

KAGU RECOVERY PLAN (KRP)

for the conservation of kagus in the wild



THE KAGU

AN ENDANGERED ENDEMIC OF NEW CALEDONIA

AN ATTRACTIVE SPECIES THAT
REMAINS POORLY KNOWN

In short...

The actions undertaken within the frame of the KRP will ensure the conservation of kagus in the wild. The plan's compilation was initiated by the Société Calédonienne d'Ornithologie (SCO), with support from Conservation International (CI). Its redaction was undertaken in cooperation with stakeholders (see below) involved in kagu conservation. These stakeholders have agreed on seven objectives of primary importance for the conservation of kagu... The funds necessary to undertake these actions still need to be determined.

THIS ACTION PLAN SPANS THE PERIOD
FROM 2009 TO 2020
A FULL TIME COORDINATOR HAS BEEN
RECRUITED TO ENSURE THAT ACTIONS
ARE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED

Main objectives of the KRP

1. Document the distribution and density of kagus

The only study on the distribution of kagus on mainland New Caledonia dates back to 1992. Knowledge on their current range is therefore not sufficient to plan the conservation of the species. The first outcome of this objective will be to update the knowledge of kagu distribution. A second outcome will be to initiate a monitoring program of the key kagu populations.

2. Protect and manage key areas for kagu conservation

Some kagu populations occur in protected areas (parks or reserves) that are already being managed and where conservation actions can be implemented with relative ease. Some important populations however occur out of these reserves and should be protected. A few of these populations are located in areas where conservation actions have been undertaken (initiated mainly by nature conservation NGOs) but other populations do not benefit from such initiatives and could disappear without notice. The aim of this objective is to rationalise and strengthen the existing conservation actions while initiating new programs whenever necessary.

3. Maintain or restore connectivity between kagu populations

Habitat loss is an important threat to the flightless kagu. Whenever kagu cannot move between populations, there is a risk of inbreeding or even of disappearance of some populations. This objective aims at favouring exchanges between kagu populations and particularly those that are the most isolated.

4. Reintroduce the kagu

In the north of the island, kagus are rare and their populations spread out. There are no population north of Touho. To ensure kagu conservation on the scale of the island, it is important to reintroduce kagus in the Mont Panié region from which it recently disappeared. This reintroduction should be undertaken along the protection of the isolated populations of the central mountain chain to ensure connectivity between these populations.

5. Improve knowledge on the biology and ecology of kagus and the threats that affect it

Several scientific studies have been undertaken on the kagu but knowledge on this bird is still not enough to define the most appropriate conservation actions. This objective will provide practical data that will be immediately put to use in the management of kagu populations.

6. Communicate and educate on the kagu and its conservation

Although the kagu is everpresent in new caledonian culture, the public is little informed about the best means to protect this bird and sometimes even ignores that the kagu is still endangered. Informing members of the public should make them more responsible, resulting in better kagu conservation.

7. Implementing the plan

The action plan is the result of cooperation between several organisations that are involved in kagu conservation. These various stakeholders wish to maintain their commitment through the creation of a kagu recovery group to ensure that the KRP is successfully implemented. One of the first actions of the group will be to recruit a coordinator for the KRP.

STAKEHOLDERS WHO TOOK PART IN DEFINING THE OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS OF THE KRP



These various organisations all contributed to the KRP. They will follow up this involvement through the kagu recovery group, which will be created by the end of 2008.

Association pour la conservation en co-gestion du Mont Panié – Dayu Biik (ACCMP Dayu Biik)
Association pour la sauvegarde de la nature néo-calédonienne (ASNNC)
Biodical
Centre d'initiation à l'environnement (CIE)
Centre de Documentation Pédagogique (CDP)
Conservation International (CI)
Conservation Research New Caledonia (CORE.NC)
Institut Agronomique Calédonie (IAC)
Parc des Grandes Fougères
Province Nord - Service de l'Environnement
Province Sud - Direction de l'Environnement (Parc Zoologique et Forestier,
Parc Provincial de la Rivière Bleue, Service des Milieux Terrestres)
Société Calédonienne d'Ornithologie (SCO)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)