



ACTION PLAN

INTEGRE PROJECT

AUGUST 2014 → JANUARY 2018

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Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC) NOUMEA
NEW CALEDONIA/2017

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KEY FIGURES

GEOGRAPHY AND POPULATIONS OF THE 4 OCTS

130

Main islands

554,200

Inhabitants

8

million sq. km of
exclusive economic
zone (EEZ)

22,300

sq. km
in land area

1/3

of the population
is under the age of 20

ECONOMY

EUR **2.86**

billion in financial support
(France, United Kingdom, Europe)

NB: 2.76 billion (France)

+ 100 million (Europe) + 3.3 million (United Kingdom)

80%

of jobs
found in
two municipal districts
(Noumea and Papeete)

30 to 60%

of salaried jobs in
the public sector

715,000

Tourists each year

BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

4655

Plant species

2

World Biodiversity
Hotspots:
"New Caledonia"
"Polynesia-Micronesia"

3073

known endemic
plant species

1200

to **1700**
fish species

180

to **300**
coral species

INTEGRE

4 OCTs

French Polynesia,
New Caledonia,
Wallis & Futuna
and Pitcairn

12

EUR
million budget,
i.e. XPF 143 billion

9

Pilot sites

5

People working
full-time on
SPC Coordination team

150

Funded activities

HIGHLIGHTS

The four South Pacific overseas countries and territories (OCT), i.e. New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Wallis & Futuna and Pitcairn, cover more than 130 islands spread over an expanse of ocean totalling some 8 million sq km with a remarkably diversity of natural, human and cultural heritages.

Their approximately half-million inhabitants live mainly along the coastlines and the maritime domain is the mainstay of OCT economies, which are principally based on tourism, agriculture, public service or, even, natural resource use. Many people see these far-off lands and seas as hotspots of innovation for the economies of the future (blue and green economies). Above and beyond the monetary aspects, these territories' wealth is also found within their communities, who are the guardians of ancestral cultures.

These islands are also internationally recognised as the home to an incredibly rich biodiversity and species that are unique to the world. Today, these island territories, which are as vast as they are vulnerable, are facing a variety of man-made threats such as natural habitat destruction, invasive species, pollution and climate change, which destabilise existing balances and compromise the quality of both the environment and lifestyles.

Through the regional budget of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) provided by the European Union, Pacific overseas countries and territories (OCT) have received EUR 12 million (XPF 1.4 billion) in funding to implement sustainable development and integrated coastal management (ICM) activities. For the period 2013-2018, these actions are coordinated and supervised by INTEGRE (French acronym for "Pacific Territories Initiative for Regional Management of the Environment").

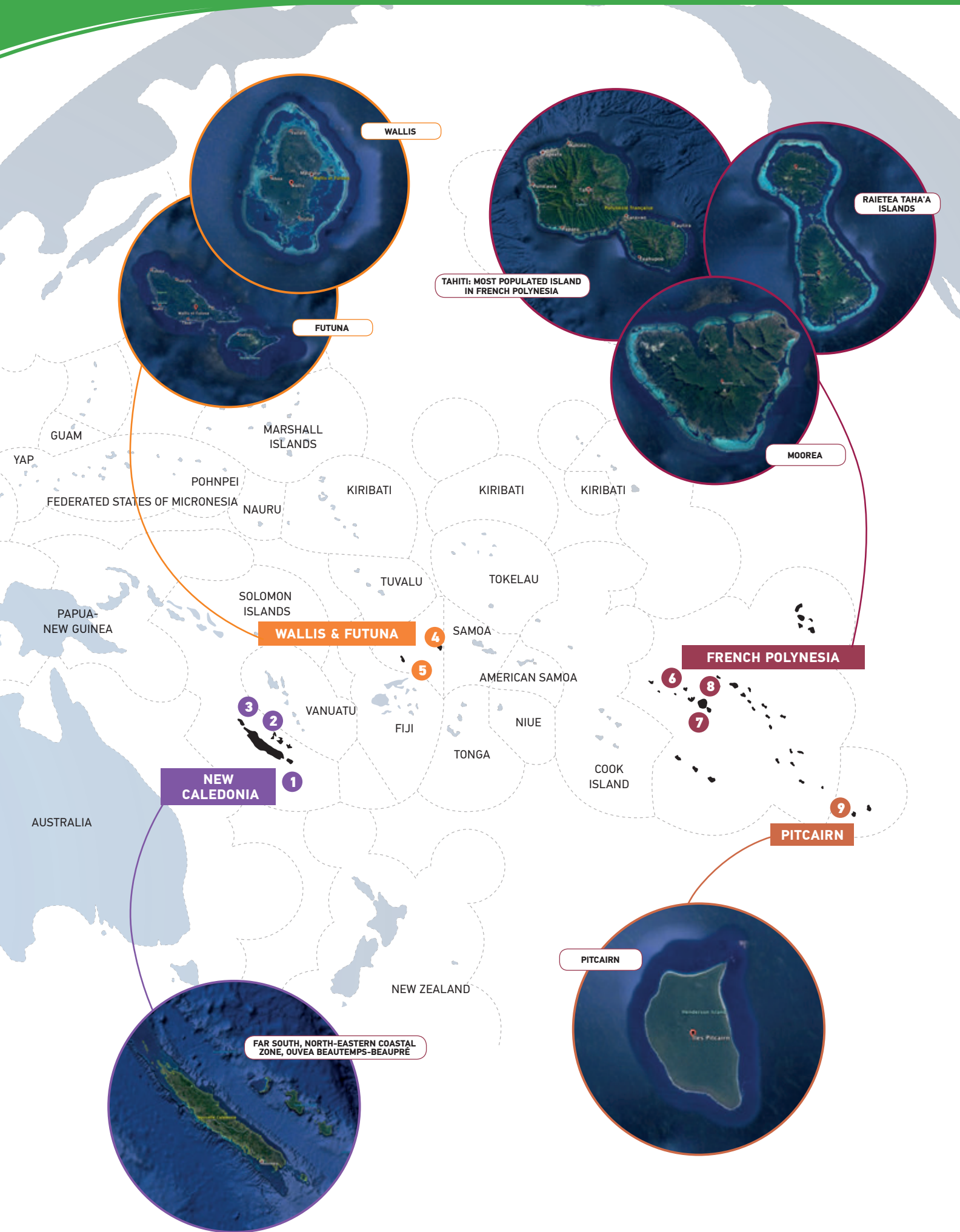
Integrated coastal management is about using the coast sustainably by reconciling social and economic development with biological, environmental and cultural conservation for the good of current and future generations.

INTEGRE's main objective is to help manage or sustainably develop OCT environments for the benefit of their communities.

INTEGRE's first task is **to strengthen regional cooperation and capacities in the areas of sustainable development and integrated management, in particular by holding regional thematic workshops, bilateral exchanges, funding studies of regional interest or even linguistic exchanges.**

INTEGRE also has the task of supporting local and territorial activities. **Nine pilot sites**, i.e. three in New Caledonia, three in French Polynesia, two in Wallis & Futuna and one on Pitcairn, were chosen by the territories to serve as platforms to test or strengthen sustainable development projects based on integrated management and involving local stakeholders. These projects follow a framework, i.e. local action plans developed closely with local partners.

INTEGRE's communication strategy has been designed to ensure that the knowledge gained and the trials carried out during the project will be widely shared and made easily accessible so as to promote and support sustainable management of OCT environments for the benefit of their communities.





1

UNDERSTANDING

THE BACKGROUND AND ISSUES
OF SOUTH PACIFIC OVERSEAS
COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

SOUTH PACIFIC OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

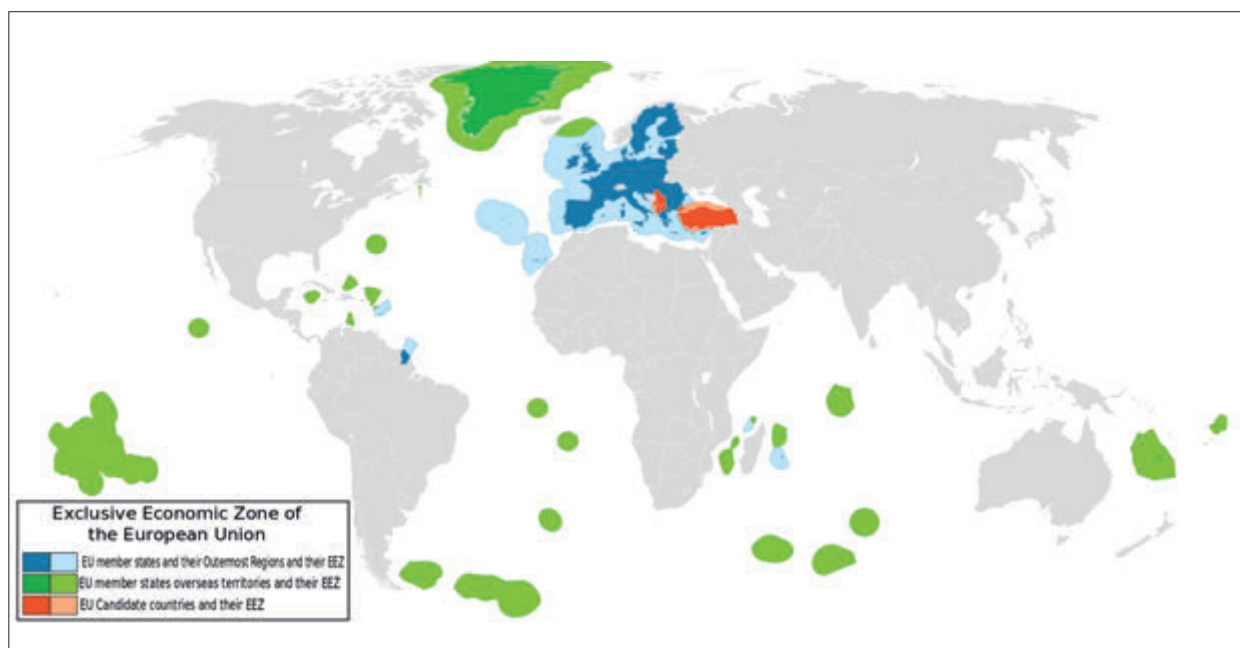
The four South Pacific overseas countries and territories (OCT) host a remarkably diverse range of natural, human and cultural heritages. About 500,000 people live there, mainly along the coastal strip, and use of coastal areas and maritime domain is the mainstay of OCT economies. But these island territories, which are as vast as they are vulnerable, are facing a range of man-made threats that undermine existing balances and compromise the quality of both the environment and their communities' lifestyles. An overview of the forces at work is provided below.

