

A Word from...



Thierry SANTA

President of the New Caledonia Government

During the first PROTEGE Steering Committee meeting in Noumea on 17 - 18 July 2019, I was able to really gauge the amount of collaboration and coordination that had taken place in our four territories to generate proposals on activities in the priority areas identified. As EDF-11 Regional Authorising Officer for the Pacific OCTs, I welcome the launch of this programme, which is the successor to INTEGRÉ, and the arrival of the team in charge of managing it. PROTEGE is, above all else, a unique opportunity to create the conditions for true regional cooperation between territories that the Pacific Ocean separates but also unites, particularly around common issues, first and foremost climate change and the rise in sea levels, which especially affect island territories. We must give a collective response to this threat, one that is part of a unified Pacific Island strategy. That is the very meaning of the high-level statement we signed in Tuvalu in mid-August during the 50th Pacific Islands Forum.

News

Regional cooperation: action !



The members of the first PROTEGE regional Steering Comity

The first Regional Steering Committee meeting in Noumea on 17 - 18 July 2019 allowed PROTEGE to begin its operational phase. At the regional level, the project's first three workshops will take place in November on the themes of Agriculture, Forestry, and Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture. PROTEGE is also funding the attendance of OCT representatives at the following events:

- Salon Tech & Bio in Bourg les Valences, France: two representatives from Wallis and Futuna (WF) and two more from French (PF): 18 - 19 September.
- RITA (innovation and agricultural extension network for French overseas departments) Seminar in French Guyana: participation of one representative of NC and PF: 28 October to 1st November.
- Organic agriculture certification training session in Tonga: one representative from each territory: 7 - 9 May.

Territorial activities

Calls for tenders and facilitators begin their work



Presentation of PROTEGE in the North Province

9 calls for tenders and service contracts are pending including those for a coconut sector consultancy in WF; facilitating a

demonstration farm network in NC, PF and WF; developing a guide to monitoring marine environments that host aquacultural activities in PF; trialling and transferring sustainable and resilient aquaculture models in PF and NC; enhancing knowledge about coastal fisheries resources in NC; supplying and installing atmospheric water fountains on Futuna; and setting up a marine environment observation network in PF. The facilitators at the NC Chamber of Agriculture, the NC wilderness conservation agency (CEN) and the PF Agriculture Department have now begun their work.

Upcoming activities

- Regional "Coconut Tree" Workshop: 4 - 8 November in Tahiti
- Regional "Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture" Workshop: 18 - 22 November on Wallis
- Regional "Forestry and Agroforestry" Workshop: 25 - 29 November in Noumea

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AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

EXPECTED RESULTS: The agroecological transition is underway to bring about farming, particularly organic, that is adapted to climate change and biodiversity-friendly, and forest resources are managed in an integrated and sustainable way.

Pitcairn Islands

Territorial Authorising Officer

Pitcairn's inhabitants have always taken great care of their environment since, as they live on an isolated island, they depend very heavily on nature. Subsistence crops play a

major role in their daily lives by contributing to both their health and wellbeing and by allowing small-scale economic development. In the past, a variety of plants were introduced to the island out of necessity to provide food, wood and materials for making the ornaments sold to cruise ship passengers. Some of those species no longer serve their initial purposes, and what seemed like a good idea can become a danger to the environment. Rose-apple trees were introduced in that way for firewood a few decades ago but are no longer needed now the

island has electricity and are considered an invasive species.

Therefore, it is important that Pitcairn has a plan of action on how best to address invasive species, which includes reforestation and also thinks carefully about the benefits and risks of what is brought onto the Island. Reforestation will help to rebuild habitats and reverse environmental degradation, as well as assisting in protecting important species and our disease-free bee industry.



Pitcairn Islands



COASTAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

EXPECTED RESULTS: Reef and lagoon resources and aquaculture are managed in a more sustainable and integrated manner suited to both island economies and climate change.

New Caledonia

ADECAL Technopole

Beginning in 2015, ADECAL Technopole organised exchanges with local governments in New Caledonia and with Pacific OCTs to develop a common set of expectations about coastal fisheries and aquaculture.

yet, did, in fact, offer a unique opportunity to develop experience sharing between the four territories, while at the same time, strengthening partners' respective capacities in terms of trials, monitoring and knowledge transfer.

Based on the ties that were made during the programme development phase, the first regional workshop and the start of work in the field are eagerly awaited.



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PROTEGE, which did not have that name



WATER

EXPECTED RESULTS: Water is managed in a more integrated and climate-change-adapted manner.



Futuna

Wallis and Futuna

Territorial Authorising Officer

Water resources on Wallis are under threat from saltwater intrusion and manmade pollution. On Futuna, water taken from its rivers is full of suspended particles from the breakdown of organic matter. Several difficulties have been identified, e.g. a lack of knowledge about the resources, the state of the water pipes, the lack of continuity in the distribution system, the non-potable water provided on Futuna, poor

management of animal waste, along with non-compliant individual wastewater-treatment units and non-existent storm-water collection.

PROTEGE on Wallis and Futuna is designed to respond to the territory's main concerns, i.e. securing drinking water production and distribution as well as protecting water resources and biodiversity.



INVASIVE SPECIES

EXPECTED RESULTS: Exotic invasive species are better managed to strengthen ecosystem-service and land-biodiversity protection, resilience and restoration.



Invasive species in French Polynesia

French Polynesia

Territorial Authorising Officer

Managing invasive alien species (IAS) is a major issue for French Polynesia and its Pacific neighbours: such species endanger the delicate balance of island ecosystems and the remarkable biodiversity of our territories. IAS control is also a sizeable challenge,

particularly in French Polynesia, given the number of islands and the extent of the territory. To be effective, it needs to be part of a regional and international approach. PROTEGE provides us with an opportunity to support local actions by strengthening their resources and by facilitating cooperation between the region's OCTs.



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