

New Caledonia

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Location/Description of Region

1. An Island the size of New Jersey.
2. Located in the South Pacific Ocean
 - Smallest hotspot
 - Several ecosystems
1. Natural vegetation
 2. Evergreen rainforests
 - Grassland/Niaouli



Description of Ecosystem/Habitat

- 3,700 plant species
 - 144 bird species
 - 143 reptile species
1. 80% of all these species are only found on New Caledonia.
- Evergreen forests
 - Shrubland
 - Dry forests
 - Savannas
 - Wetlands

Most significant species that are threatened

- Long-eared bat
- Acropogon bullatus [plant]
- Acropogon aouppinieseis [plant]
- Acropogon megaphyllus [plant]
- Acropora Coral
- Australian Bittern [bird]
- White Neck Petrel [bird]
- Whale Shark [fish]



-New Caledonia gecko

In total 484 species are threatened by biodiversity in the New Caledonia region.

Causes for this threat for biodiversity

- Nickel mining
- Logging
- Land clearing
- widespread fires
- Hunting
- Alien species



Past, current, future state of biodiversity

Past

- Species thrived and weren't threatened 50 years ago

Today

- With alien species, logging, mining and poaching New Caledonia is one of the most biodiversity hotspot area in the world. 80% of the species found in the region are endemic to that area which is crucial for us to stop the harm to them since they can go extinct quicker

Future-Biodiversity state will continue to worsen if these causes continue to not be stopped.

Solutions

- Protecting habitats
- Leave wild animals alone
- Less logging
- Less mining
- Funding conservation groups
- Worldwide Fund for nature



Obstacles to solutions

- Poachers
- Mining companies
- Logging companies
- World Wide Fund for Nature (not taking action)

Implications

- Habitat loss
- Species die off
- Forests disappear
- Natural resources
- Ecosystems

Similar Hotspots

In the South Pacific/Australian region there are 15 similar regions near New Caledonia.

Forests and other species natural habitats are being affected in similar areas.

Ecosystems are being evaluated on for recovery but there is risk for not taking any action.

Active conservation management has not taken measures in all areas of the Australian region to help with biodiversity.

Sources

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/conservation/hotspots>

<https://www.cepf.net/our-work/biodiversity-hotspots/new-caledonia>

<https://www.globalspecies.org/hotspots/display/24>

<https://newcaledoniaplants.com/ecology/>