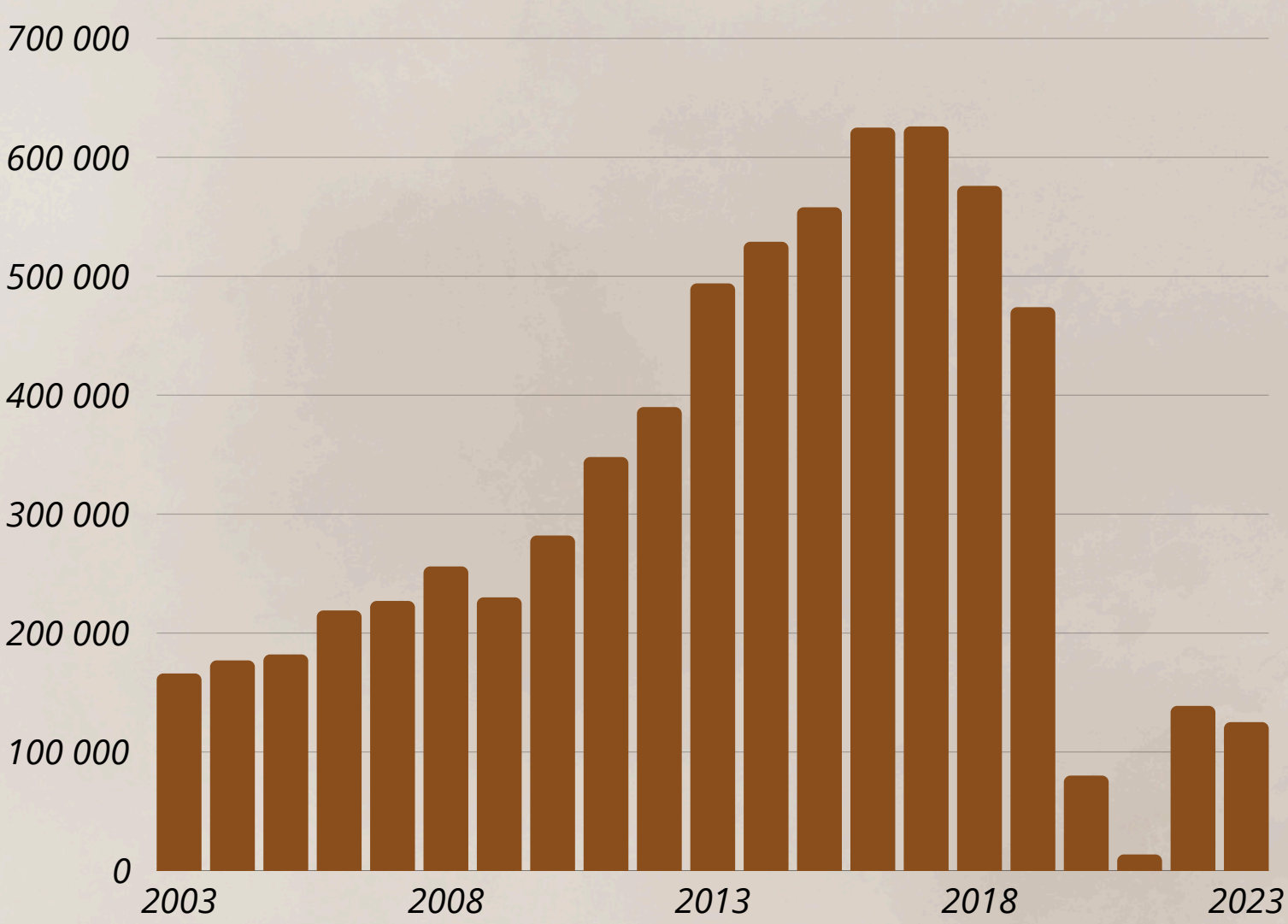


NEW CALEDONIA : TOURISM & CLIMATE CHANGE

Tourism's carbon cost, and the environmental factors the territory cannot control