GEOGRAPHY

130 ISLANDS IN THE HEART OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

The four South Pacific overseas countries and territories (OCT) have more than 130 islands spread over an expanse of ocean totalling some 8 million sq. km in the heart of the South Pacific. By plane, a tour of the various administrative capitals (Noumea for New Caledonia, Papeete for French Polynesia, Adamstown for Pitcairn and Mata-Utu for Wallis & Futuna) requires a trip covering some 13,560 km. The OCTs have continental islands, volcanic islands, coral atolls and very small islands and a wide range of geographic features. New Caledonia's main island has the oldest geological formations (more than 302 million years old at Koh Mountain). It is a fragment of Gondwana (a supercontinent 600 million years ago made up of Africa, Australia, Arabia, India, South

American and Antarctica) that was mainly covered by a layer of rock from the Earth's mantle. So the soils derived from it are rich in metals, particularly nickel. The other OCT islands are more recent and are of volcanic (French Polynesia's high islands, Futuna or Pitcairn) or coral (Loyalty Islands) origin. Some islands have rugged mountainous terrains that can reach heights of up to 2241 m (Tahiti), while others such as Wallis are low islands that are only a few dozen meters above sea level. New Caledonia has the second longest coral barrier reef in the world (1600 km). French Polynesia, which covers a span greater than Europe, accounts for more than 20% of the entire planet's coral atolls. So, these OCTs offer a very wide range of island landscapes.



(Source: Wikipedia)

STATUS

TERRITORIES IN ASSOCIATION WITH EUROPE

The Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) status was created by the Treaty of Rome in 1957. The OCTs are not part of the European Union (EU) but are associated with it by being linked to EU member countries. The EU's legal framework, known as the "acquis communautaire" does not apply in the OCTs. Their inhabitants are citizens of the countries they have ties with and they generally also have European citizenship. The EU-OCT rules and procedures have been set out in the "Overseas Association Decisions" (OAD) since 1964. The latest OAD was issued on 25 November 2013 and covers the 2014-2020 period.

A distinction must be made between this status and the "outermost regions" status, i.e. nine regions that are geographically distant from continental Europe but where European law fully applies. The French overseas departments such as Mayotte, Guadeloupe or Reunion Island are examples of outermost regions.

A difference also has to be made between the OCTs and ACP (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) countries, which are independent countries that have close relations with the EU and receive EDF funding.

The 25 OCTs are attached to four EU member countries, i.e. France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Denmark, and account for about one million people spread out over the Atlantic/Caribbean, Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean.

Four OCTs are located in the South Pacific, i.e. French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis & Futuna which are French overseas entities, and Pitcairn governed by the United Kingdom. The South Pacific OCTs are represented in the European Parliament by one MEP, Maurice Ponga elected in 2009 and re-elected in 2014.



Ouén Island nursery inaugurated by the European Commission's Director General of International Cooperation and Development and the President of the Government of New Caledonia - April 2017

COOPERATION

EDF - A DEVELOPMENT AID INSTRUMENT

Due to their association status with the European Union, the OCTs benefit from the European Development Fund (EDF) and are eligible for European Community programmes such as "Erasmus" or "Horizon 2020". The EDF is the EU's main cooperation and development assistance mechanism for the ACP countries and OCTs.

EDF-10 (2008-2013) allocated an overall budget of EUR 286 million to the OCTs, distributed as follows:

- EUR 195 M for the territorial budget
- EUR 40 M for the regional budget
- EUR 30 M for the European Investment Bank
- EUR 6 M in technical assistance and EUR 15 M in emergency assistance.

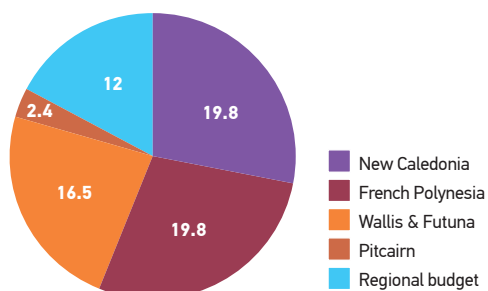
The South Pacific OCTs each benefited from a territorial budget of, respectively, EUR 19.81 M for New Caledonia, EUR 19.79 M

for French Polynesia, EUR 16.49 M for Wallis & Futuna and EUR 2.4 M for Pitcairn. The South Pacific regional budget was EUR 12 M.

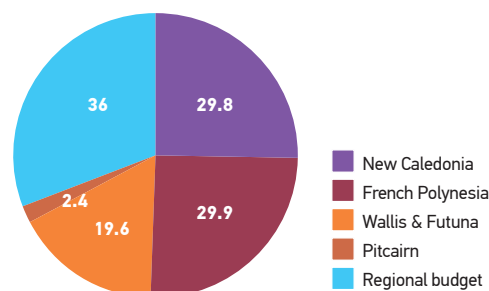
EDF-11(2014-2020) allotted an overall budget of EUR 364.5 M to the OCTs, distributed as follows:

- EUR 229.5 M for the territorial budget
- EUR 100 M for the regional budget
- EUR 8 M in technical assistance and EUR 21.5 M in emergency assistance.

The South Pacific OCTs each benefited from a territorial budget of, respectively, EUR 29.8 M for New Caledonia, EUR 29.9 M for French Polynesia, EUR 19.6 M for Wallis & Futuna and EUR 2.4 M for Pitcairn. The South Pacific regional budget is EUR 36 M.



Resources allocated to the South Pacific OCTs under EDF-10



Resources allocated to the South Pacific OCTs under EDF-11

SOCIAL CAPITAL

Institutional and cultural diversity

POPULATION

UNEVEN DISTRIBUTION

One of the OCTs' main strengths lies in their human capital. All together, the Pacific OCTs have some 554,200 inhabitants who mainly live along the coastline and are very unevenly distributed. In the most populated territories, i.e. New Caledonia and French Polynesia, some 50% of OCT inhabitants live in just two urban centres, Noumea and Papeete. Many islands have very small populations (50 inhabitants on Pitcairn) or are uninhabited.

New Caledonia, Wallis & Futuna and French Polynesia have youthful populations since one-third are under the age of 20. Pitcairn and the islands of Wallis and Futuna have ageing populations. The latter two have lost one-fifth of their populations over the past decade, due to many young people moving away to look for better study and employment opportunities.

Geographic and demographic characteristics of the 4 OCTs	Main town	Number of inhabitants	Land surface area (in sq. km)	Density (inhab./sq. km)	Number of main islands	EEZ (in millions of sq. km)	Highest altitude (in m)
New Caledonia	Noumea	269,000	18,575	14.5	5	1.7	1623
French Polynesia	Papeete	273,000	3521	77.5	118	5.5	2241
Wallis & Futuna	Mata-Utu	12,200	140	87.1	3	0.3	765
Pitcairn	Adamstown	47	62	1.4	4	0.8	347

Sources : ISEE, ISPF, STSEE, IEOM

MULTICULTURALISM

French Polynesians, Kanaks, Europeans, Marquesians, Asians, Wallisians, descendants of the Bounty mutineers, etc. - there are many cultural communities in the OCTs. Coexistence of a variety of identities, traditions, languages and religions, marked by a very long-standing Pacific island history, is an undeniable asset at a time when globalisation tends to reduce societies to one standard format. In addition to the English spoken on Pitcairn and the French commonly used in the French OCTs, the indigenous peoples of these OCTs speak many different languages. There are 29 Kanak languages spoken by about 50,000 people in New Caledonia and 9 Polynesian languages spoken in French Polynesia (Tahitian, Mangarevian, Marquesian, Pa'umotu, Austral, Ra'ivavae, Rapa), Wallis (Wallisian) and Futuna (Futunan).

The cultural traditions of the indigenous peoples are also deeply rooted. Kanak culture is based on social ties structured around tribes, custom land, clans, traditional leaders, ancestors, sacred places, custom offerings, yam growing, traditional knowledge (hunting, fishing, use of medicinal plants, farming). French Polynesian, Wallisian and Futunan cultures revolve around dance, music, singing, handicrafts, tattooing, carving, painting, costume making, traditional knowledge (hunting, fishing, use of medicinal plants, farming) and religion. The traditions of the Asian and European communities add to this multicultural tableau.



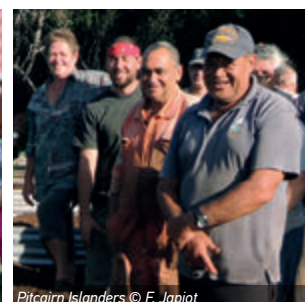
The Whale Festival, Ouen Island © E. Bonnet Vidal



Young Polynesian woman © Pixabay



Traditional feast © S. Moncelon



Pitcairn Islanders © F. Japiot

HISTORY

SUCCESSIVE WAVES OF MIGRATION

The diversity of the communities currently living in the four OCTs reflects the complex history of the waves of colonisation, both ancient and more recent, that have affected these islands. Prehistoric Oceania experienced a large wave of human migration about 6000 years ago. Farmer-seafarers from southern Asia, known as Austronesians, first populated the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. From there, about 3000 years ago, groups of humans migrated to the Pacific islands. The islands groups in Polynesia were populated at different times and by groups from either Indonesia or Melanesia. During their travels through the Pacific, the Austronesians spread their know-how, food plants (banana, breadfruit, tubers, etc.) as well as their domestic (pigs, chickens, dogs) and stowaway (rats) animals.

"The Austronesian spread their knowledge and skills"

At least 1000 years after the Lapita settled in Western Polynesia, their descendants, who had become Polynesians, began new migrations to uninhabited islands in the Pacific and gradually reached the three ends of the Polynesian triangle, i.e. Hawaii, Easter Island and New Zealand. This region now forms the vast cultural and geographic area of Polynesia.

The first contacts with Europeans began in the 16th century and spread over a period of nearly 400 years in concert with the great expeditions of the famous navigators who discovered the Pacific (e.g. Cook, Bougainville, La Pérouse). Those explorations gathered scientific data and new plant food resources. They spread Christianity throughout the indigenous communities. The colonisation of the South Pacific islands by European nations occurred during the second half of the 19th century. The colonised lands were used for natural resource exploitation, hosting new European populations, developing farming and deporting criminals. After the Second World War, which modified the balance of powers between the major nations, the Pacific region experienced a phase of significant decolonisation and several countries became independent (Fiji in 1970, the Solomon Islands in 1978, Vanuatu in 1980, etc.) New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis & Futuna remain under France's authority and Pitcairn under Great Britain's but more autonomous governance modes have been gradually implemented.



