

# Celebrating 10 years of the New Caledonia Natural Park of the Coral Sea

a review of its objectives, success and challenges

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# Timeline

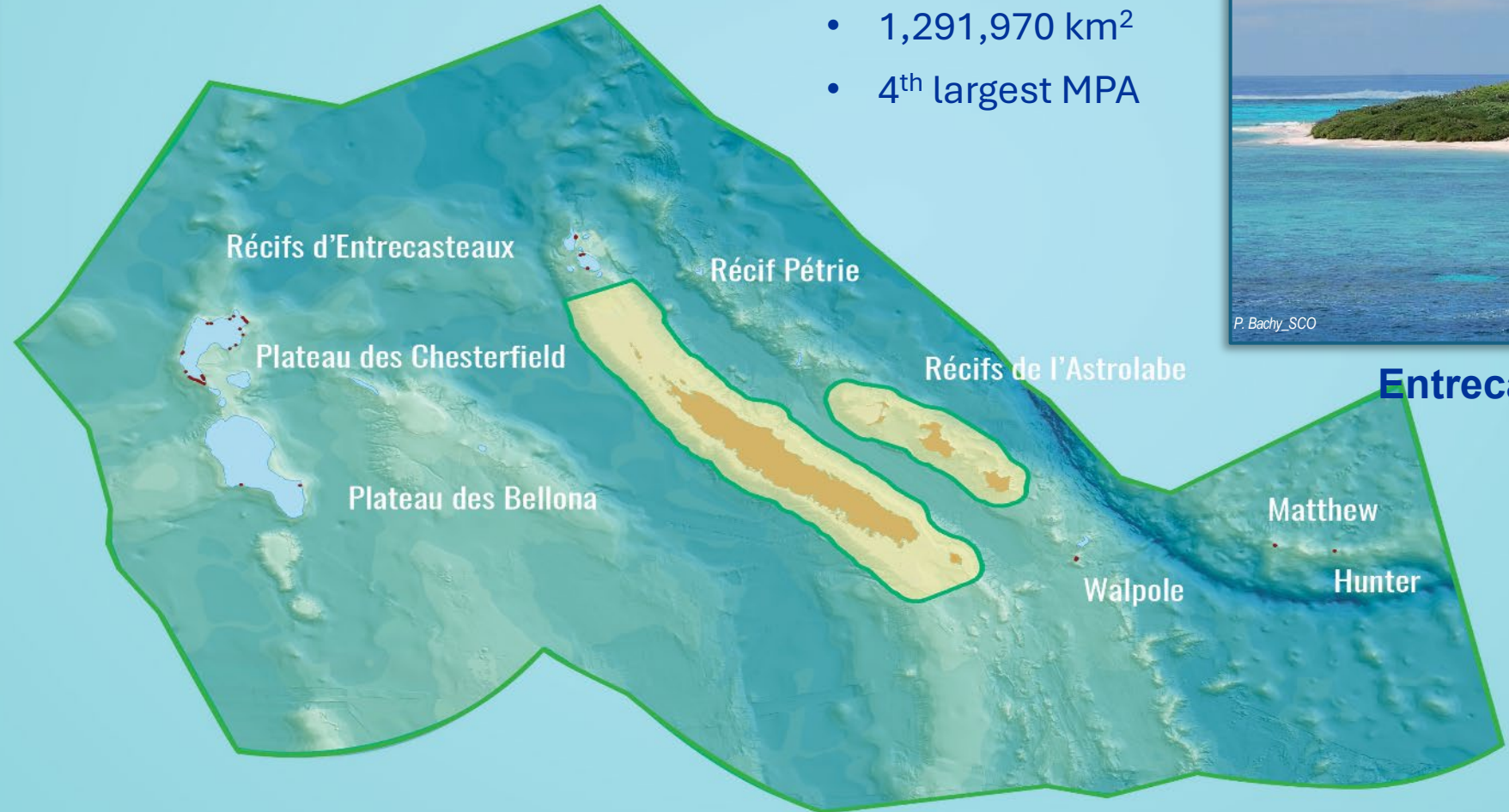


- **2012** New Caledonia announces its intention to create a natural park covering its maritime jurisdiction at the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).
- **2014** creation of the **Natural Park of the Coral Sea**
- **2015** Establishment of a **Management Committee**
- **2018** Establishment of a **Scientific Committee**  
