

Activity report 2025



**Société
d'Ornithologie
de Polynésie**

President's introduction

A new year is coming to an end for **Manu**, a year marked by concrete actions, significant progress, and above all, a collective energy that warms the heart.

Thank you to the entire team for your unwavering commitment, professionalism, and passion for fieldwork. Every day, you bring our mission to life with quiet dedication and remarkable strength. A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers who contribute to our various projects.

We would like to extend our gratitude to our partners for their trust and invaluable support. Together, hand in hand, we continue to move forward in protecting the birds of Polynesia.

Let's continue along this path with humility, determination, and solidarity.



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2025 in numbers

- **250** volunteers mobilized
- **126** members
- **17** staff members
- **11** local service providers engaged on the islands of Fatu Hiva & Rapa
- **10** Board of Directors members
- **6** island-based environmental NGOs supported
- **1** wild bird rehabilitation care center created
- **1** chick hatched from a captive-incubated egg & raised to independence - a first for this genus of flycatchers!
- **1** new website launched



SAVING THE ÔMA'Ò KEEKEE, FATU HIVA MONARCH

The Fatu Hiva Monarch (*Pomarea whitneyi*) population remains extremely fragile, with only **16 individuals** in the wild. Despite the loss of a 15-year-old female in 2025, the formation of a **new breeding pair**, that includes a young 3-year-old female, brings an encouraging sign.

The breeding dynamic remains positive, with **2 successful breeding events**: one chick fledged in late 2025, and another was still alive as of March 2026.

Monitoring and invasive species control efforts continue thanks to a strengthened field team and the INSPIRE project, which enabled the removal of more than 33,000 miconia plants, along targeted actions against rats, feral cats, and pigs. Efforts to combat against mosquitoes that carry avian malaria are also on-going, with the maintenance of 20 traps and research conducted in partnership with the Institut Louis Malardé (ILM).

At the same time, public awareness efforts have expanded, highlighted by the first Monarch Festival held in Fatu Hiva in July and participation in the Matava'a o Ua Huka festival in December.

EX-SITU CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR THE FATU HIVA MONARCH

2025 marked significant progress for the Monarch captive breeding conservation program. Despite a difficult start, protocols quickly improved thanks to support from Hawaiian specialists and the strengthening of the local team.

The captive program now counts **3 birds** successfully raised to independence. A major milestone was reached with **the successful rearing of the first chick hatched from a captive-incubated egg** - a first for this genus of flycatchers! Infrastructure was also reinforced with **new aviaries** coming into service, improving housing conditions and enabling the gradual transfer of individuals.

These achievements are highly encouraging, but the program remains fragile, as captive breeding continues to be a considerable challenge for this critically endangered species.





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SAVING THE TAHITI MONARCH 'ŌMĀMA'O – *POMAREA NIGRA*

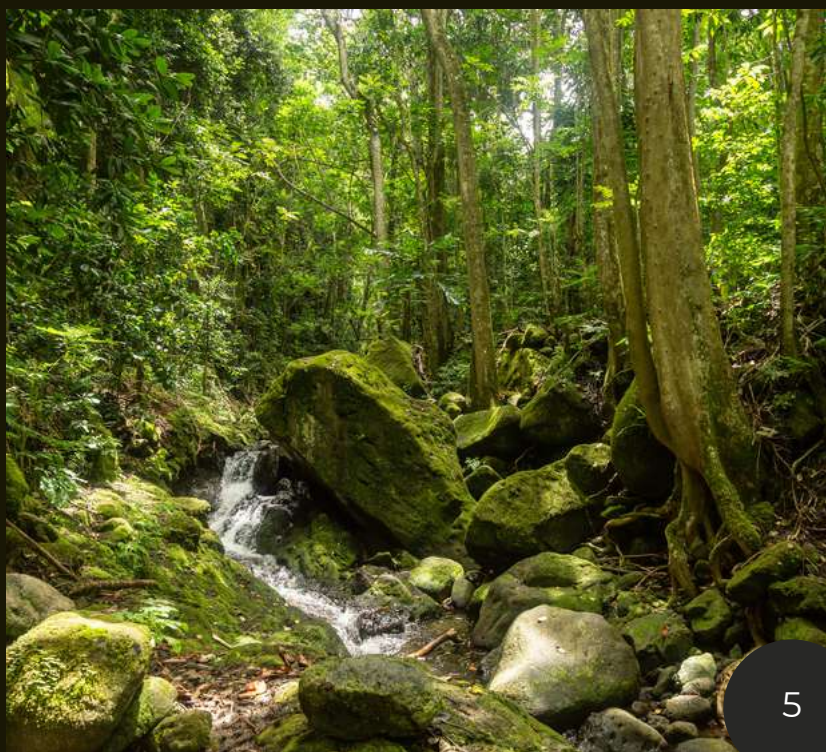
The 'ōmāma'o population continues to grow, reaching **165 adults** at the end of 2025, compared with 154 in 2024. The 2024-2025 season ended on a positive note with 25 of 28 fledglings surviving, while the current season has already produced **30 young fledglings**. On Hopa, 3 of the 4 juveniles translocated in 2022 were observed again in 2025, and one of