Ocean-going canoe © Pixabay



Rock carving, Wallis @ SPC - INTEGRE



Hienghène @ SPC - INTEGRE

GOVERNANCE

VARIED INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

<i>Institutional arrangements in the 4 OCTs</i>	Status	Currency	Local institutions	French Government representation in the territory	National representation
New Caledonia	Sui generis entity	F.CFP (XPF) *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 congress 1 government 3 provinces 33 municipalities 1 Economic, Social and Environmental Council 	French High Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 MPs 2 senators
French Polynesia	Overseas entity (COM)	F.CFP (XPF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 territorial assembly 1 government 48 municipalities 1 Economic, Social and Cultural Council 	French High Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 MPs 2 senators
Wallis & Futuna	Overseas entity (COM)	F.CFP (XPF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 territorial assembly 3 kingdoms 21 villages 	<i>Administrateur supérieur</i> (Prefect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 MP 1 senator
Pitcairn	Overseas territory	New Zealand dollar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitcairn Mayor Pitcairn Island Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor Governor's Office 	-

* XPF 1000 = EUR 8.38 (fixed rate since 1 January 1999)

Each OCT enjoys a specific status that has broadened its autonomy with regards to its "parent" State

- **Wallis & Futuna** is a special-status territory in which local custom law is applied side-by-side with French law. Custom law is enforced by three kings. French authority is exercised by the Prefect, the territory's highest public servant. The Prefect is supported by the Territorial Assembly (20 elected members) to carry out his/her powers: natural heritage, water resource, and land management, biosecurity, tourism, town planning, forests, agriculture, fishing, secondary education, etc.
- In **French Polynesia**, the Organic Law of 27 February 2004 pertaining to its autonomy allows it to govern itself freely and democratically, through elected representatives and by means of local referendums. Local government bodies consist of a territorial assembly elected by universal suffrage (58 members), a president of French Polynesia elected by the Assembly and who forms his/her own government, 48 mayors and municipal councils and an Economic, Social and Cultural Council (CESC). The French High Commissioner exercises sovereign powers such as justice, defence, security and currency.
- **New Caledonia** is a *sui generis* territorial entity created by the Organic Act of 1999 following the Noumea Accord granting it broad autonomy. Local government bodies consist of a congress (54 members), a president with a collegial government, three provincial governments (respectively 54, 32 and 15 members, some of whom form the New Caledonia's Congress), a customary senate (16 Senators representing eight customary districts and 340 tribes), the 39-member Economic Social and Environmental Council (CESE), 33 mayors and municipal councils. The High Commissioner represents the French Government. Natural heritage management and environmental conservation are essentially governed by the three provinces.
- **Pitcairn** is administered by the Governor of the Pitcairn Islands, a position held by the British High Commissioner to New Zealand. The Governor's Office, including the Deputy Governor, collaborates with the FCO (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and DFID (United Kingdom Department of International Development). The Pitcairn Island Council is the elected body of the island and is composed of Adamstown's mayor (President of the PIC, elected for three years), the deputy mayor and five elected councillors.

The Pacific franc is the currency used in the 3 French OCTs. It has a set value of EUR 1 = XPF 119.33



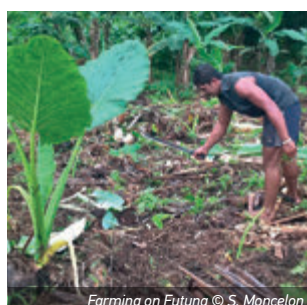
ECONOMIC CAPITAL

Wealth and potential

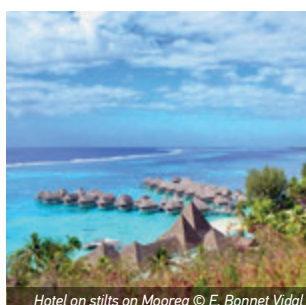
DIVERSIFIED ECONOMIES

The four OCTs host many different economic activities such as tourism, construction/public works, agriculture, fishing, industry, all of which are very effective economic levers for each territory. New Caledonia and French Polynesia have some of the most developed economies in the South Pacific, just after Australia and New Zealand. Wallis & Futuna and Pitcairn have small monetary economies due to their remoteness. An important part of the OCTs' wealth comes from the service sector (e.g. government, services, education) with 30 to 60 % of salaried employees working in public administration. Tourism is growing. More than 700,000 tourists visit the South Pacific OCTs each year but because of the high costs, remoteness and fragility of the natural environment, these areas are not very compatible with mass tourism.

There is not enough commercial farming to cover local needs but family subsistence farming is highly developed. The French Government provides substantial financial support to its overseas territories, i.e. annually: XPF 153.1 billion for New Caledonia (i.e. EUR 1.3 million), XPF 176 billion for French Polynesia (i.e. EUR 1.48), XPF 1.2 billion for Wallis & Futuna (EUR 9.8 million). The United Kingdom provides financial support of some EUR 3.3 million to Pitcairn. For many observers, the OCTs' potential is underutilised. High-end tourism or ecotourism, the blue and green economies (such as enhancing land and marine biodiversity), health, agriculture and agrofood are promising sectors for which the OCTs could serve as platforms for innovation.



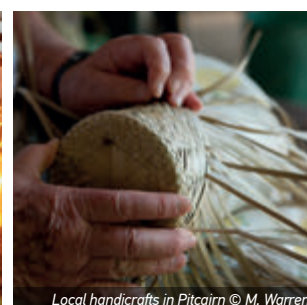
Farming on Futuna © S. Moncelon



Hotel on stilts on Moorea © E. Bonnet Vidal



Nickel plant in New Caledonia © E.B.V



Local handicrafts in Pitcairn © M. Warren

- **New Caledonia** possesses 10% of the world's nickel reserves and nickel mining has a major influence on its economy (direct and indirect jobs, spillover effects). However that sector only accounts for 4 to 17% of the GDP (depending on nickel prices). At the current time, 80% of New Caledonia's wealth is generated by the service sector and the public sector provides nearly one-third of all salaried jobs in New Caledonia. The local processing sector, agrofood and handicrafts comprise about 1200 businesses. The weight of market and commercial agriculture is relatively low (2% of GDP). The tourism sector is slowly expanding (529,000 visitors in 2014, including 422,000 cruise ship passengers). Fisheries and aquaculture are taking shape (2800 tonnes of fish in 2014 and 1600 tonnes of shrimp produced in aquaculture farms).
- **On Pitcairn**, public employment plays a key role. The rest of the economy is structured around fledgling tourism, handicrafts and stamp sales, farming and bee-keeping.

- **In French Polynesia**, 70% of its wealth comes from the service sector and public employment plays a key role. Tourism is French Polynesia's leading resource, accounting for about 6% of the GDP (180,000 tourists per year). Traditional handicrafts employ 13% of the work force and the fishing industry, both offshore and coastal, is healthy with 1500 tonnes of deep-sea fish exported in 2012, while lagoon fisheries produce 4300 tonnes/year. Pearl farming, with 13,000 tonnes exported in 2013, is conducted on 26 islands.
- **Wallis & Futuna** has a low monetary economy due to its isolation. Some 70% of the population live off subsistence crops produced on family farms. Of the 3950 salaried employees recorded (for 12,835 inhabitants), 60% work in the public sector (government, education). Private and semi-private company workers are mainly involved in mother-of-pearl handicrafts and shell (trochus) and sea cucumber (bêche de mer, trepang) harvesting and export.

OUTSTANDING BUT VULNERABLE

natural capital

BIODIVERSITY

A BIOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF KEY INTEREST

The South Pacific OCTs are among the world's most important areas for biodiversity. The various islands' isolation led to the emergence of unique lifeforms found nowhere else on the planet. These endemic plant and animal species, which are sometimes even micro-endemic to a certain atoll or valley, are per-

fectly adapted to the environmental conditions where they live. Each island has many different natural land and marine habitats such as valleys, peaks, waterholes, upland forests, mangroves or fringing reefs that provide outstanding areas for the expression of biodiversity.



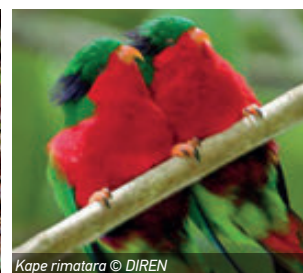
Apetahia raiateensis © DIREN



Humpback whale © DIREN



Kagu © E. Bonne-Vidal



Kape rimatara © DIREN



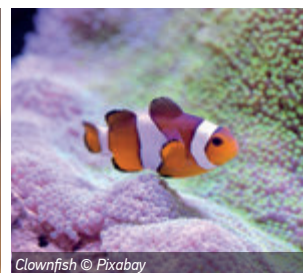
Marmorosphax © IRD IMBE M. Manceau



Coral © P. Bosserelle



Mesaneuron ouenensis © G. Gâteblé



Clownfish © Pixabay

- **New Caledonia's** biodiversity and land and marine ecosystems are recognised worldwide as outstanding. Its coral barrier reef is the second-largest in the world and its marine ecosystems host a very wide range of biodiversity (1700 coastal fish species, 2000 mollusc species, 300 species of reef-building coral species). In 2008, 60% of New Caledonia's lagoon's surface area was UNESCO World-Heritage listed. On land, its flora sets records with 3400 plant species, 74% of which are endemic, living in four main ecosystems, namely mangrove, dry forest, mine scrub and dense rainforest, that are home to some equally remarkable fauna. New Caledonia is, in fact, a reptile (geckos, lizards) sanctuary, since the island group hosts 1% of the world population.
- The biodiversity of **Wallis & Futuna** is still poorly known, but recent scientific research has revealed a remarkably high endemism rate for the territory's size. Its sea beds are of major interest with 136 coral and 648 reef-fish species. The marine flora contains 197 macrophyte species, e.g. flowering plants, cyanobacteria and seaweed.
- The islands of **French Polynesia** (118 islands spread out over 5.5 million sq. km of ocean) contain a wide and varied range of natural habitats (e.g. high islands, low islands, coral atolls) that are home to a large number of unique lifeforms. The main ecosystems are primary forest, wetlands and coral reefs. On land, French Polynesia has 905 native plants with an endemism rate of 63%. Birdlife is very rich with 38 indigenous land species. Its land molluscs (525 species and 95% endemism) and arthropods (2843 described by 2014 and 5% endemism) are also very interesting in biogeographic terms. Endemism is low among marine species as French Polynesia is in the Indo-Pacific biogeographic province, where marine fauna is quite uniform. There are 183 coral species, 1193 reef-fish species and 2500 molluscs.
- Very isolated, the **Pitcairn Islands** also have outstanding natural heritage that is just as unique. The small island of Pitcairn is home to 80 species of native vascular plants, including 10 endemic ones. Some 28 bird species nest in the island group, including a Murphy's petrel population that represents 90% of the world's population for this species. The sea beds are virtually pristine with healthy fish populations dominated by top predators such as sharks.

THREAT

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES

These islands have delicate balances and are especially vulnerable to man-made disturbances. Although they only account for 5% of the Earth's dry land, at the moment they are the epicentre of the on-going extinction crisis. Over the past four decades, 75% of the animal species that have become extinct on the planet were island species, a figure that reaches 90% among birds.

The destruction of natural environments (through mining, urban development, farming, fire) and the introduction of invasive species are the main causes of biodiversity erosion in island settings. There are also other threats such as increased

resource use, climate change and pollution. The resulting biodiversity losses lead to breakdowns in ecosystem functioning and chain reactions that bring about changes to or the disappearance of ecosystem services that are useful for human communities (see p. 16).

This has numerous consequences on these communities, e.g. less access to resources (food, water, raw materials), decreased soil fertility (so lower farm yields), and an increase in farming disasters, lower disease resistance, soil erosion, flooding, economic and cultural losses.



Futuna landfill © SPC - INTEGRE

"The islands are the best indicators of the effectiveness of international environmental policies. Humanity will be able to measure its successes or failures first on the islands..."