Coral reefs classified as natural and integral reserves
- **2022** Congress adopts the *loi de pays n°2022-1* relating to the protection of New Caledonia's marine areas
- **2023** New IUCN level I reserves established

# Le parc naturel de la mer de Corail

One third of the Earth's reefs

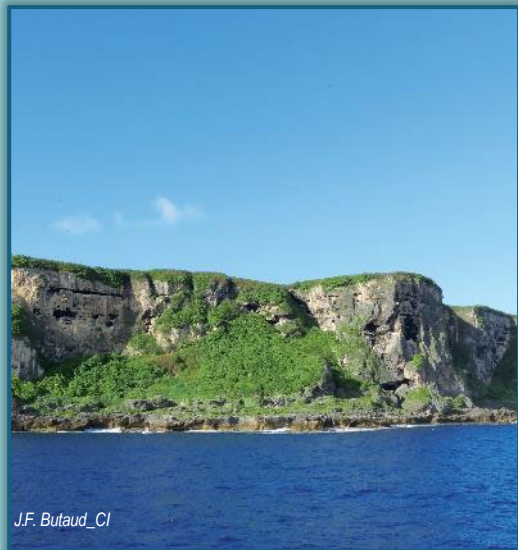
- 1,291,970 km<sup>2</sup>
- 4<sup>th</sup> largest MPA



**Chesterfield**



**Entrecasteaux**



**Walpole**

# A complex and diverse seafloor

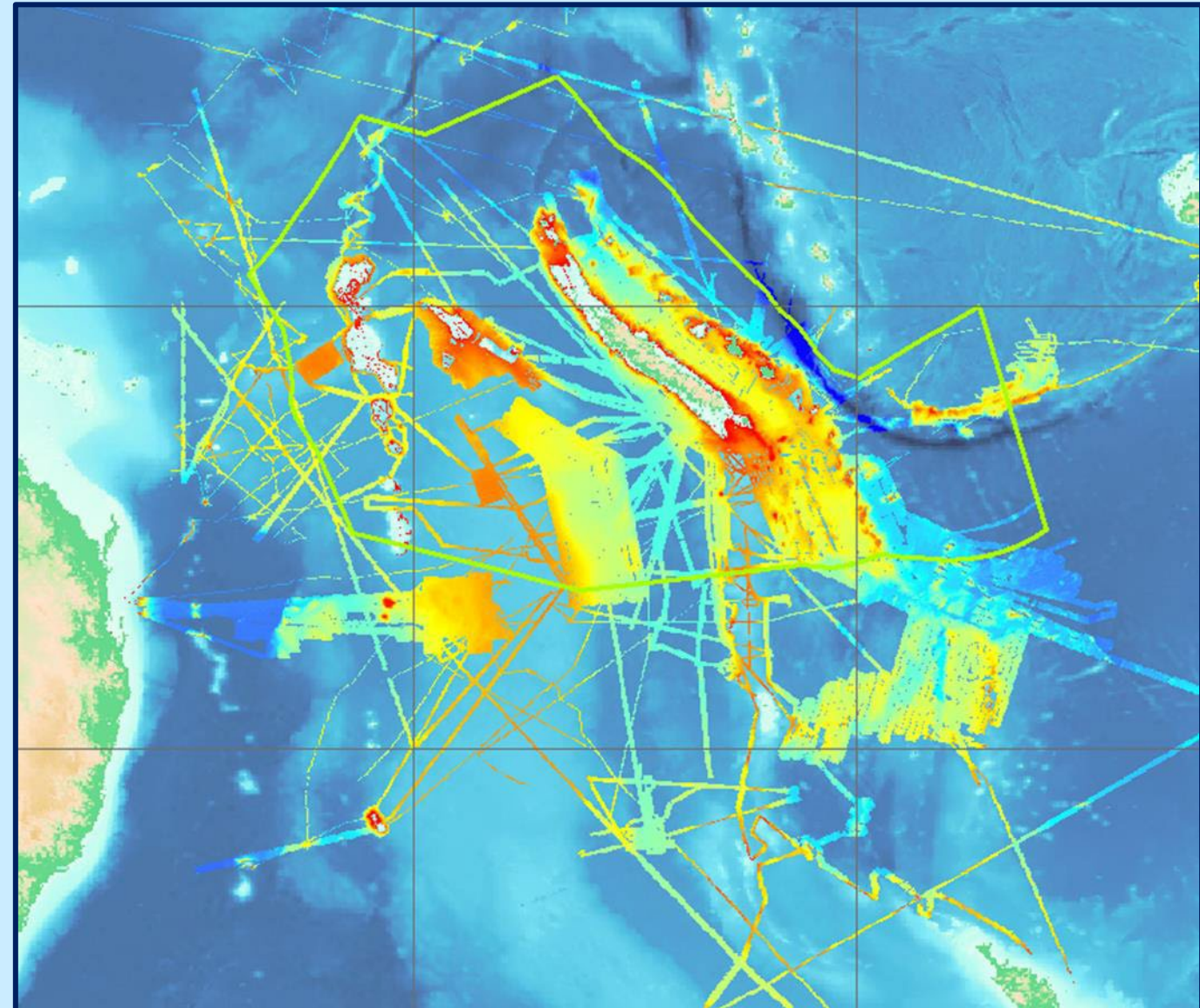
Four large ecosystems:

