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VANUATU ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SOCIETY

Threatened Species Factsheet No. 27

PACIFIC KAURI

What are they called?

Scientific:
Agathis macrophylla
Other English:
French: Kaori
Bislama: Kaori
Vernacular: nejev (Aneiytum), nendu (Erromango)

A little bit about them:

This particular species is part of the conifers group. These trees are found on Aneityum, Tanna and Erromango in Vanuatu, as well we Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

The Pacific Kauri grows in elevations of 50-550m, usually in volcanic soils.

Note: This species is very similar to the Santo Kauri which is found only on Santo in Vanuatu. The Santo Kauri prefers higher elevations of 450-760m.

What do they look like?

This is a large tree, reaching 1-3m in trunk diameter, and typically 30-40m tall. Bark is smooth on young trees, and scaly or platy when mature. It has leathery dark green leaves, seed cones (globe shaped female cones) and wide spreading root systems.

Source: Tony Rodd Photography

Did you know?

- The only protected area specifically designated for *Agathis macrophylla* is the Erromango Kauri Reserve in Vanuatu.

This tree is classified as Endangered (EN) on the IUCN Red List .

Why are they threatened?

- Unsustainable logging in natural forests is ongoing in parts of the Pacific Kauri's range is the biggest threat.

Source: Chad Husby Photography

What do they do for us?

- *Agathis* functions as a keystone species due to its size and growth form as a canopy emergent tree.
- It has wide spreading root systems that help stabilize soils on ridges and slopes, preventing erosion.
- It is used in local /traditional medicine.
- The resin is used for lighting (fuelwood), canoe making and tattooing.

What can we do for them?

- ✓ Establish Community Conservation Areas that protect it's natural habitat, and register these CCAs with the DEPC.
- ✓ Raise awareness of the threats to and benefits of this species in local communities.
- ✓ If harvested, make sure it is managed sustainably. For example for every mature tree cut down, many new seedlings are planted to replace it and to be used in the future with appropriate planning.

Want to know more?

- Visit: www.iucnredlist.org
- Contact Vanuatu's Department of Forests
- Book: *Remarkable plants of Vanuatu* by Ramon L. & Sam C., 2015

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CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

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