James Alix Michel, President of the Seychelles (IUCN Global Island Survey)

CHALLENGES

FROM SENTINEL TO LABORATORY ISLANDS

In many ways, the islands and their inhabitants are on the front lines of the disturbances affecting the biosphere and generally are first to raise the alarm. But the islands are also real sentinels or field laboratories, places where new solutions are tested and

new public and economic strategies are launched, combining environmental protection and local harmonious and sustainable development, for the benefit of their communities.



View of Mount Humboldt, New Caledonia © SPC - INTEGRE

Did you know?

Worldwide there are 36 biodiversity hotspots, with a high concentration of endemic species and high threat level. Two of them are found in the Pacific OCTs, i.e. New Caledonia, which is a hotspot in and of itself; while the islands of French Polynesia, Wallis & Futuna and Pitcairn are part of the "Polynesia-Micronesia" hotspot.

INTERCONNECTED SYSTEMS

CHALLENGES

SERVICES TO SOCIETY

Ecosystems provide goods and services that are vital to the well-being of human communities. According to the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), there are four types:

- **Provision services:** Ecosystems produce food, water, medicinal plants, raw materials, etc.
- **Regulation services:** Ecosystems have an influence on the climate with a moderating effect on extreme weather events, regulate disease, purify the air and water, trap and store carbon, play a role in preventing erosion and maintaining soil fertility, flower pollination, biological control, etc.
- **Support services:** Ecosystems serve as habitats for living species, maintain genetic diversity and natural cycles such as water cycles, nutrient cycles, soil stability, gaseous oxygen production by plants, etc.
- **Cultural services:** Ecosystems provide intangible services, such as areas for living, recreation, spirituality, tourism, artistic and aesthetic inspiration, etc.

Human activities, which can lead to pollution, overfishing, deforestation or global warming, can have negative impacts on ecosystem functioning and result in a loss of the services that nature provides and an increasing scarcity of small organisms such as bees, beetles and ants that are involved in flower pollination and organic matter decomposition, water resource pollution, the spread of disease, soil erosion, decreased fisheries resources, or even coral reef bleaching. So the quality of life of human communities can be affected.



Laloloo Lake: Wallis' freshwater supply © SPC - INTEGRE

CHALLENGES

FINDING A BALANCE

Sustainable development is defined as a model that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Brundtland, 1987). This way of acting and thinking globally is based on three interdependent pillars.

- **Social equity** consists of meeting the basic needs of human communities (housing, health, food, education) by reducing inequalities and respecting cultures.
- **An efficient and responsible economy** is based on innovative, ethical and sustainable production and consumption modes.

- **Environmental quality** consists of preserving natural resources over the long-term by maintaining ecological balances and limiting any negative impact.

The ultimate aim of sustainable development is to find a cohesive and sustainably viable balance between those three areas. It is based on mutual support, the precautionary principle, universal participation and individual responsibility. To meet the challenges of poverty, climate change and conflict, on 25 September 2015, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) adopted a sustainable development programme for 2016-2030 based on 17 sustainable development goals. The ambitions set out, i.e. humanity, the planet, peace, prosperity and partnerships, are closely linked to sustainable development.



"We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind."

Preamble of the programme "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"





2

INTEGRE

IMPROVING SUSTAINABLE
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
FOR COMMUNITIES' WELL-BEING

SUSTAINABLY MANAGING ISLANDS AND COASTAL AREAS

The human footprint on natural coastal environments is increasing, causing disturbances that are jeopardising mankind's ability to access available resources, develop sustainable economic activities and preserve our traditions. A number of approaches that could help sustainably manage the environment are discussed below.





CHALLENGES

A COVETED HERITAGE

OCT coastlands and islands are where human populations live, levers for economic development and environmental-ly and culturally high-value natural heritage. They draw on a number of monetary, heritage-related, aesthetic and spiritual

resources (cf. table below) and one of the major challenges is managing to fully preserve this capital by strengthening its assets while reducing threats to such coveted areas.

COASTLAND CAPITAL

 Economic assets	 Biological and ecological assets	 Cultural and intangible assets	 Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism • Fishing • Agriculture • Aquaculture • Industries • Trade, ports • Real estate • BTP • Public services • Raw materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding ecosystems (e.g. forests, coral reefs, mangroves) • Endemic biodiversity • Rare species • Iconic species (e.g. humpback whales, manta rays) • Ecological services: e.g. water purification, carbon cycle, climate regulation, pollination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Pacific-islander knowledge • Scientific knowledge • Listed features: UNESCO World Heritage, RAMSAR, etc. • Beautiful landscapes, Sacred places • Leisure, well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution • Habitat destruction • Invasive species • Resource overuse overuse • Biodiversity loss • Ecosystem disturbances and loss of ecosystem services • Climate change • Loss of cultural values • Natural disasters (e.g. tsunamis, tropical cyclones)

MANAGEMENT

SUSTAINABLY MANAGING THIS COMMON HERITAGE

In an environment with so many unique economic, social and environmental factors to contend with, sustainably managing common resources for the well-being of all its users is a vital concern. How can different interests and uses be reconciled? How can public support and involvement be elicited around common projects without causing tensions and frustration? New approaches and territorial governance forms that involve local stakeholders

and users in the decision-making process are increasingly being used to meet this challenge. They are based on a democratic, participatory model and aim at developing local solidarity, overcoming initial ill-feelings, finding consensus-based solutions, building a shared vision and sharing the benefits fairly. Integrated management and local development are two of the participatory models promoted and implemented by INTEGRE.

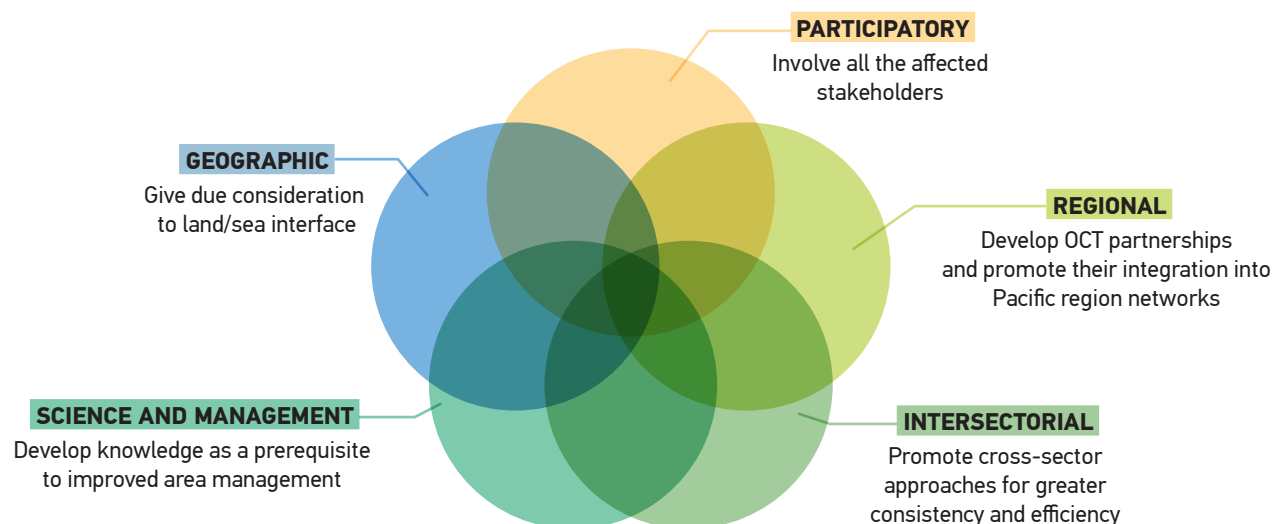
DEFINITIONS

INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Integrated coastal management (ICM) involves sustainably using an area (land, shore or sea) or resource (e.g. water, forests and lagoons) by involving local stakeholders in the decision-making process and reconciling social and economic development with natural and cultural heritage conservation.

ICM takes a global ridge-to-reef view of coastal areas and works to intertwine the visions of the various economic, environmental, social, cultural and scientific sectors.

It serves as a collaboration and planning tool as well as a way to help prioritise uses and management measures while integrating cultural reference points and traditional knowledge. ICM encourages sustainable development initiatives by drawing on success stories elsewhere and requires local stakeholders to jointly define their objectives with sufficient community support to be legitimate, accepted and abided by. Over the past 20 years, ICM has been implemented in a number of programmes in the South Pacific.



“Integrated coastal management (ICM), is a territorial governance tool for sustainable development and resilience to global change.”

SUSTAINABLE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Local communities can sometimes find the notion of integrated coastal management difficult to embrace, either because they do not understand it or view it as remote from their day-to-day concerns. On islands, all land is a “coastal zone” that receives inputs from the mountains to the reefs and so “integrated island management” resonates better with communities. In the islands, this

approach can be seen as “sustainable local development”, which may be more readily understood and accepted. It is defined as a previously-discussed and shared strategy that aims to create social, economic, cultural and environmental harmony among all the stakeholders, who interact in a specific human-scale region without jeopardising their future well-being.

INTEGRE

INTEGRE (French acronym for Pacific Territories' Initiative for Regional Management of the Environment) provides support for integrated coastal management (ICM) initiatives in the four European Pacific overseas countries and territories (OCTs) and promotes ICM in the Pacific region.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

INTEGRE is a participatory project for implementing new governance forms and developing an activity programme designed and monitored by a large number of partners. Its main objective has both regional and local components: helping manage or sustainably develop OCT environments for the benefit of their communities.

*"Helping manage
or sustainably develop
OCT environments
for the benefit
of their communities"*

REGIONAL COMPONENT

Pacific OCTs seldom turn to the regional organisations they belong to for help. There is fairly little discussion or collaboration between them, despite the regional environmental challenges they face. The project's regional component aims to strengthen regional cooperation in sustainable development and ICM matters and consists of two main activities:

→ **Creating forums for exchanges and collaboration between the OCTs** and between them and the region's other countries by holding regional sector-based workshops to share experience in terms of sustainable tourism and organic farming, etc., providing regional expertise for OCTs in hazardous-waste management, etc. and holding bilateral exchanges between OCTs and between them and other countries in the region.

→ **Improving OCT input to regional exchange and collaboration networks** by taking part in regional cooperation work, creating exchange mechanisms, showcasing lessons learnt through result maximization and reporting and by incorporating existing regional networks such as in organic farming, etc. Progress on regional work is indicated in follow-up tables published in annual progress reports.

NEW CALEDONIA



1

New Caledonia's Southern Tip
INTEGRE aims to strengthen UNESCO management-committee's involvement in the Great Southern Lagoon management plan, improve knowledge and management of visitor traffic and recreational uses in marine and coastal areas and hold discussions on a sustainable development strategy for the southern tip of the main island.