- Coastal and lagoon
- Coral reef
- Pelagic
- Seamount and Deep-sea Ecosystems



R.V. Amborella

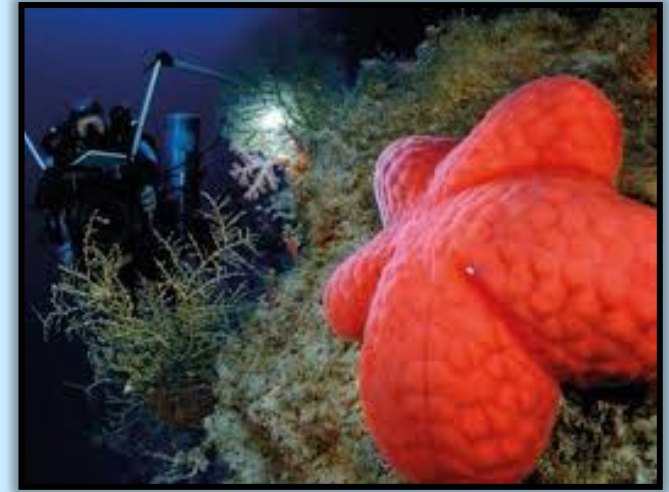
Pierre Bachy, SCO



Karthikyan, 2022

# An exceptional biodiversity

- More than 2,000 fish species
- 25 marine mammal species
- 48 shark species
- 19 breeding birds
- 5 sea turtles