of them even produced another chick this year. Habitat restoration efforts also continue, with 646 seedlings planted. As part of this effort, and to train the next generation, an active partnership is underway with the John Doom High School and its vocational Wildlife and Nature Management program.

FIGHT AGAINST LITTLE FIRE ANT

The cliff in the Maruapo/Te Maru Ata valley, recontaminated in 2022, underwent a new drone treatment.

Surveys conducted in 2025 revealed a new infestation at the Mata Miti subdivision, linked to homes that had not been tested in 2023-2024.





TRANSLOCATION PROJECT FOR THE TŪTURURŪ (*PAMPUSANA ERYTHROPTERUS*)

In 2024, the Tūtururū population on Tenararo was estimated at 114-133 individuals, confirming a decline since 2015 (163 individuals). Therefore, an additional survey was conducted in 2025 to assess the overall population status. The two other sites restored by Manu in 2015, was monitored and we found that their populations has significantly increased since 2015: Tenania (68 individuals) and Vahanga (40 individuals).

The translocation plan, aimed at creating a safety population in Temoe, was drafted in 2025. However, the rapid expansion of the yellow crazy ant on the atoll represents a significant risk for the future Tūtururū population.

In response to this threat, three manual eradication campaigns were carried out in 2025 across 60 hectares infested in the East and North of Temoe, requiring the opening of trails every 20 meters through the vegetation. This work was carried out with the help of the local NGO Toromiki no Mangavea.



PROTECTION OF RAPA ENDEMIC BIRDS (KOKO AND KĀKIKĀKI)

The Koko, a critically endangered Ptilopus pigeon endemic to Rapa, is monitored annually. In April 2025, its population was estimated at around **193 individuals** (165–220), suggesting relative stability.

Koko protection relies in particular on preserving the last remaining natural forests, especially at Mt Perau. As part of this effort, an **ungulate exclusion fence over 6 km long** is currently being built to protect **380 hectares**. At the same time, control of invasive plant species continues in the Iri valley.



The **Kākikāki**, a seabird also critically endangered and endemic to Rapa, breeds only on the islets surrounding the main island. Fewer than 100 pairs are estimated to remain worldwide.

Ten burrows have been located and monitored: eight on Rapa Iti and two on Tautourou. Results show that both Tautourou burrows produced chicks (following the rat eradication carried out in 2023), while only two burrows succeeded on Rapa Iti (the 2023 rat eradication having failed there).

A second rat eradication was carried out in November 2025 on Rapa Iti, with the dose increased to 15 kg/ha and two applications spaced 15 days apart. Finally, habitat restoration at Tautourou continues, with control of invasive guava trees and planting of native species.



PROTECTION OF THE 'AO (GREEN-BACKED HERON)

In 2025, monitoring of the Green-backed Heron continued to further understand its population trends and distribution. At least 100 individuals were recorded in Tahiti, compared to an estimate of 70 in 2009, suggesting a population increase.