2

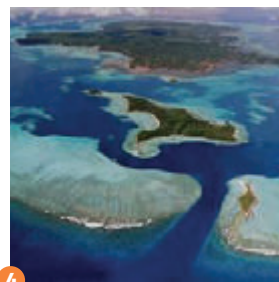
Beautemps-Beaupre and Ouvéa atolls
INTEGRE is providing assistance for operationally implementing management of the UNESCO World-Heritage-listed site. The Loyalty Islands Province, traditional leaders and associations, assisted by scientists, have joined forces to tackle erosion and invasive-species regulation, provide awareness training and showcase the island's iconic sites so as to support ecotourism development.



3

North-eastern coastal area
INTEGRE is assisting the Northern Province and local management committees strengthen participatory management of this UNESCO World-Heritage listed site. Lagoon-health monitoring, waste-management and watershed-restoration activities are being conducted with local stakeholder involvement.

WALLIS & FUTUNA



4

Wallis Island and its lagoon
INTEGRE is assisting with implementation of a sustainable development strategy for the island's communities in areas identified as priorities, such as water-resource preservation and shoreline protection.



5

Futuna
INTEGRE is helping sustainably manage and develop the environment to preserve the pristine setting and the quality of the territory's environments. INTEGRE is assisting the communities in areas identified as priorities, such as waste management, water-resource preservation and shoreline protection and restoration.

LOCAL COMPONENT

Small-scale trials through action and ownership are an approach that local stakeholders view as tangible, so each territory proposed a selection of pilot sites where INTEGRE could provide support to local experiments and the communities could play an active role in their own development.

The local component involves conducting experimental ICM and development projects on a total of nine pilot sites and the projects follow a framework, i.e. a local action plan developed closely with partners at the site.

The local component involves:

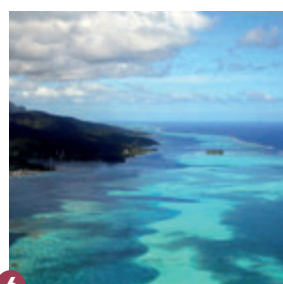
- conducting small-scale experimental ICM and development projects on pilot sites
- improving environmental-management governance

Lessons learnt on the ground under the local component are fed back into the regional component and the methods and results maximized and promoted in the Pacific. Progress on regional work is indicated in follow-up tables published in annual progress reports.

THE NINE PILOT SITES



FRENCH POLYNESIA



6

Raiatea-Taha'a islands and their lagoon

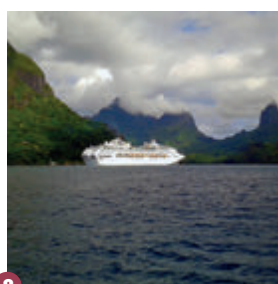
INTEGRE is providing assistance to the islands' sustainable economic development in agriculture, fisheries and tourism and support for reducing pollution from business operations and developing sustainable economic activities



7

Tahiti Peninsula

INTEGRE is helping develop sustainable lagoon use on this site by reducing human pressure and developing sustainable and innovative economic activities.



8

Opunohu Bay and Valley

INTEGRE is helping develop sustainable tourism by implementing environmental protection activities on the site, developing ecotourism and improving the community's living standards.



9

Pitcairn Islands

INTEGRE is helping develop and promote this remote and historically-significant island group in three main areas, i.e. waste management and recycling, soil-erosion control and sustainably promoting natural and cultural heritage features.

LOGFRAME

A logframe is a project management tool recommended by donors, including the European Union, which provides consistency between the various project levels by stating clearly-defined objectives and the expected activities and outcomes. It can be used to:

- identify the resources required for achieving the objectives
- monitor project progress and assess the results

The project's two-tier (regional and local) structure is based on a sequence of objectives, activities and expected outcomes and so each activity can contribute to attaining several objectives. External reviews organised and funded by the European Commission are scheduled at different stages in the project.



INTEGRE can be summarised as follows:

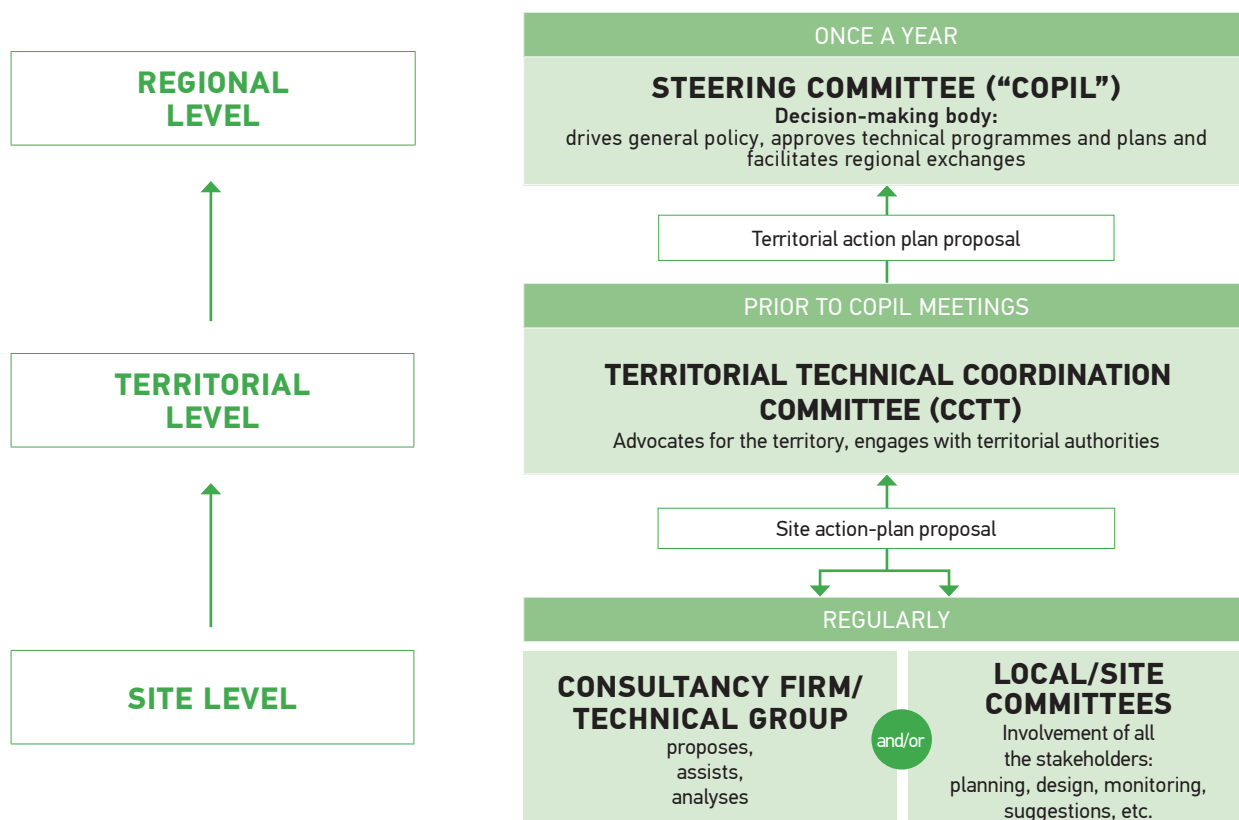
OVERALL OBJECTIVE	HELPING MANAGE OR SUSTAINABLY DEVELOP OCT ENVIRONMENTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THEIR COMMUNITIES			
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	REGIONAL COMPONENT Strengthen regional ICM cooperation		LOCAL COMPONENT Develop and implement an ICM plan based on the territory's sustainable development issues	
EXPECTED OUTCOMES	Set up forums for OCTs to meet and work with each other and with other countries in the region	Improve OCT input to regional exchange networks	Improve environmental management governance	Locally implement ICM activities
ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise regional technical workshops • Regional technical consultancies • OCT and OCT/ACP bilateral exchanges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCT input to regional strategic documents • Develop tools for regional exchanges • Project result-maximization and communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up participatory local/territorial/regional governance bodies • Build local capacity • Raise civil-society and decision-maker awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an ICM/pilot-site plan • Implement management/conservation activities • Develop new sustainable economic activities

GOVERNANCE

INTEGRE is being carried out in all four OCTs from 2013 to 2018 and is driven by French Polynesia together with New Caledonia, Wallis & Futuna and Pitcairn. Implementation has been coordinated by the Pacific Community (SPC) with a specially recruited five-person team: a coordinator, a project

assistant and three deputy coordinators, i.e. one for each territory.

A geographical three-tier (region, territory and pilot site) governance approach has been taken as outlined in the figure below:



IMPLEMENTATION

Activities are implemented in several different ways. They are set out in action plans (regional and territorial) approved by the Steering Committee and by MOUs signed by SPC and the four territorial authorising officers.

The different implementation methods are:

- **Direct implementation by SPC** (mainly for regional activities or when no local technical partner has been identified to carry out an activity)
- **Implementation by local partners**, supervised by:
 - implementation agreements which provide for delegation of management of INTEGRE funding linked to implementing the identified activities
 - accreditation documents, signed by SPC and the technical operators, make it possible to delegate implementation of identified activities without delegating funding, which will continue to be administered by SPC. Accreditation documents make it possible to fund activities carried out by technical departments without having to go through the central local government budget and to work with small local organisations

The accreditation documents and implementation agreements are closely monitored administratively.

BUDGET

Funded by the European Union to the tune of EUR 12 million (XPF 1.4 billion), INTEGRE has been implemented in four OCTs from 2013 to 2018. SPC provides financial control for the project and audit reports are submitted to the European Commission with each disbursement request. The implementation agreements with managing operators are not individually audited, but project audits contain substantial material on these grants. Managing operator expenditure is recorded in SPC accounts once the supporting documents required by the organisation's procedures have been submitted.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Based on operator outputs and following discussions with and approvals by the partners, the INTEGRE team provides and disseminates various deliverables, including quarterly progress reports, steering committee minutes, annual reports and workshop/forum reports. The materials produced by the project, including slideshows, scientific publications, posters, photos and videos, are regularly posted on the project website (www.integre.spc.int) and are freely downloadable. External reviews of INTEGRE organised by the European Commission are planned to monitor progress and ensure the outputs match the objectives.

An aerial photograph of a rugged, dark volcanic coastline. A small, irregularly shaped tide pool with vibrant turquoise water is nestled among the dark rocks. White waves are crashing against the shore to the right of the pool. The sky is a clear, deep blue.

3

REGIONAL COMPONENT

STRENGTHEN REGIONAL
COOPERATION IN SUSTAINABLE
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
AND ICM MATTERS

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

The South Pacific is made up of countries and territories facing the same environmental and development-related problems. In order to reduce the islands' isolation and bring the territories "closer", several regional organisations were created that host regional cooperation programmes and platforms. An overview:

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is the Pacific's "parent" organisation. It is the only body that brings together all the Pacific Heads of State or Government each year since 1971 and has a cross-sectoral mandate for other regional organisations. The PIF Secretariat chairs the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), the coordinating body for all Pacific regio-

nal organisations. Its Secretariat's headquarters are located in Suva, Fiji. With 16 members, it is led by a national from one of its member countries. The position of PIF Secretary-General is held by the Heads of State or Government of its member countries on a rotating basis.