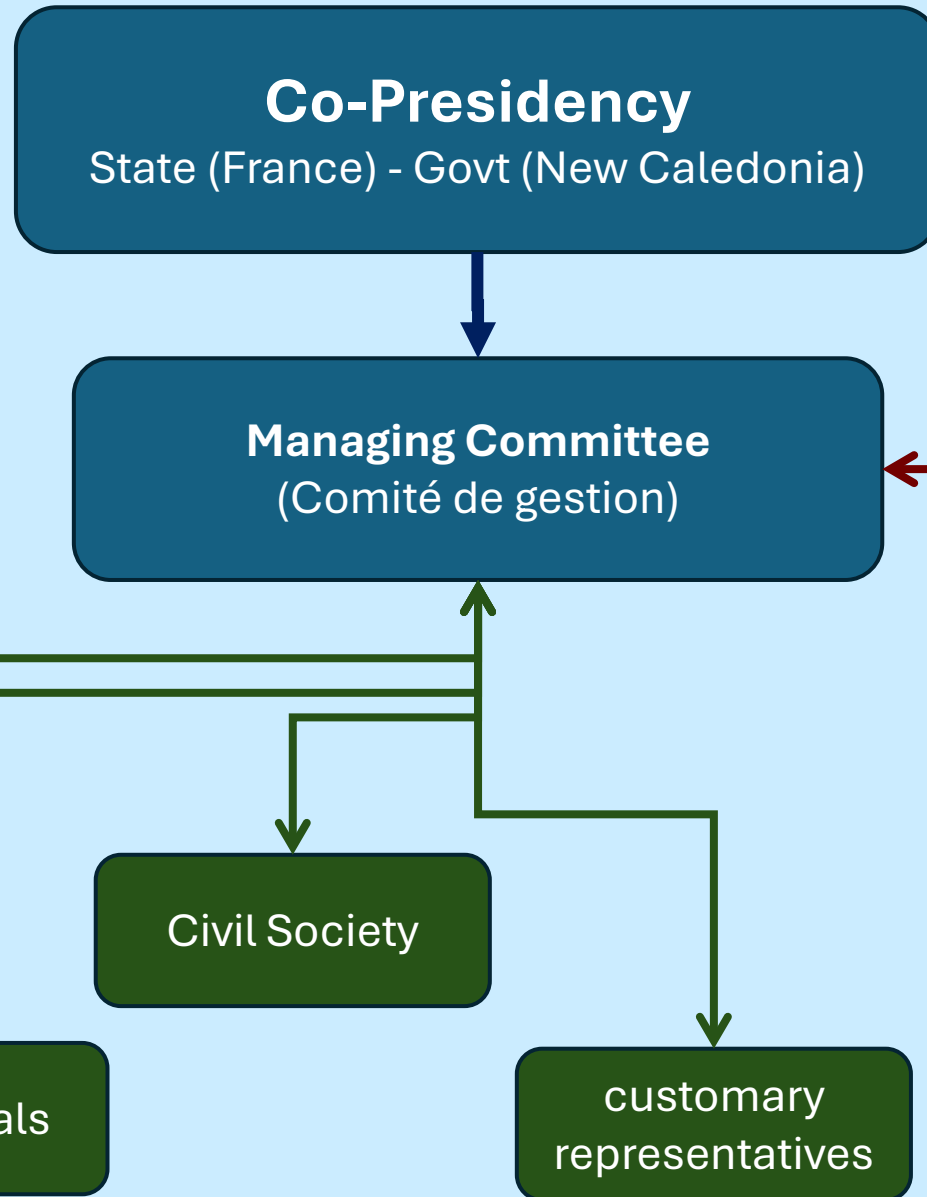


GOUVERNEMENT DE LA  
NOUVELLE  
CALÉDONIE

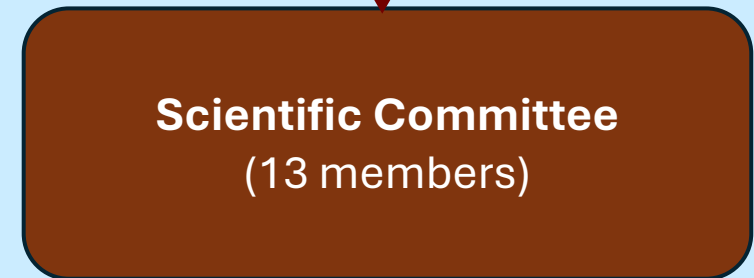


Parc Naturel  
Mer de Corail  
NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE

