

Choose NC interviews Mr. Thibault Bizien, Cofounder of Caledoclean

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__Caledoclean was created in 2012, since then you have been campaigning for the ecological transition in order to effectively and sustainably preserve the right to a healthy environment. What were the key stages in its development in New Caledonia?

Created in 2012, the Caledoclean association is a group of young Caledonians whose objective is to organize and support any action related to ecology in New Caledonia. It started as a simple citizen movement aiming to clean up our island and to challenge the impact of waste on our environment.

Motivated, we volunteered with very active environmental associations in the country in order to actively campaign for ecological transition and to better understand the challenges at the regional level.

This is how we gradually built our associative project articulated around three missions:

1. The organization of operations to clean up polluted sites (beaches, mangroves, islets, squats, neighborhoods, tribes), the collection and recovery of recyclable materials.
2. Reforestation of degraded natural areas (fires, mines, development).
3. Raising awareness among the general public through eco-citizen events and school interventions.

With more and more partners, requests and an increase in our action, we have reached the limits of

volunteering and have had to make the choice of professionalization and develop our organization. Through the intermediary of the salaried staff, we were thus able to balance the implications of each one but also to increase in competence, to be more efficient and available in our missions thanks to the support of the institutions.

In nine years of existence, hundreds of actions have been carried out with more than 600 tonnes of waste collected, of which 450 tonnes have been recovered by local recycling channels. No less than 70,000 trees planted to restore our forests and preserve biodiversity with the thousands of people who have joined forces with us.

__You regularly clean up polluted sites and endemic tree plantations, what projects are you working on at the moment? What are your goals for the next 3 years?

We intend to establish new partnerships to strengthen our structure and its functioning and ensure the successful completion of our missions.

We wish to continue the work started on the reforested plots in order to create real forest sanctuaries which will consolidate ecological corridors, boost ecosystem services and participate in the preservation of endemic species.

We also aim to step up our communication to involve more and more Caledonians in our actions throughout the year, but also to invite them to become involved on a daily basis as eco-citizens.

__You created the program Les Éco'futé available on YouTube to promote collective awareness of ecology, what other actions are you taking to raise public awareness?

Created by the Caledonian Energy Agency, the Éco'futé program is a tool that makes it possible to challenge Caledonians on energy transition and to make information accessible so that everyone can become an actor at their own level. With our partners, we will ensure the establishment of new communication vectors to raise awareness among Caledonian citizens on all matters relating to ecology and ensure the widest possible dissemination of information.

We also want to step up our interventions with school audiences and works councils in order to reach out to the entire population in all its diversity.



__Your final message for potential investors interested in the natural products sector in New Caledonia? What do you think are the main assets of this region?

With its magnificent landscapes and its specific nature, New Caledonia is today a country of opportunities for the development of responsible and sustainable tourism.

Benefiting from a tropical climate and a lot of sunshine, it is also conducive to the production of green and renewable energy.

A territory of innovation, our small island is a real niche for scientific research with its endemic species and its unique ecosystems in the Pacific.

The study of its flora and fauna could result in new technological developments, particularly in the fields of agriculture, chemistry and physics, medicine and cosmetics.

 98 312
trees planted

 734 047
kgs collected

__How important is the ecological transition for the Caledonian economy?

New Caledonia is today the third country with the highest rate of endemism in the world, which has remarkable biodiversity. It is absolutely essential for our territory to ensure its development by taking into account this exceptional natural heritage.

We are fortunate to have abundant natural resources and also have a responsibility to make good use of them and protect this environment on which our quality of life depends.

The sustainability of our economy is based on our ability to showcase our local products and our regional specificities while promoting the ecosystems that allow the emergence of our raw materials.

The economic model of ecological transition consists of enriching the biodiversity and resilience of natural environments so that they generate more raw material.

It is a model applicable in many sectors, particularly in agricultural production, forestry, shrimp and fish farming, but also in experimental sciences such as ore extraction by bioaccumulation in plants.