TOURIST ARRIVALS

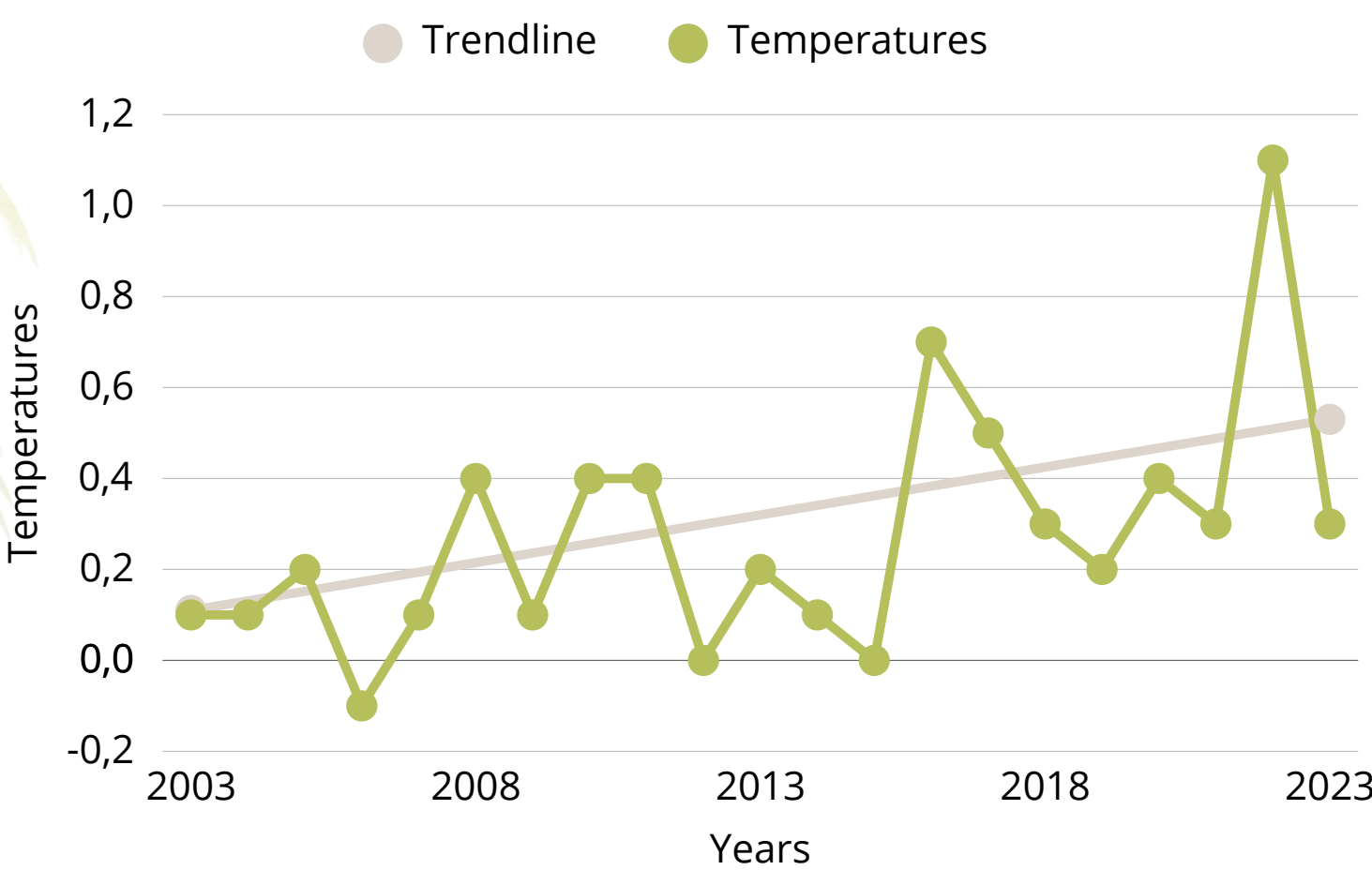


Source : Pacific Data Hub

Between 2003 and 2018, New Caledonia experienced a **sharp rise in tourist arrivals**, peaking at **over 600,000 visitors per year** (including 80% of cruise passengers). Despite a **sudden drop after 2019** due to global travel restrictions, this massive increase in tourist flow has **significantly expanded the territory's environmental footprint over two decades**.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES

Data for New Caledonia : in degrees Celsius (°C)



Source : Pacific Data Hub

Local temperature records in New Caledonia show a clear warming trend from 2003 to 2023, reaching a peak anomaly of +1.1 °C in 2022. This sharp local rise directly destabilizes island environments, causing severe coral bleaching and unpredictable weather patterns across the territory.

SEA LEVEL RISE

Data in meters

+0,14 METERS

between 2003 and 2023

Source : Pacific Data Hub

As a direct consequence of global warming and thermal expansion of the oceans, **sea levels rose by +0.14 meters** in New Caledonia **in 20 years**. This rapid local rise **threatens coastal infrastructure, accelerates beach erosion, and puts vulnerable island ecosystems at risk**.

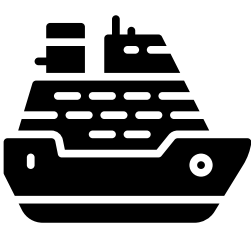
CO₂ EMISSION

Striking comparison: a one-week cruise emits about 1.6 t of CO₂ per passenger — roughly half of a Paris-Noumea return flight (3.2 t). Whichever way visitors come, long-distance mobility accounts for the vast majority of tourism's climate impact here.



PARIS TO NOUMEA (RT)

~3.2 tons of CO₂ per passenger



CRUISE SHIP STOPOVER

~250 kg of CO₂ per day & per passenger

Striking comparison: a one-week cruise emits about **1.75 t of CO₂ per passenger** — more than a one-way flight from Paris (**1.6 t**), but roughly half a return flight (**3.2 t**). Whichever way visitors come, **long-distance mobility accounts for the vast majority of tourism's climate impact here**.

Source : ADEME & Celsius

CONCLUSION

Due to New Caledonia's remote location, every visitor arrives by air or by sea, and that journey carries most of tourism's climate cost: 1.6 t of CO₂ for a one-week cruise, 3.2 t for a return flight from Paris. The question is not which mode is worse, but that no low-carbon way to reach the territory exists.