At the same time, the translocation program to establish a safety population in Huahine continued, with **the release of 9 herons** in Bourayne Bay. Monitoring confirmed the good adaptation of the reintroduced birds and led to a major discovery: the first chick born in Huahine! This marks a significant step for the conservation of this subspecies, classified as Critically Endangered in French Polynesia.

RESTORATION OF UNINHABITED ISLETS IN THE MARQUESAS

A survey conducted in late 2025 made it possible to:

- **Confirm the absence of rats on 3 motu of Ua Pou** following the 2023 operation
- Visit the 4 other islets of the LIFE OVERSEAS project: Hatutaa, Hatu Iti, Fatu Uku, and Mohotani
- Monitor threatened species on these islets through counts & passive acoustic recorders
- Discuss the restoration project with local decision-makers and train Marquesans in avifauna monitoring techniques

SEABIRD RESCUE

This year, a proper wild bird rehabilitation center was established at our Toahotu premises. A qualified staff member, Sam Renault, was recruited to oversee the birds care and manage the center's operations. She joined the team in February, allowing rehabilitation activities to effectively begin, with an official inauguration in July 2025. Birds reported to SOP, most of which were successfully released:

- **474 birds admitted, of which 367 were released, representing an overall survival rate of 77%** (compared to 332 saved in 2024)
- 320 were *Procellariidae* (273 Tahiti Petrels, 38 Tropical Shearwaters, 6 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters)
- 154 birds from other groups (80 Noddies, 22 White Terns, 25 Phaetons, 10 Boobies, 3 Ptilopus pigeons...) compared to 114 in 2024



MONITORING OF THE MARQUESAS KINGFISHER (PĀHI)

In September 2025 in Tahuata, **4 local from each village were trained** in monitoring the Marquesas Kingfisher (Critically Endangered). The census estimated the population at between 384 and 477 individuals, compared to 400 in 2020.

The survey also revitalized the local NGO, which plans new conservation actions for 2026!



PROTECTION OF SEABIRDS IN GAMBIER

2025 actions included :

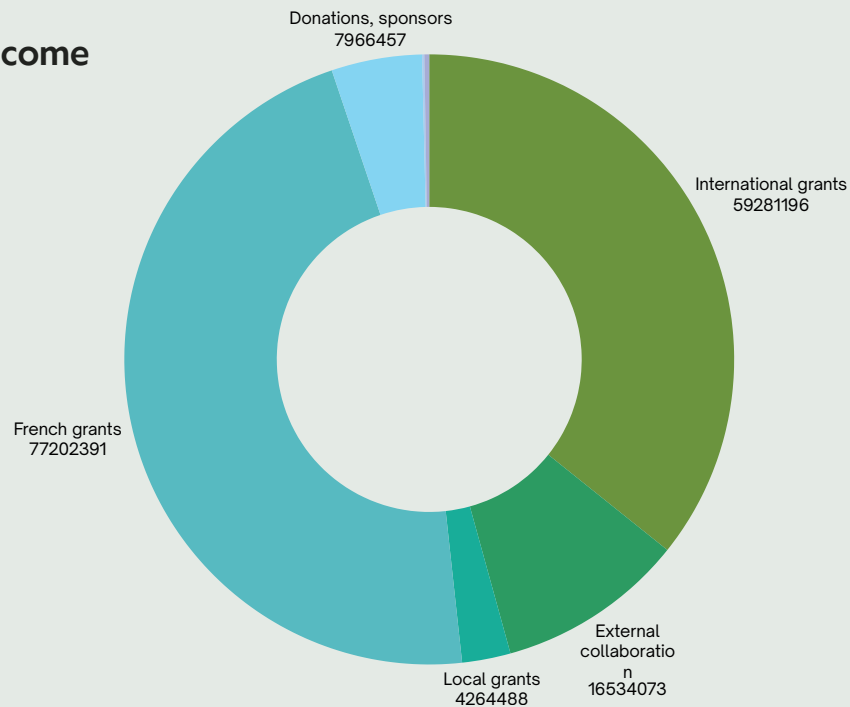
- Maintenance of **2 sound systems to attract a Polynesian Storm Petrel colony**, with automatic camera monitoring on Kamaka Island. There is an increase of individuals visiting the sites but they are not nesting yet.
- Study of movements of Murphy's Petrels and Polynesian Storm Petrels - initial data show very significant movements across the Pacific.



