

Regional organic farming governance review



Organic farming is supported in the region by POETCom, with the Pacific Community (SPC) serving as its secretariat. A few years ago, POETCom's board members and the Agriculture Departments of the region's countries and territories wished to strengthen its governance in order to support organic farming development. With PROTEGE's support, a broad consultation process was carried out in 2022 with more than 50 people in the region. The conclusions were discussed during a July 2022 workshop in Fiji leading to recommendations on the development of POETCom's governance, Pacific Organic Standard (POS) management systems and participatory guarantee system (PGS) accreditation standards. The recommendations were then approved during the Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry held in Fiji in March 2023. The working group representing the various

stakeholders in several Pacific island countries and territories meets several times a month to develop documents designed to boost regional momentum in organic farming.

It is working on a number of points for approval at the next Agriculture Week in March 2024, namely:

- restructuring membership, including voting rights at the various governance levels so as to address requests by agriculture departments to be more closely involved in POETCom's operations;
- a flyer on governance to clarify the roles and mandates of the board/committees/working groups, procedures and decision-making powers;
- a draft agreement describing working methods and the relationship with SPC;
- and
- recommendations to strengthen the Pacific Organic Guarantee Scheme.

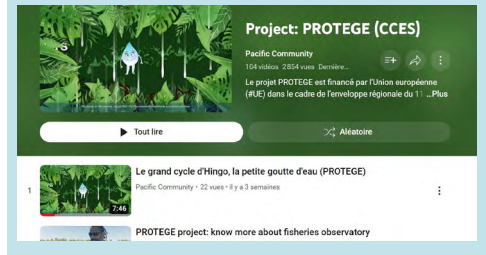
You may be interested in...

Over 100 videos



The lessons-learned aspect of a project such as PROTEGE is important for disseminating activities and the outcomes achieved as effectively as possible. Videos are a powerful, accessible and highly effective medium for disseminating acquired knowledge regionally.

Watch the various videos and tutorials produced under the project and available on the Pacific Community's YouTube channel in the PROTEGE playlist.



Quiz

Educating as many people as possible on food transition is vital for ensuring sustainable change is accepted by everyone in the Pacific.

In order to contribute to this, take the following quiz on food and food systems designed by PROTEGE.

The quiz is available here: <https://jeu-alimentation-cps.nc>

Coastal Fisheries Observatories (CFOs)

The Wallis and Futuna and New Caledonia CFOs were set up and funded through PROTEGE and are now playing a pivotal role in coastal fisheries data collection and analysis.

The main aims are to assess and efficiently manage marine resources, assist the authorities make informed decisions for sustainably managing these resources and educate the public about marine resource management and the crucial role played by coastal fisheries. Both observatories rely on regional organisations, particularly SPC, for setting up protocols, feedback and communication. Both observatories have proven useful since they were set up when PROTEGE was launched. They should undeniably be maintained after PROTEGE to ensure marine resources are managed as best as possible.

 [Watch the clip on maintaining CFOs HERE.](#)

Events

- Pacific Food System Sustainability Workshop, 2-6 October, French Polynesia
- PROTEGE Coastal Fisheries Lessons Learned Workshop, 20-24 November, New Caledonia
- Celebrating World Food Day, 16 October, OCTs

Operation "Clean Rivers"

The Department of the Environment (DIREN) carried out a major operation under PROTEGE to clean Tahiti and Moorea Islands' rivers. The campaign targeted a total of 14 rivers, i.e. 12 on Tahiti and two on Mo'orea, following on from the ecosystem preservation operations begun in 2018 by DIREN in cooperation with the municipal authorities.

In order to carry out the initiative, 17 Kimball company workers scoured the rivers with a clear objective, i.e. to remove anything obstructing the watercourses, including bottles, plastic containers, electrical appliances, batteries, tree trunks, branches or any other waste.



© DIREN PF

The results speak for themselves and reveal the magnitude of the task: nearly 30 tonnes of waste, mainly bulky refuse, were extracted from the rivers. No less than 375 cubic metres of garden waste was also removed from the watercourses, thereby considerably reducing the logjam risk and flooding potential. One of the factors contributing to the operation's success was educating the public about the importance of preserving rivers. This involved working and communicating with the municipal authorities who were well aware of local realities and needs and could pass the information on to the public. Operation Clean Rivers was a success both in terms of quantity and quality and gradually restored the rivers to their natural beauty. Ultimate success, will however, depend on changing public behaviour, as we can only effectively preserve our rivers, if everybody is more mindful of the environment.