## Governance

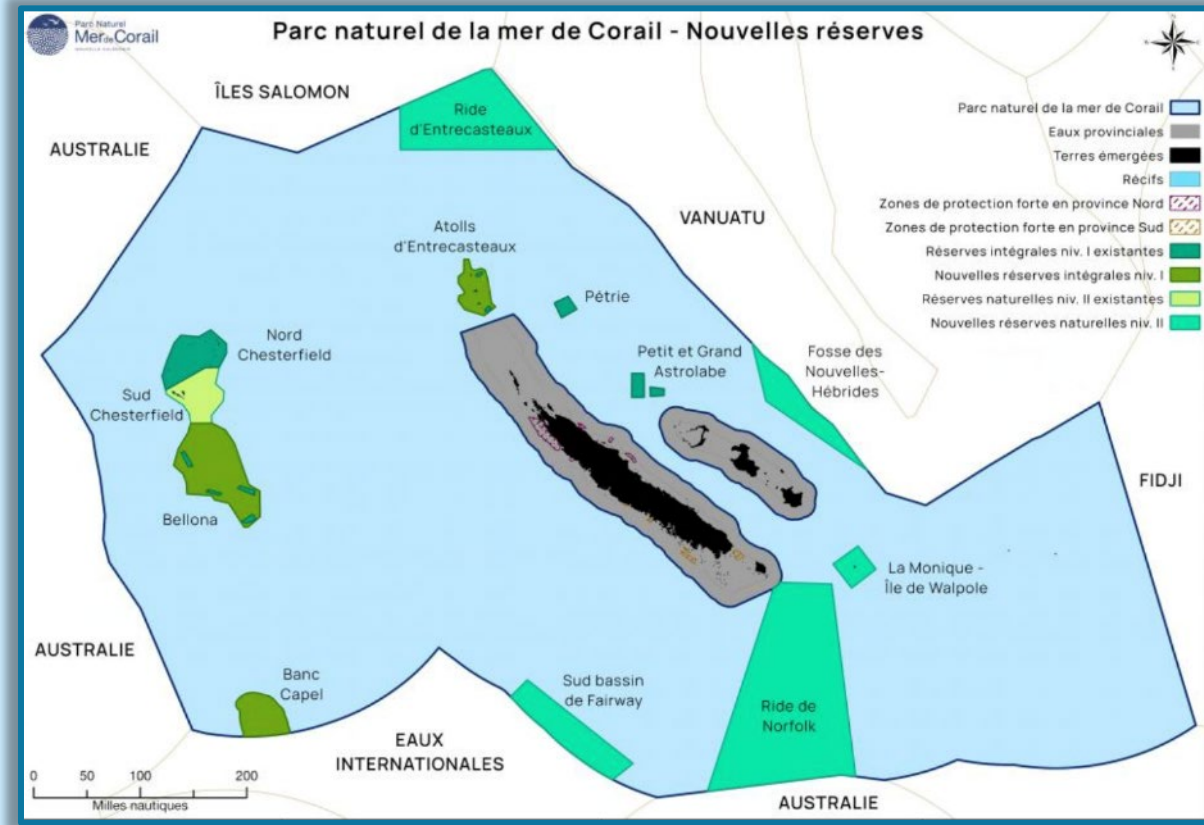


<https://mer-de-corail.gouv.nc>



# Protection levels

- Multiple stakeholders
- Indigenous cultural values
- Presently IUCN level VI
- Extension of 105,000km<sup>2</sup> IUCN level 1



## New natural reserves

- Farway Basin
- Norfolk Ridge
- Walpole
- New-Hebrides trench
- D'Entrecasteaux Ridge



