

Coral reefs and seagrass beds are fragile ecosystems of major importance in New Caledonia

Their roles

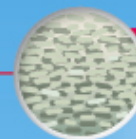
- Feeding areas for marine animals, including rare and endangered species
- Production, cycling and consumption of living matter
- Habitats, refuges, breeding and nesting sites
- Oxygen production and carbon storage
- Stabilization of the seabed
- Food sources for people
- Biodiversity hotspots
- Tourist attractions
- Coastal protection

Their threats

- Land erosion
- Human exploitation
- Extreme climatic events
- Coastal and maritime construction
- Predation by sea stars *Acanthaster planci*

Their protection

In the Southern Province, coral reefs and seagrass beds are protected by environment legislation. Any destruction or modification is strictly forbidden.



Coral reef restoration in progress

Coral rubble accumulation zone

Depth: < -1 metre

Trampling prevents the consolidation of coral debris, slowing the establishment and growth of corals. The purpose of the closure is to encourage coral regeneration through the natural stabilization of the seabed.

Protected area
No entry



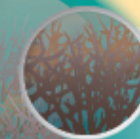
Coral reef restoration in progress

Reef flat with low relief coral colonies

Depth: 1 to 2 metres

Naturally more protected from trampling due to its depth, this area includes a variety of corals growing on consolidated coral rubble. Many butterflyfishes find refuge and food there.

Protected area
No entry



Branching coral colonies

Depth: 2 to 5 metres

This area is essentially composed of branching corals, mostly in good condition, which attract a diverse fish assemblage. Don't miss the many sea anemones and their resident clownfish. Be sure to see the very beautiful gorgonians on the reef wall of Kanuméra islet.

Swimming area



Seagrass beds

Depth: 2 to 5 metres

A dense and healthy seagrass bed covers the sandy bottom all around the reef of Kanuméra. Here you can see emperors, turtles and stingrays.

Swimming area

