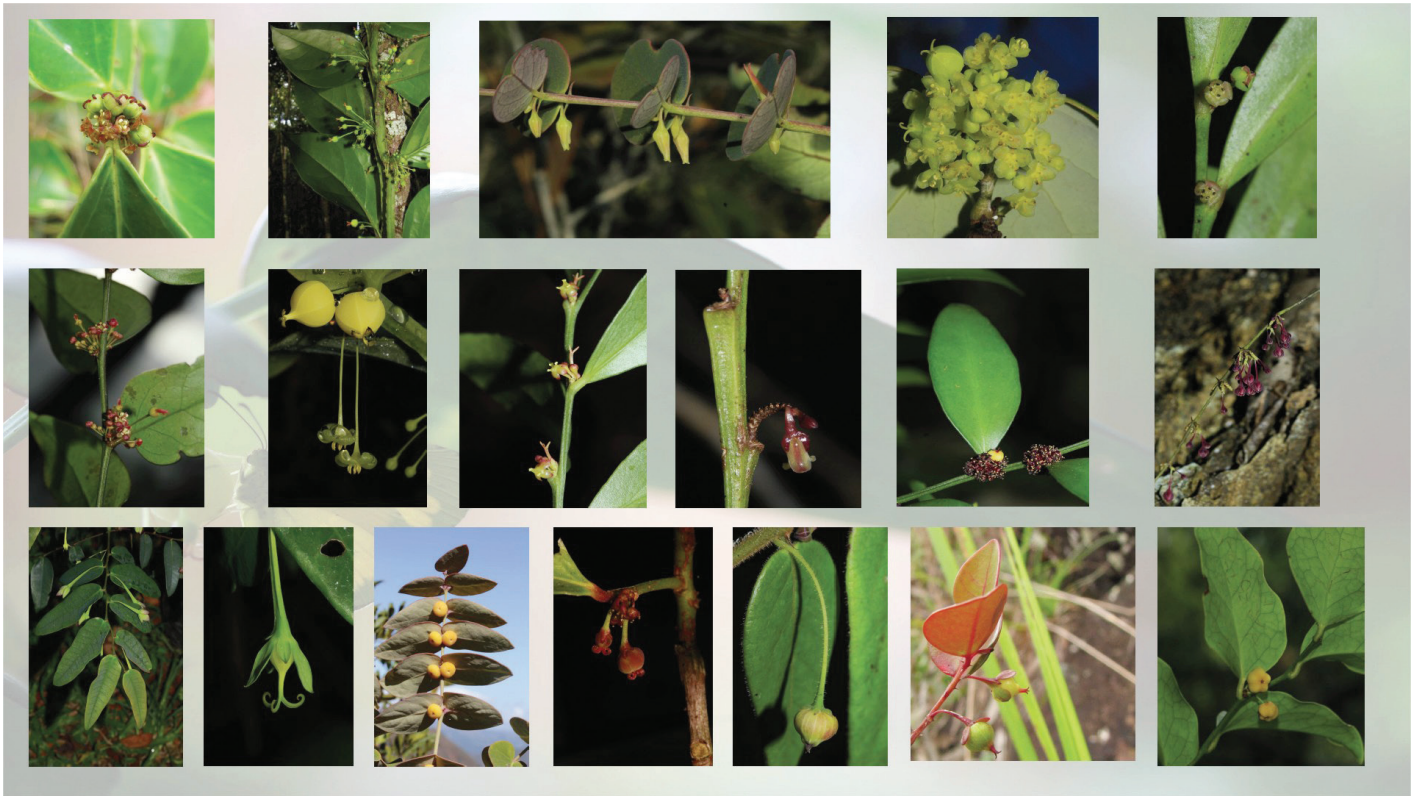
Communication: (1) raise awareness among citizens and decision makers about the vulnerability of New Caledonian flora; (2) expand the scope of communication beyond local citizens and decision makers.

## Activities and results 2020

### Assess

#### Red List

**i.** Our broad goal of assessing the entire New Caledonian flora by 2020 could not be achieved (246 taxa assessed), but the expert group is now well established, and its work and crucial role is widely recognised among local stakeholders. Thus, there is no reason to stop there, and we should still be supported by our funders in the near future. Taxonomic issues in many plant families will continue to be a challenge for the RLA, but hopefully we can keep making contributions in this area by initiating taxonomic studies thanks to complementary grants. (KSR #2)



*Phyllanthus margaretae*, a species assessed as Critically Endangered by the NC Plants RLA in 2020  
Photo: Hervé Vandrot (IAC)

Selection of *Phyllanthus* species, a giant genus that was entirely assessed in 2020  
Photo: Hervé Vandrot (IAC)

#### Research activities

**i.** At the end of the year, the New Caledonia Plant RLA volunteered to contribute to IMPERILED, the IUCN online encyclopaedia. An article is in preparation and will be submitted in 2021, looking back at six years of assessments in New Caledonia. (KSR #32)

#### **Communicate**

##### Communication

**i.** Endemic flora and lizards were presented in multiple venues across the territory. Six public presentations were held for the general public in five different locations. (KSR #36)

**ii.** Communication at the national level has been discussed locally and should take place in 2021. It will involve the French bureau of IUCN, as well as PatriNat, a unit which is in charge of the National Inventory of Natural Heritage and is affiliated with the French Biodiversity Office, the National Museum for Natural History and the National Centre for Scientific Research. (KSR #36)

#### Acknowledgements

We thank the following donors, who helped Endemia set up the New Caledonia Plant 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 Office and the National Centre for Technological Research on Nickel and its Environment, who provided grants for specific Red Listing projects. 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 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 2/5

Assess **2** ||

Communicate **2** ||

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 32, 36

KSR: Key Species Result