PACIFIC COMMUNITY

The Pacific Community (SPC) is a bilingual (French and English) international organisation whose members are the region's French- and English-speaking countries and territories. Working throughout the Pacific, SPC was established in Canberra in 1947, just after the Second World War, by the six countries that administered the Pacific island territories, i.e. Australia, France, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Today, the Pacific Community has 26 members, including 22 is-

land countries and territories and four founding members, i.e. Australia, New Zealand, France and the USA. Its headquarters are in Noumea and it has regional offices in Suva, Fiji; Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia; and Honiara, Solomon Islands. SPC serves 22 Pacific Island countries and territories through technical assistance, training and research. With cross-cutting specialised knowledge and skills in several major areas, SPC has been able to adopt a unique approach to the development of the region's land, marine and human resources.



EDF-11 Workshop © SPC - INTEGRE



Opunohu Estate © M. Charles



PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SPREP)

The Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) came into being through a workshop in 1969 that focused on nature conservation, which led to the inclusion of a program for the conservation of nature within SPC in 1973. As environmental issues became increasingly important for the countries and at the regional level, the decision was made to create SPREP in 1982 and then to set up its headquarters in Apia, Samoa in 1992. SPREP has 26 members, including 21 Pacific island

countries and territories, and five developed countries that have direct interests in the region, i.e. Australia, New Zealand, France, the United Kingdom (since 2012), and the United States of America. SPREP's strategic plan is based on four priorities:

- Climate change and integrated coastal management
- Biological diversity and ecosystem management
- Waste management and pollution control
- Environmental monitoring and governance



PACIFIC ISLAND DEVELOPMENT FORUM (PIDF)

The Pacific Island Development Forum (PIDF), whose headquarters are in Suva, is a regional organisation in the process of being set up, that arose from an initiative by the Fijian Government following its exclusion from the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in 2009. PIDF's purpose is to support sustainable development in the Pacific islands by facilitating:

- the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development (environment, social, and economic) to balance the pursuit of economic growth against the needs of societies and the sustainability of the environment
- the use of tools and innovations such as green economy, adaptive leadership, and genuine partnerships



SOUTH PACIFIC TOURISM ORGANISATION (SPTO)

The South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) was created by a multilateral treaty known as the "Constitution of the South Pacific Tourism Organisation". It is an intergovernmental organisation focussed on the South Pacific and has 17 member countries. SPTO's work is to promote the Pacific islands as tourist destinations - although they are faraway and little known - which involves improving air and maritime access to the islands and promoting the Pacific's cultural diversity. In addition to de-

veloping tourism, the SPTO has various objectives and works to improve the region's visibility as a stakeholder in the environmental domain by promoting sustainable development and better awareness of the region around the world, and by developing ecotourism (green tourism). As such sustainable tourism development objectives necessarily require cooperation between the various member countries, the SPTO also plays a central role in regional coordination in the tourism sector.



OTHER ORGANISATIONS

There are other regional organisation such as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) or ECOSOC's (United Nations' Economic and Social Council) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECT'S REGIONAL COMPONENT

INTEGRE's regional component aims to strengthen regional cooperation in sustainable development and ICM matters and to improve OCT integration into the region.

OBJECTIVES

- Creating or developing forums for exchanges and collaboration between the OCTs and between them and other countries in the region
- Improving OCT input to and participation in regional networks

CREATING FORUMS FOR EXCHANGES AND COLLABORATION

This component has three main activities:

- **Holding regional and sector-based technical workshops in the different OCTs.** Meant for project partners, they are designed to promote experience sharing, discussion, and the spread of information. They involve workshops on topics of interest for the OCTs (e.g. organic agriculture, sustainable tourism, participatory management, waste management) or methodology workshops (e.g. developing action plans, setting up management committees).
- **Mobilising regional technical expertise for the OCTs' benefit.** The territories do not always have the specific technical expertise that would allow them to understand or implement certain sustainable development activities, because they require state-of-the-art knowledge or technical tools that they don't have. This module funds consultancies and training for local staff in response to specific requests by partners (consultancies on hazardous waste disposal, biological control, composting).
- **Organising regional bilateral exchanges between the OCTs and with ACP countries.** Bilateral exchange activities began in 2015 in response to a request by the OCTs to gather information and find expertise in neighbouring countries that can then be applied in theirs. These exchanges operate in the form of calls for project proposals, which were widely disseminated in the OCTs. The projects were selected by a jury of OCT and SPC members. They have been of benefit to all the OCTs as well as to other Pacific countries such as Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa, New Zealand, and Australia.



Sustainable Tourism Workshop © SPC - INTEGRE

IMPROVE INPUT TO AND PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL NETWORKS



© SPC - INTEGRE

The following activities have been carried out as part of this component:

- OCT participation in various seminars, meetings and technical projects of regional organisations
- Improve OCT integration in informal or existing regional networks in the areas of organic agriculture, waste management, and climate change adaptation
- Promote OCT experience by implementing an INTEGRE results maximization and communication plan. This will make it possible to document and build on the experience acquired at the pilot sites and during regional activities and to share that with countries in the region
- Funding for language support as part of regional exchanges, with, for example, the translation of specific documents or studies or interpretation at certain meetings.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

INTEGRE is supporting the action-research programme “Pilot organic-farm network” in the three French-speaking European overseas countries and territories. Supervised by the New Caledonia Chamber of Agriculture (CANC), this programme is designed to strengthen both organic agriculture in the OCTs and the POET-Com (Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community) network. In this component, producers have been closely involved in INTEGRE's design and implementation. The farm trials are carried out on farms (certified organic agriculture), in partner agricultural high schools and within a network of partner farmers. Three main types of activity are planned:

- Set up pilot organic farms in the three French-speaking OCTs to be used as testing grounds, demonstration and exchange venues, both locally and regionally
- Organise regional exchanges and yearly training sessions for farmers and technical agents
- Produce and disseminate the knowledge acquired such as organic-agriculture-compliant technical and economic guides

This programme offers the possibility of innovating through more environmental-friendly cropping practices and improving organic farming cropping sequences.

The trials and innovations revolve around three issues: soil fertility and composting, disease and pest control, selecting and producing seeds that are adapted to organic agriculture.



Organic Agriculture Workshop © SPC - INTEGRE

WASTE MANAGEMENT

One of the most challenging and vital challenges facing island countries is waste management because they have to overcome many obstacles, e.g. geographic dispersion, financial costs, lack of infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, lack of awareness in the community. The current expansion of certain activities (e.g. tourism, farming, industry) generates an increasing amount of waste and its haphazard management leads to environmental damage, health risks and visual pollution that have negative effects on the territories.

The collaborative approach to management is attracting increasing interest. Partnerships can, in fact, make it possible to optimize management, create new disposal or recycling channels and reduce costs. So a few regional initiatives are now under-way in this area, particularly under the supervision of SPREP (Pacific Regional Environment Programme). INTEGRE is part of these dynamic and supports about a dozen activities in partnership with SPREP.

- Draw up a list of successful practices and experiences, implement regional recommendations by drawing on existing strategies (national, regional levels) and develop training and economies of scale
- Arrange sharing of experience, know-how and information
- Support the set up of cost-effective and self-sustaining systems
- Enhance regional and territorial capacities through training
- Provide expertise on hazardous waste management and removal (e.g. regulations to be applied, regional service providers for transport and treatment).



CLIMATE CHANGE

With the intensification of extreme climate events, coastal erosion, sea level rises and coral bleaching, the Pacific islands are feeling the full effects of climate change and are aware of how urgent the situation is. While a variety of alleviation and risk reduction measures have already been taken and are encouraged, certain OCTs have not yet developed territorial climate-change-adaptation plans. So, at the request of the authorities, INTEGRE supports several activities designed to:

- improve OCT integration into regional dynamics with regards to climate change adaptation, so that they participate more, share their knowledge and benefit from the region's innovations and experience.
- support the development of suitable scalable strategies at the OCT level based on field results at the pilot sites, sharing both experience and knowledge gained and raising awareness in the community
- enhance ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change or natural disasters in the broad sense by implementing integrated coastal management at the pilot sites and by introducing such topics into exchanges and management plans

4

LOCAL COMPONENT

IMPLEMENT ICM AND LOCAL
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
AT PILOT SITES

THE PROJECTS' OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Each territory proposed a selection of pilot sites where INTEGRE could provide support to local experiments and the communities could play an active role in their own development. The local and territorial component, entitled " ICM and local development-project implementation " has a total of nine pilot sites.

OBJECTIVES

- Conducting small-scale experimental ICM and development projects on pilot sites
- Improving environmental-management governance
- Maximising, promoting and disseminating activity results in the territory and region

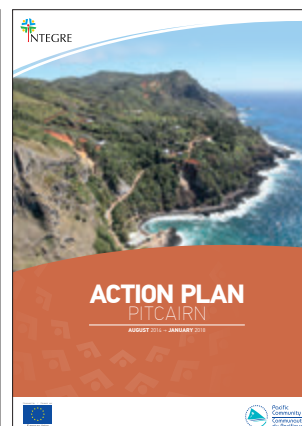
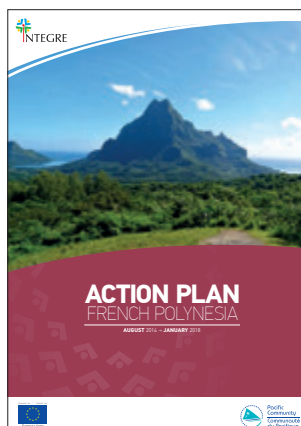
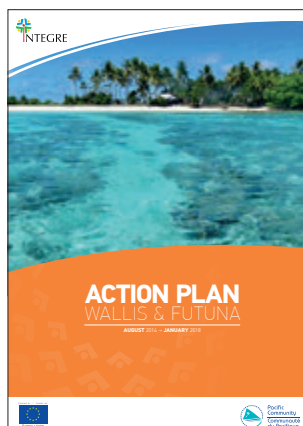
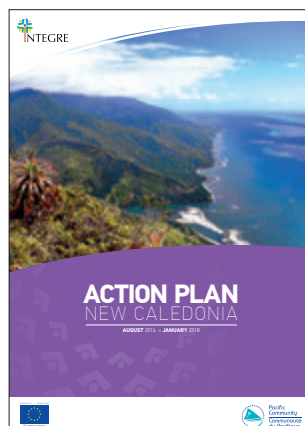


Presenting INTEGRE in the Northern Province, November 2013 © SPC-INTEGRE

THE ACTION PLAN AS A COMMON FOUNDATION

In order to reach the objectives and identify what had to be done, by whom, when and at what cost, action plans were developed for each territory and each pilot site. The action plans are organised as follows:

- Background and issues: geographic, population, environmental, socio-economic and institutional data
- Analysis of the site's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
- Specific objectives
- Local governance arrangements for integrated management
- Actions implemented and operators involved
- Budget
- Process to evaluate and monitor expected results
- Communication and results dissemination plan



Action plan booklets for each OCT

NEW CALEDONIA

Environmental management is the responsibility of the provinces. They suggested that INTEGRE strengthen the participatory and integrated approaches they had set up for the World-Heritage-listed lagoons. The action plans were developed in collaboration with the three provinces, the UNESCO World-Heritage management committees and other local partners.