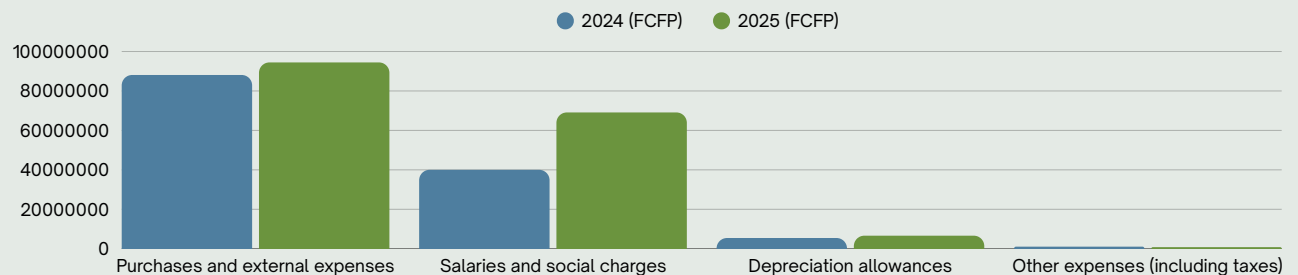
2025 Financial results

Operating income amounted to 165,877,533 FCFP (**1,381,925 €**) compared to 131,341,356 FCFP (1,094,204 €) in 2024. 1 Euro = 119.3 FCFP

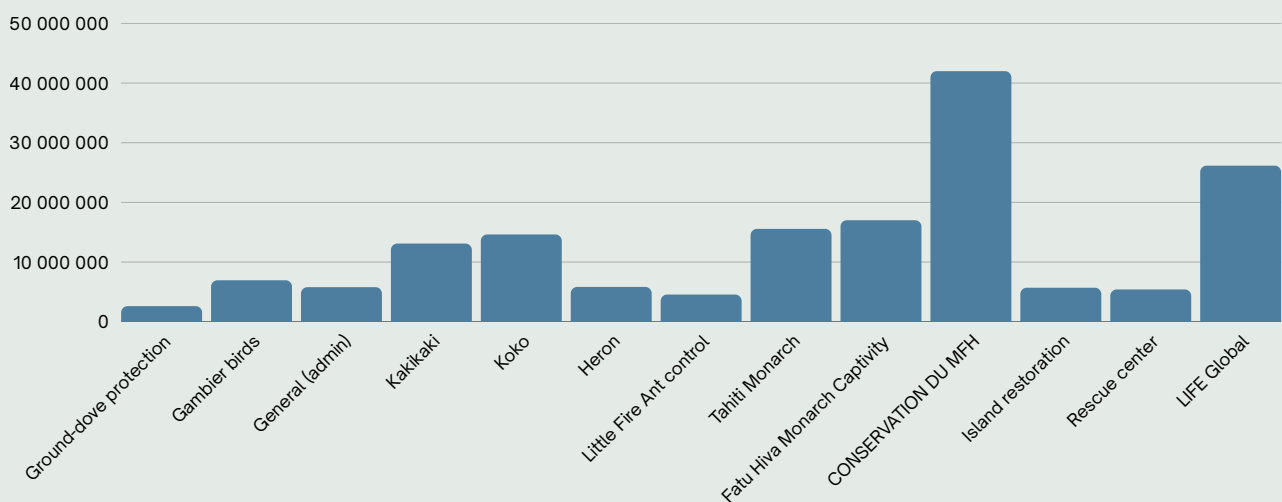
Operating Income (in FCFP)



Operating Expenses



Financial Summary of Main Programs (in FCFP)



OUR PARTNERS 2025

Merci Maūruuru Thank you !!

