



PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT : TOWARDS A COMMUNITY COMMITMENT!

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Encouraging citizenry to become involved in management of the environment, in association with statutory authorities: That was one of the founding principals of WWF's commitment to the multi-partnership dry forest conservation programme between 1997 and 2001.

Proceeding further, WWF then set-up a portfolio of projects. The projects cover conservation stakes of the four priority eco-regions (dry forests, moist forests, fresh-water habitat, coral reefs). These projects involve active participation of both urban and tribal communities alongside statutory authorities.

2006 **ACTION:** Setting-up, in association with coastal tribes in the North-East and in joint management with the Northern Province, of a project to install three Marine Protected Areas. This is part of CRISP.



RESULT:
Three MPAs created in June 2009 (11,400ha);
Two local NGOs set-up the management structure; Two coordinators recruited locally.

2002 **ACTION:** Supporting a local NGO, Dumbéa Rivière Vivante (The Living Dumbéa River), in the creation of a protected area in the Haute-Dumbéa (Upper Dumbea). Dumbéa River has the greatest diversity of fish of any river in New Caledonia.



RESULT: Joint actions with other NGOs starting in 2002. Setting-up of the 9,200ha Parc Provincial de la Haute-Dumbéa (Upper-Dumbea Provincial Park) on the 1st January 2013. Institutionalisation, at the end of 2013, of the Management Committee made up of authorities and NGOs.

2003



ACTION: A sustainable development project at the Gohapin Tribe - Gohapin is the second largest tribe in New Caledonia - for the thoughtful economic development of the Aoupinié Moist Forest, which was, at that time, a nature reserve on paper only...

RESULT: Eco-tourism development: The women of the tribe have set-up about a dozen tree nurseries, planting around 10,000 trees a year (catchment preservation, forestry management); Hands-on study to analyse, in association with the tribe, a protected area proposal in the Aoupinié Forest.

2005



ACTION: The Montagne des Sources bush fire - Citizen mobilisation alongside fire services and local authority personnel to save three protected areas from fire: Montagne des Sources Nature Reserve; Thy Provincial Park and the Blue River Provincial Park.

RESULT:
400 volunteers over 5 days (500men.days);
Fire held at "only" 4,300ha. Consequences ;
Upgrading of Territorial Emergency Services and improved cooperation between fire services and NGOs in other bush fire situations.

2009



ACTION: Setting-up and running of citizen eco-work sites restoring dry forest in the Ouen Toro Provincial Park; Development of a joint management scheme between Noumea City Council and partners for this protected area that stimulates and motivates participation.

RESULT: From the first work site, with 35 volunteers, in 2009 to over a thousand people in 2012; More than 30,000 native trees planted; Setting-up of a joint management plan - partnership contract "authorities-NGOs"; 20% Area extension; Threatened species populations re-introduced or reinforced.

ACTION: **2005**

Setting-up and running of citizen eco-work sites restoring the dry forest within the Michel Corbasson Forestry Park, in association with the Dry Forest Programme and the Southern Province

RESULT:

Between 25 and 200 volunteers at any one time on site; More than 5,000 trees planted; Threatened species populations re-introduced or reinforced.



AS GUIDELINES...

- The local population is where front-line management is.
- Protected Area joint management allows out-sourcing of finance towards the community at large (Citizens, NGOs and companies).
- Including the local community in Protected Area management is the best way to develop eco-citizen responsibility.
- A pilot project should be visible to as many people as possible. The more the information is spread around, the greater will be the chance of others wanting to have a go...



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