New Caledonia's north-eastern coastal area © SPC - INTEGRE

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Maintaining the integrity of UNESCO World-Heritage-listed sites
- Giving fresh impetus to the participatory management process and involving local stakeholders more effectively
- Helping sustainably manage the sites and control man-made threats

Main partners

The three provinces and World-Heritage-list management associations. Government of New Caledonia, Wilderness Conservation Agency (CEN), Biocaledonia, Do Neva High School, New Caledonia Chamber of Commerce

Budget

EUR 2.25 million
i.e. XPF 258 million budget

Actions

50 activities funded



New Caledonia CCTT-2016 © SPC - INTEGRE

PILOT SITES

The Great Southern Lagoon

The Great Southern Lagoon zone stretches from the municipalities of Mont Dore and Yaté to the Isle of Pines, with a land area of some 1400 sq. km and a marine area of 7000 sq. km. It hosts outstanding biodiversity acknowledged by two major global entities, i.e. the UNESCO World Heritage list and RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands. The sparsely populated area (2000 inhabitants) holds large ore reserves that are either mined or coveted and is home to the Vale NC nickel processing plant complex. INTEGRE's actions are designed to strengthen participatory management, help develop a management plan for the Great Southern Lagoon, reduce pressures related to human activities (invasive species control, tourist numbers) and finally to develop policy and environmental-management guidelines for that area.



Yaté, Far South © SPC - INTEGRE



Ouvea parakeet © P. BACHY

Beautemps-Beaupré and Ouvea Atolls

Ouvea and Beautemps-Beaupré atolls cover a maritime domain of some 1370 sq. km (including 144 sq. km on land) and are UNESCO World-Heritage listed. Only Ouvea is inhabited, with a population of 3400 living in 20 Melanesian villages in the island's five traditional districts. The economy is essentially based on small-scale tourism, fisheries and a few commodities such as sandalwood, copra and vanilla. The site project was developed to strengthen joint management of the site by the Loyalty Islands Province and traditional leaders and enhance certain symbolically important sites on the island to support eco-tourism development. Concrete measures are also being taken to address major issues related to invasive species or coastal erosion.

North-eastern coastal area (ZCNE)

The north-eastern coastal area covers all the watersheds and the lagoon in six municipalities on the East Coast, i.e. a 3050 sq. km area and a 3170 sq. km marine area. The ZCNE hosts very rich land and marine environmental biodiversity and is UNESCO World-Heritage-listed. It has about 18,000 inhabitants, who live in Melanesian tribal areas and are engaged mainly in kitchen gardening and, to a lesser degree, small-scale tourism. INTEGRE assists the Northern Province authorities and local management committees in practical participatory integrated management of the lagoon and its watersheds. The main activities revolve around strengthening participatory management, ecological restoration of the Touho watershed (water catchment, invasive species control) and removal of end-of-life vehicles.



Hienghène Hen © SPC - INTEGRE

CROSS-SECTOR ACTIVITIES

- Support a pilot organic farm at the Do Neva Agricultural High School in Houailou and strengthen the organic farming sector
- Build capacities and strengthen the network of those involved in managing World-Heritage-listed sites
- Support the development of a climate-change-adaptation strategy

FRENCH POLYNESIA

Department of the Environment (DIREN) is responsible for preserving and developing French Polynesia's natural resources. It seeks to implement a genuine environmental management and protection policy for all the island groups. It is against this backdrop that INTEGRE provides support to French Polynesia's initiatives and those of all the stakeholders involved in this area.



Field trip to Tahiti Peninsula © SPC - INTEGRE

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Assisting with sustainable economic development, particularly for sustainable tourism
- Helping control man-made threats
- Boosting the participatory management process and involve local stakeholders more effectively
- Contributing to sustainable integrated natural and cultural resource management

Main partner
Department of the Environment (DIREN)

Budget
EUR 2.1 million
i.e. XPF 250 million budget

Actions
50 activities funded

PILOT SITES

Raiatea and Taha'a Islands

Located 210 km to the north-west of Tahiti, these two islands measuring 238 and 88 sq. km, respectively, with populations of 12,000 on Raiatea and 5000 on Taha'a, share a navigable 290 sq. km lagoon. The booming water-sports tourist industry operates alongside traditional activities such as agriculture, fisheries and pearl farming on Raiatea and vanilla and kitchen gardening on Taha'aa. INTEGRE provides assistance

to the islands' sustainable economic development in agriculture, fisheries and tourism and support for reducing pollution from business operations and developing sustainable economic activities. It supports initiatives for reducing pollution (e.g. decreasing the use of pesticides, managing business waste) and sustainable development activities (local products, organic agriculture).



Taha'a Island seen from Raiatea © SPC - INTEGRE



Archaeological digs in the Fenua aihere © SPC - INTEGRE

Tahiti Peninsula (Taïarapu)

Tahiti Peninsula has a surface area of 320 sq. km and is home to 545 people. The economy is based on agriculture and aquaculture and its main township, Taravao (East Taïarapu municipality), is booming. It has an unspoiled area without any road access called the "Fenua Aihere" where the first traditional fishing reserve or "rahui" was set up. INTEGRE is helping develop sustainable lagoon use on this site by reducing human pressure (sustainable management of Aoma River), and developing sustainable and innovative economic activities (enhancing archaeological sites, sustainable aquaculture).

Opunohu Bay and Valley

Opunohu Bay and Valley are located on the island of Moorea, 17 km from Tahiti and cover an area of some 2500 ha including 1500 that forms the Opunohu Estate where pineapple crops are grown and Polynesian archaeological sites are found. The bay, surrounded by a remarkable amphitheatre of mountains, is a major tourist attraction and is visited by almost all tourists travelling to French Polynesia. INTEGRE is helping develop sustainable tourism by implementing environmental protection activities on the site, developing ecotourism and improving the community's living standards.



Opunohu © SPC - INTEGRE

CROSS-SECTOR ACTIVITIES

- Support a pilot organic farm at Opunohu High School
- Optimise management of a territory-wide marine area
- Provide methodological support for developing a coastal area management plan

WALLIS & FUTUNA

The environmental impacts brought about by the lack of waste management on these isolated islands with a high risk of pollution to freshwater reserves emerged as a major problem for Wallis & Futuna, as was coastal erosion. INTEGRE developed activities at a territory level, though other, more specific activities are aimed at more local issues.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Improving waste management, particularly hazardous waste, and raising public awareness about appropriate behaviour
- Preserving water resources
- Preserving natural resources
- Controlling coastal erosion
- Helping preserve biodiversity

PILOT SITES

Wallis Island

With some 9000 inhabitants, Wallis Island covers a land area of 78 sq. km together with a 200 sq. km lagoon. The lagoon is hemmed in by a barrier reef and contains a score of small coral islands and outstanding marine biodiversity. The island also features secondary vegetation, food crops, crater lakes, superficial lakes and primary forest remnants that are home to many unique animal species. INTEGRE's activities revolve around sustainable waste management (particularly long-standing stocks of hazardous waste) and water resource preservation (protecting water catchments, sanitation reviews and improvements).



Main partner

Territorial Environmental Department

Budget

EUR 1.23

i.e. XPF 146 million budget

Actions

22 funded activities



Beach on Wallis © SPC - INTEGRE

Futuna

With its population of 3850, Futuna Island (46 sq. km) lies 230 km away from Wallis. It is mountainous and has both permanent rivers and temporary watercourses. Futuna and Alofi, an uninhabited neighbouring island (18 sq. km), host some remarkable endemic species. The pilot site project consists of improving waste management (hazardous waste, closing the Nanu'u dump, strengthening the Moasa Landfill), water resource preservation (SAGE - water development and management plan - assessment), priority improvements) and re-foresting watersheds.

CROSS-SECTOR ACTIVITIES

- Develop an integrated coastal management plan
- Create a pilot organic farm network

PITCAIRN

INTEGRE is assisting in the development and promotion of these remote but historic islands in three main areas: waste management and recycling, soil erosion control, and sustainable development of their natural and cultural heritage

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Improving waste management
- Controlling erosion
- Preserving and promoting Pitcairn through sustainable environmental management and use

Main partner
Pitcairn Island Council

Budget
EUR 371.600
i.e. XPF 44 million or NZD 580,625

Actions
4 funded activities



Pitcairn port © J. Bludau

The Pitcairn group is made up of four small, virtually untouched islands that are among the remotest in the world. The main island is an extinct volcano with a surface area of 4.5 sq km and rises to 347 m. It has a sub-tropic climate and

fertile volcanic soil. The other islands are coral atolls. Pitcairn is the only inhabited island, with about 50 residents, descendants of the Bounty mutineers and their Tahitian consorts. The action plan was developed with the local community.



Pitcairn residents © SPC - INTEGRE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Component	Activities	Actions	Budget	total
Regional	Hold topic-based INTEGRÉ workshops	6 regional technical workshops held	EUR 445,189 XPF 53 M	EUR 1,793,545 XPF 214 M
	Strengthen and integrate regional networks in the area of sustainable development	In particular, regional networks on organic agriculture, waste, coastal fisheries management, and sustainable tourism	EUR 602,125 XPF 72 M	
	Provide methodological support to territories and maximize results	Support the development of ICM plans, methodological support to the territories, support for building on project outcomes	EUR 496,422 XPF 59.2 M	
	Support pilot site initiatives in terms of bilateral exchanges (including training sessions)	Funding bilateral cooperation and exchange projects, training for stakeholders, OCT participation in regional meetings and activities	EUR 249,809 XPF 29.8 M	
Territorial action plans	New Caledonia	Far South	EUR 606,712 XPF 72.4 M	EUR 2,160,894 XPF 257.8 M
		ZCNE	EUR 603,695 XPF 72 M	
		Ouvea-Beautemps-Beaupre	EUR 603,360 XPF 72 M	
		Cross-sector	EUR 347,126 XPF 41.4 M	
	Wallis & Futuna	Wallis	EUR 186,625 XPF 22.3 M	EUR 1,231,240 XPF 146.9 M
		Futuna	EUR 262,901 XPF 31.4 M	
		Cross-sector	EUR 781,642 XPF 93.3 M	
	French Polynesia	Opunohu	EUR 666,210 XPF 79.5	EUR 2,096,700 XPF 250.2 M
		Taiarapu	EUR 596,670 XPF 71.2	
		Raiatea-Taha'a	EUR 590,800 XPF 70.5 M	
		Cross-sector	EUR 243,000 XPF 29 M	
	Pitcairn	Pitcairn	EUR 371,600 XPF 44.3 M	EUR 371,600 XPF 44.3 M
Support mission	Project coordination and steering team operations		EUR 2,758,522 XPF 329.2 M	EUR 3,797,102 XPF 453.1 M
	Communication	Information and visibility	EUR 290,000 XPF 34.6 M	
	Miscellaneous	Operating costs (7%)	EUR 748,580 XPF 89.3 M	
TOTAL BUDGET: EUR 11,442,580 / XPF 1,365,462,510				





5

Waste Workshop, Noumea © SPC - INTEGRE

BUILD ON AND PROMOTE PROJECT OUTCOMES

COMMUNICATING TO BETTER SHARE INFORMATION

INTEGRE is assisting many sustainable development stakeholders to implement participatory projects by pursuing the goal of helping sustainably manage and enhance OCT environments in the interests of their peoples. A communication plan was developed to promote the outcomes and products (e.g. reports, articles, technical sheets) and make this knowledge, methodology and innovation base accessible to the various project stakeholder communities as well as to the general public. Overview:

RESULTS-MAXIMIZATION AND COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

INTEGRE has created a knowledge base from the experiences and lessons learnt during implementation of its activities. This knowledge forms a precise and well-defined set of information capable of bringing about changes or inspiring more effective actions in a wider context that could spur new learning and further knowledge. It comes from the experiences and lessons learnt during implementation of regional, territorial and local activities. The knowledge gained should be built on and reinvested into new actions.