Regulated fishing zones: better knowledge for better protection

A year ago, French Polynesia's regulated fishing zone (ZPR) management committees met for the first time at a seminar to share their local experience and solutions for sustainably managing the reef and lagoon resources of the territory's islands. During the workshop, the participants indicated that they wished to acquire more detailed knowledge of reef and lagoon resource biology and management.

The Marine Resource Department, in partnership with PROTEGE, therefore, commissioned the Rahui Centre to design and dispense a series of training courses for the ZPR management committees.



© DRMP PF



Training at the Rahui Centre

In late August 2023, the Papara and Mataeia ZPR management committees got the ball rolling with course modules such as general coral reef knowledge, coral biology and ecology and the main harvested species (fish, crustaceans and molluscs) functional fisheries zones, general and local threats, management plan and measures and stock assessment mechanisms, etc.

Both management committees attended two days of meetings at the Teva I Uta Town Hall to acquire the necessary theoretical knowledge to be able to put forward suitable management measures for their areas and species so as to ensure that French Polynesia's reef and lagoon resources remains sustainable.

By late 2023 with PROTEGE support, the remaining ZPR management committees will have been trained.

The ZPR workshop was facilitated by the French IUCN Committee.



PROTEGE



Funded by European Union



Pacific Community Communauté du Pacifique



NOUVELLE CALÉDONIE



FRENCH POLYNESIA



WALLIS AND FUTUNA



PITCAIRN ISLANDS

Offshore island deratting operation

Rat poison was dropped by drone in the Marquesas on two small islands off Ua Pou Island from 24 August to 6 September 2023 by New Zealand company Envico in partnership with Birdlife International, the French Polynesian ornithology Society (Manu), Marquesas municipal authorities (CODIM) and French Polynesia's Department of the Environment under PROTEGE (SPREP/SPC).

The operation received support from and involvement by local stakeholders, particularly the Ua Pou mayors, Marquesas shuttle boat management company (CODIM) and Ua Pou fishers' guild.

Rough seas and strong winds affected the vessel's stability and the drone's ability to take off and land. In the entire period, only two days were suitable to drop poison, with less than one-metre swells and wind direction that enabled the boats to shelter from the wind on the leeward side of the island. Motu Takaae and Motu Oa were finally fully treated. Poison was



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dropped a second time on Motu Takaae in the priority area, and the same was done on three quarters of the Motu Oa plateau.

Although the interval between the first and second applications had to be considerably curtailed (one day instead of seven), the island's environmental conditions (no rainfall or significant competitors for the bait), the high-quality treatment for the first application and the second on Takaae all suggest that the bait dropped should be available for the rats for long enough, raising potential exposure to 100% of the rat population.

Toxicological monitoring will also provide valuable information on the persistence of the chemical compound used and risks to non-targeted wildlife. Fishing was banned for six months with the agreement and support of the local community. Further testing will rule out any risks and an environmental monitoring base for birds, plants and invertebrates has been set up to monitor the operation's medium- and long-term impacts.

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Regional cooperation

Adding value to and processing agricultural produce



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In response to the call for projects to strengthen food systems, the WF Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Trades and Agriculture (CCIMA) and PF Chamber of Agriculture and Lagoon Fisheries (CAPL) have offered to carry out an initiative for adding value to and processing Wallis & Futuna's agricultural produce through skill sharing with French Polynesia. Eight persons from Wallis and three from Futuna took part in a trip to French Polynesia organised by CAPL from 23 September to 8 October 2023. They were able to meet some 30 growers and view a wide variety of produce, methods and agricultural processing facilities, including for root-crop flour, breadfruit flakes, pineapples, fruit juice, noni pears, oil mills, honey, sugar cane as well as aquaculture facilities, food industry training and school canteens, etc. Also on the programme was appropriate processing equipment for projects, communication systems and such training as could be replicated on WF.

A cartoon video on the water cycle

There are a growing number of observations on the PICTs' increased vulnerability to climate change.

New Caledonia is aware of this and has made water a strategic, crosscutting issue through its Shared Water Policy (PEP). One PEP strategic objective is to raise awareness, communicate, inform, educate and train the public in such a way as to make all New Caledonians water- and ecology-conscious.

The NC Government and Customary Senate, whose objectives are in line with the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB) and European Union who co-funded this clip, worked closely with OFB and SPC to produce an awareness cartoon video that aims to illustrate the water cycle and explain the impact of fire, alien invasive species and human activity on water resources.

It explains the issues affecting water in terms of consumption, supply, development and preservation.

The video was posted online on the NC Government's YouTube channel and will be used in schools and by organisations working to heighten environmental awareness (CIE, Symbiose, Œil, Vie 'Ō douce, and WWF, etc).