# Some of our Challenges

## Scientific

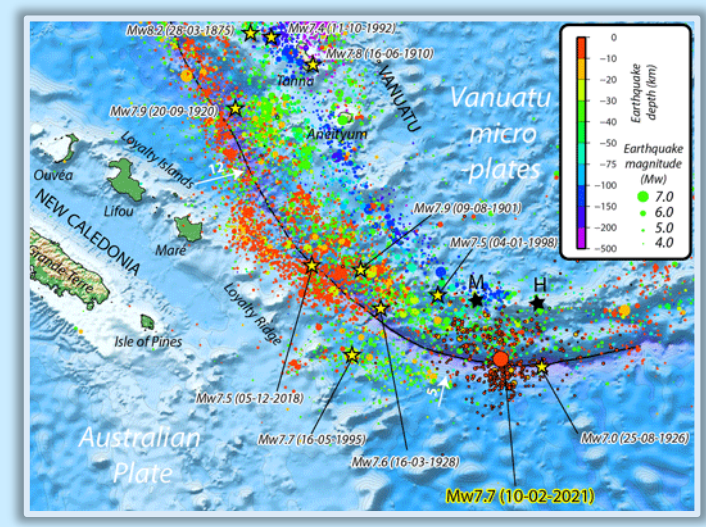
- Natural Hazard - Geosciences
- Ecology - Biology
- MPA -MSP
- Fisheries
- ...

## Legal - Governance

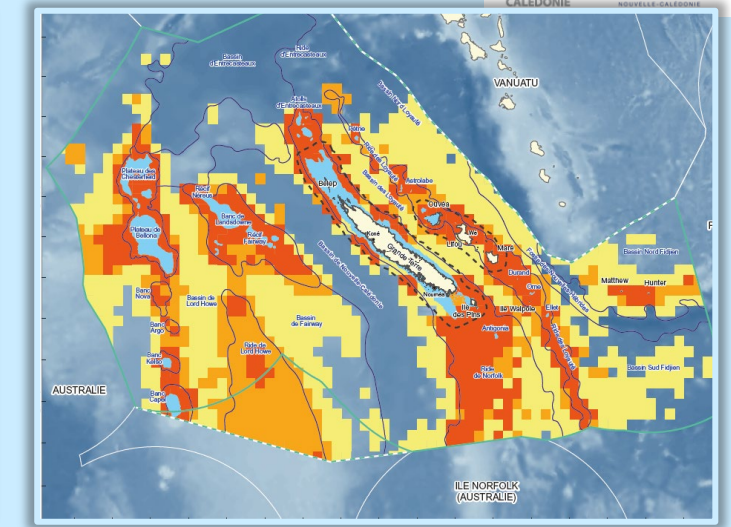
- Parc boundaries
- MPA (today the Parc is IUCN level 6)
- Surveillance and enforcement
- ...

## Cultural and indigenous values

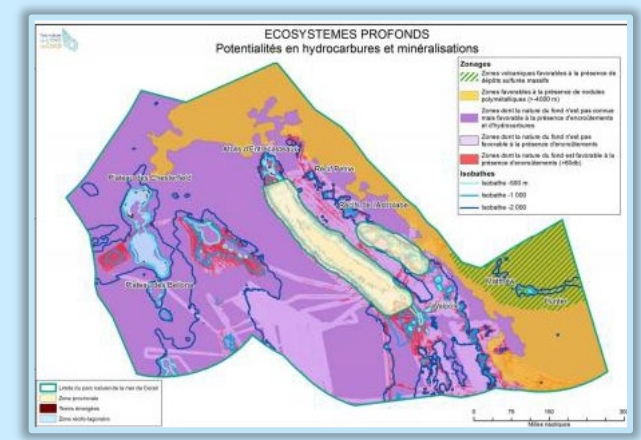
- unique cultural heritage
- The sea as natural heritage of the Kanak culture
- (See Marie-Eve's presentation)



Seismotectonic context (Roger et al. 2023)



Deep ecosystems conservation  
<https://mer-de-corail.gouv.nc>



New Caledonia Government  
<https://mer-de-corail.gouv.nc>



Haches/herminettes en bénitier fossile  
 1er millénaire après J.-C. @Ch. Sand



<https://mer-de-corail.gouv.nc>

Thank you - Nga mihi