Key to the project's success has been the exchanges of knowledge and skills, information sharing, ownership of new

knowledge, methodologies and innovation, and promoting successes as sources of examples that could be reproduced elsewhere. So INTEGRE developed a communication strategy designed to enhance project recognition, promote its outcomes and products to facilitate their ownership, ensure activity sustainability, form a freely available knowledge base and ensure its reinvestment in EDF-11. This communications strategy is based on creating material tailored to specific audiences (partners, donors, stakeholders) and wider audiences (schoolchildren, scientists, NGOs, inhabitants) as well as on the use of diverse channels (website, media) to reach those audiences.



© SPC - INTEGRE



Inauguration of the waste awareness signboard © SPC - INTEGRE

CHALLENGES:

- INTEGRE is working in wide-spread geographic areas in the South Pacific where the main spoken language is English. It operates in three French-speaking territories (New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis & Futuna) and one English-speaking one (Pitcairn). So the project's communications must be bilingual.
- INTEGRE is supporting a very wide range of stakeholders, e.g. political decision-makers, public-sector technical agents, businesspeople, association members, inhabitants, of differing cultural origins. It has also adapted itself to the specific institutional features of the territories (e.g. provinces, territorial assemblies, presidents, kings, traditional leaders). Communication has to be adapted to these highly varied political and social circles.
- INTEGRE is carrying out dozens of activities. Its progress and results are regularly reported on in a various publications, e.g. articles on its website, quarterly and annual reports, scientific papers, activities sheets, technical sheets, meeting reports. Distribution of such materials needs to be optimised so as to first reach target audiences involved in these topics in such a way that their contents are read and the knowledge in them assimilated.
- The project's final year will also be used for building on this knowledge by producing reports (final, lessons-learned, final review), and communications materials (exhibit, films, booklets, factsheets) and by holding events (closing workshop, end-of-project steering committee) designed to promote all this heritage. So some of the materials produced need to be technical enough to spur on discussions by partners and serve as public policy aids. Others will have to be sufficiently general, attractive and diversified (visual, verbal, digital) to improve project recognition, promote greater understanding, broaden the target audience and generate a positive image on the part of both partners and the general public.

COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVES

- Promote sustainable environmental development, integrated coastal management and sustainable development
- Promote the activities carried during INTEGRE so as to facilitate their ownership
- Inform project partners and environmental stakeholder communities in the OCTs
- Promote and share its knowledge capital
- Promote its human capital
- Encourage reinvestment of capital into new actions
- Improve donor, partner and regional coordinator (EU, SPC, NC, WF, FP, PIT) visibility
- Raise awareness among beneficiaries and local communities



Organic Agriculture Workshop in Opuhono © SPC - INTEGRE

TARGET GROUPS

Communication efforts should be aimed at a specific audience, such as partners, experts and decision-makers, but also at the general public who are increasingly concerned about environmental issues. Communication is designed for consumption at local pilot-sites, territory-wide, regionally in the South Pacific and internationally in Europe. As a result, the target groups are varied:

Partners

- Project donor: European Union
- Regional organisations (SPC, Pacific Island Forum, Pacific Regional Environmental Programme [SPREPI])
- Local decision-makers and elected officials from the four OCTs (e.g. presidents, governments, assembly members, mayors)
- Local project partners and all stakeholders living or working on pilot sites or nearby (e.g. management committees, operators, inhabitants)

- Project partners and technical departments (e.g. offices of the environment, tourism, agriculture, culture, rural development, regional cooperation, education)
- Traditional leaders and religious authorities

Wider audience

- Scientific agencies (e.g. universities, IRD, IFREMER, IAC, CRIOBE)
- Local non-governmental organisations and structures involved in environmental projects: environmental associations, tourism offices
- Economic stakeholders: e.g. farmers, industrialists, fishers, hotel managers
- Educational community and schoolchildren
- General public

MESSAGES

Targeting partners

- Integrated coastal management is an appropriate, tried and tested solution for sustainable development in South Pacific islands. INTEGRE promotes that approach.
- The communities contacted at the pilot sites are closely involved and play an active part in decisions and initiatives for preserving and using their environment so as to introduce sustainable solutions. Their participation improves the management process.
- The involvement of all coastal area stakeholders improves the approach and the success of the management process. INTEGRE encourages networking and collaborative processes.
- INTEGRE supports the territories' initiatives and adapts itself to the realities and specific features on the ground. It supports local development policies or takes part in shaping public integrated management policy so as to strengthen them and improve joint environmental management processes. The project supports existing public policies.
- It is beneficial to OCTs to cooperate with each other and other Pacific territories when introducing regional solutions to environmental and sustainable-development issues. The European Union and SPC provide them with support for developing their projects

Targeting a wider audience

- The four OCTs have outstanding natural and cultural heritages and coastal area are important economic levers for developing these islands. INTEGRE is helping to preserve this capital and maintain its integrity for future generations.
- The initiatives tried out in each OCT can serve as examples to be reproduced elsewhere, particularly in the Pacific region and in France's overseas departments and territories. INTEGRE is designed to strengthen regional cooperation.
- Natural environment conservation helps societies become more resilient to global change and natural disasters. It also helps maintain traditional culture and fosters greater harmony.
- It is beneficial for OCTs to cooperate with each other and other Pacific territories when introducing regional solutions to environmental and sustainable-development issues. The European Union and SPC provide them with support for developing their projects



COMMUNICATION MATERIALS

Designed for partners

- Lessons-learned report
- Final project report
- Annual and quarterly reports
- Technical sheets, activity sheets and country sheets
- Action plans: overall project, New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Wallis & Futuna, Pitcairn

Targeting a wider audience

- Publications posted to the website presenting the project, latest news, reports and work progress along with photo and video libraries
- Freely accessible, on-line catalogue of all the project documents with a key-word search function
- Institutional films about INTEGRE and the pilot sites
- Travelling exhibit about INTEGRE
- Articles and reports in local and regional media (web, TV, radio, print press)
- INTEGRE handouts and project-related materials

DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS

- Website: <http://integre.spc.int>
- Mailing : partners, donors, etc.
- Media (radio, TV, print media, Internet)
- PRESS events:
 - Regional workshops
 - Steering committees
 - International meetings on environmental topics
 - Travelling exhibit about INTEGRE
 - Take part in public events (SPC's 70th anniversary, science fairs)
 - INTEGRE handouts and project-related materials
 - Closing workshop



Website homepage

CHARTER

In addition, in accordance with the funding and contribution agreements, the project communication plan has to:

- comply with the provisions of the European Union's visibility manual
- ensure the visibility of funded studies and reports
- include a graphic charter approved by the Steering Committee and the European Commission
- include a website in English and French
- provide executive summaries and educational material for decision-makers and the general public
- envisage organising special communication and visibility events; and
- acknowledge European Union support on all communication material

6

OVERVIEW AND APPENDICES

OVERALL PROJECT TIMELINE

2013
Signed funding (March) and contribution (August) agreements and project launch
1 st Steering Committee meeting: approved INTEGRE's 9 pilot sites (September)
SPC hired coordination team (November)
2014
INTEGRE Launch Workshop: presented the project to partners and discussed its methodological framework (February)
2 nd Steering Committee meeting: approved project governance (March)
3 rd Steering Committee meeting: approved regional and territory action plans (July)
Began to implement activities at the project sites (July)
Issued 1 st call for bilateral exchange projects (September)
2015
1 st Regional Workshop on Sustainable Tourism and ICM (February)
4 th Steering Committee meeting : 2015-2016 Work Plan and activity progress report (June)
Regional Methodology Workshop on Integrated Management Plans (September)
1 st Regional Workshop on Organic Agriculture in Houaïlou, New Caledonia (November)
Issued 2 nd call for bilateral exchange projects (October)
2016
Regional Waste Management Workshop - Noumea, New Caledonia (March)
ROM evaluation of project by the European Commission (April)
5 th Steering Committee meeting: 2016-2017 Work Plan and activity progress report (through to July)
Signed addendum extending the project through to 28 January 2017
Issued 3 rd call for bilateral exchange projects (October)
Regional Organic Agriculture Workshop - Papeete, French Polynesia (November)
2017
Regional EDF-11 Workshop (March)
Regional Lagoon Fisheries Management Workshop - Papeete, French Polynesia (April)
Mid-term review by the European Commission (April-May)
6 th Steering Committee meeting : Activities report and end-of-project timeline (July)
Regional Organic Agriculture Workshop – Wallis (October)
Regional Public Participation Workshop and Project Closing Workshop (December)
2018
Project activities end (January 2018)
Results maximization (through to June)
Administrative and financial closing period (through to June)
Final project review

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INTEGRE's work is based on local ownership and a participatory approach, which are vital for improving environmental management in the OCTs for the benefit of their communities. As such it fully responds to the issues identified by the stakeholders with a view to enhancing their natural, cultural, social and economic assets, strengthening ecosystem resilience to global change and thus shoring up the pillars of sustainable development for their communities.

The project's regional cooperation approach was designed in such a way that INTEGRE's pilot initiatives can serve as examples for other countries facing the same problems and that the OCTs would learn from the experiences in other Pacific countries.



Brief bio of Peggy Roudaut, INTEGRE Project Coordinator in New Caledonia

Peggy joined SPC in September in 2016 to coordinate INTEGRE. Prior to that she worked at the Regional Cooperation and External Relations Department under the Office of the President of the New Caledonia Government from 2007 to 2016, where she was in charge of cooperation and New Caledonia's regional integration with the countries of the Pacific, specifically handling New Caledonia's relations with the European Union. Her duties included acting as the EDF Authorising Officer, managing EU-funded projects in New Caledonia in various areas ranging from research and innovation to employment and training as well as the environment and natural resources. She had previously been with the New Caledonia Economic Observatory after starting her career as a consultant with a Paris-based consultancy firm. She was trained in political science and international relations, earning a magister from Sorbonne University (Paris I) and was also awarded master's degrees in geography and history.



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