Forestry: a unique study visit to NC

As part of climate change mitigation and efforts to preserve future biodiversity, sustainable planning is required for tomorrow's forests. Logging must be followed by replanting so that forests can provide the islands' future generations with the resources they will need.

With this in mind, a delegation from Wallis & Futuna was funded through PROTEGE to travel last August to New Caledonia so as to learn how to develop the first sustainable forestry management plan for a forest in the territory. The delegation members were chosen based on original criteria for this exceptional trip. The traditional Minister of Agriculture, Hihifo district chief, two village headmen, two elected territorial officials and the Wallis & Futuna Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' Forestry Director worked together on building a sustainable land-use plan for Loka Forest, which is the island's largest pine forest spanning approximately 110 ha.

The delegation received solid technical training from New Caledonia's SAEM Sud-Forêt, an expert in the area and knowledgeable about Loka Forest, as it had already conducted a consultancy there.

On 14 September, the traditional Hihifo



leaders held a feedback meeting on the work they had accomplished to an audience of some 30 people from government, territorial departments and the business community.

The process has been initiated and there are hopes of seeing concrete development in the Wallis forestry and timber industry.

The Loka Forest Sustainable Management Plan (PGDF) is due to be finalised and will soon be presented by the traditional leaders and DSA to the Territorial Assembly for discussion.

Well done Team STE!



The Wallis and Futuna STE (Territorial Department of the Environment) mounted the podium with enthusiasm and gusto!

Our partners in PROTEGE distinguished themselves brilliantly by finishing second in the interdepartmental volleyball tournament for Wallis & Futuna.

Congratulations are due to the players who so ably competed wearing the project colours.

Hopefully this wonderful team will come first next year!

Disinfection station inaugurated at Ponerihouen, New Caledonia

On 13 September, the Ponerihouen municipal authorities invited several water-industry stakeholders for a day of discussions on this theme as the high point of the inauguration of the disinfection stations funded by the European Union through PROTEGE.

The forum opened with a presentation on the EU PROTEGE programme and then several speakers illustrated its activities, including the Ginger Soproner and Thésée engineering design firms, IAC, CIRAD, OEIL and WWF. Several neighbouring municipal areas' authorities were represented by many technicians and water-supply engineers in charge of water in their municipal areas contributing to instructive and constructive discussions regarding clean-water treatment, watershed damage by deer, wild pigs and fire, and about the value of water in customs and traditions.

One of the PROTEGE-funded sites was officially inaugurated with a visit to the new treatment plant located above the village. Those in attendance were able to see the chlorine disinfection facilities, understand how disinfection by chlorination worked and share with the technicians in person and on site.

Water is life, water is about relationships and water is about sharing: the Ponerihouen Municipal Council proved how true this was with a wonderful day of activities involving water! Congratulations and thank you!



LESSONS LEARNED

Watch the latest videos



<https://protege.spc.int/en>

and on our social media



on SPC's YouTube channel



THE LATEST VIDEOS



Coastal Fisheries Observatories- NC/WF

Coastal fisheries observatories were set up under PROTEGE to support effective marine resource management in New Caledonia and Wallis & Futuna.

They are actively developing systems for consolidating and standardising fisheries data while providing data acquisition and monitoring methods.

[Watch the video](#)



Hingo the water droplet's epic cycle

This cartoon video is an awareness clip about the great water cycle.

Hingo the water drop describes its journey from its evaporation to its return to the New Caledonian lagoon, an island in the Pacific Ocean.

The film also explains the harmful effects that fire, alien invasive species and human activity have on the quality and availability of water resources.

[Watch the video](#)



SHARING KNOWLEDGE- TUTORIALS

To share in the knowledge acquired through PROTEGE, see the new lessons-learned tools developed in the form of videos produced by AGIR NC, the New Caledonia Agroforestry Association.



Soil, a vital resource for sustainable agriculture
Video tutorial 2
New Caledonia- AGIR NC

[Watch the video](#)



Improving crop yields with mycorrhizae
Video tutorial 3
New Caledonia- AGIR NC

[Watch the video](#)



Improving soil quality for sustainable agricultural yields
Video tutorial 4
New Caledonia- AGIR NC

[Watch the video](#)

Get the latest news on the PROTEGE website and app



<https://protege.spc.int/en>

and on our social media

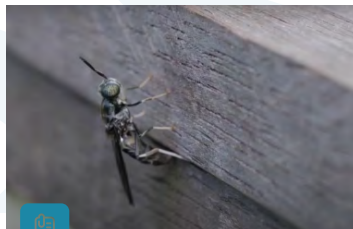


ARTICLES



MK2 Cinema invites New Caledonians to its Green Week Festival from 29 September to 4 October. PROTEGE is an event partner

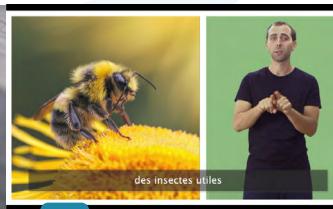
[Read the article](#)



Increasing Pacific Island resilience by producing farm animal feed from black soldier flies (BSF)

Watch the clip

[Read the article](#)



Sustainable agriculture in sign language for access to information for all

Watch the clip

[Read the article](#)



THEME: NOTRE PEUPLE, NOTRE FORCE - ASSURONS L'AVENIR DE NOTRE PACIFIQUE

A PROPOS DE LA REUNION POUR LA RESILIENCE DANS LE PACIFIQUE

La réunion pour la résilience dans le Pacifique est une plateforme qui aborde les défis du changement climatique et de la gestion des risques, mettant en avant les efforts locaux durables et transformateurs. C'est l'occasion de partager des récits empreints de courage et de résilience du peuple océanien. Il s'agit de mettre en avant la force, l'adaptabilité et la durabilité des communautés et des écosystèmes du Pacifique face à l'adversité.



Pacific Resilience Meeting

The Pacific Resilience Meeting focused on: "Our people, our strength: securing our Pacific future."

[Read the article](#)



Pour préserver ces ressources, il est important d'adopter une gestion locale et un suivi efficace par les communautés.

La réussite de cette approche repose sur une communication active et l'implication des acteurs locaux (associations, écoles, etc.), favorisant un leadership et une gouvernance solide.

Le suivi local fournit des informations sur l'état des ressources marines, indiquant si elles diminuent, augmentent ou restent stables. Ce suivi permet d'optimiser la gestion en détectant les changements provoqués par les activités humaines et les événements naturels, et en identifiant les moments où une intervention locale est nécessaire. Cette approche permet d'évaluer l'efficacité des mesures de gestion existantes et de définir de nouveaux plans de pêche.

A toolbox for community marine environment monitoring

This project was developed by CO2 consultants with support from the French Pacific Fund and PROTEGE.

[Read the article](#)



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Wallis & Futuna Fisheries Committee meeting

Making great strides towards sustainable coastal resource management on Wallis & Futuna.

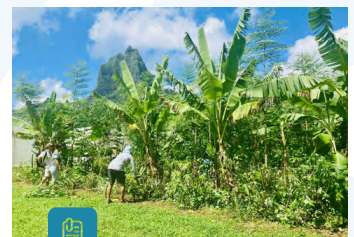
[Read the article](#)



Fourth Coconut Days on Wallis & Futuna

The 2023 Coconut Days were held on 1 and 2 September and, as every year, were a great success.

[Read the article](#)



Keep Fisheries Sustainable Contest, Wallis & Futuna

Play an active role in preserving your lagoon so as to promote responsible marine resource preservation practices.

[Read the article](#)

Read about the project's latest achievements



<https://protege.spc.int/en>

and on our social media



LATEST OUTPUTS



Auxiliary plant booklet- French Polynesia

The French Polynesian Department of Agriculture published two practical guides on green fertilisers and plants that foster useful insects. They are the outcome of studies carried out under PROTEGE from 2019 to 2023 with European Union funding. Some 30 locally available species were assessed and the most useful identified. Their characteristics and crop protocols were defined.

Green fertilisers

A natural method for feeding soil!

Green fertilisers are plants grown specifically for improving soil fertility and thus reducing fertiliser use. They also help improve soil structure by the work done by their roots and help control weeds by covering the soil quickly.

Learn about the advantages of green fertilisers, how to grow them to enrich the soil, how to produce your own seed and get detailed technical specifications for useful species available in French Polynesia.

Watch the tutorial videos by scanning the following QR codes:

Growing green fertiliser:

Producing green fertiliser seed:



[Auxiliary plant booklet](#)



Useful insects in the vegetable garden

Pollinisers and biological control auxiliaries play a vital role in agriculture.

Pollinisers help 75% of cultivated species propagate. There are some 20 polliniser species in French Polynesia.

Biological control auxiliaries (ladybirds and micro hornets, etc.) help naturally regulate insect pest populations (insects that damage crops). There are many species in the environment, but farming methods must be adjusted so as to preserve them and improve pest control.

Learn to recognise these useful insects and learn farming methods that help preserve them and attract them and, especially, wild and cultivated plants that foster them.

Both practical guides can be read on and downloaded from the Department of Agriculture's website: [https://www.service-public.pf/dag/](https://www.service-public.pf/dag/www.service-public.pf/dag)



[Useful insects in the vegetable garden](#)

