

A Word from...



Sujiro SEAM

European Union Ambassador to the Pacific

“ I wanted to take advantage of my first I trip to New Caledonia in December 2019 to see for myself the projects that are supported by PROTEGE. Together with the SPC project team, I visited ADECAL-Technopole’s “ocean” and “land” centres, the CANC (New Caledonia Chamber of Agriculture) breeding station and the CEN (wilderness conservation centre). I was able to tour facilities designed to develop aquaculture and micro-algae and new plant and animal production methods along with those. These visits convinced me of the success of the partnership approach that PROTEGE has chosen, which brings together both regional and territorial stakeholders. I am very satisfied with the relevance of the project’s objectives, which focus on identifying new development opportunities based on ecosystem protection and enhancement. I am also happy that this project is fully aligned with the European Union’s new top priority, i.e. the European Green Deal, which combines climate change control through carbon neutrality, implementation of a biodiversity strategy, promotion of a circular economy and the wider use of clean technologies. So PROTEGE is helping create sustainable ties between the Pacific and the European Union. I am looking forward to seeing the projects the programme supports in the other OCTs!



News

Regional Coconut Sector Workshop



Regional workshop participants

French Polynesia hosted some 50 participants from New Caledonia (NC), Fiji, French Polynesia (PF) and Wallis & Futuna (WF) in Pirae from 4 - 8 November 2019. This first regional workshop resulted in 22 recommendations about the coconut

sector in the overseas countries and territories (OCTs) involved.

The outcomes will be presented during the second Regional Steering Committee in March 2020.

Regional Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Workshop



Regional workshop participants

Wallis & Futuna hosted some 30 participants from New Caledonia (NC), French Polynesia (PF) and Wallis & Futuna

(WF) in Mata-Utu from 18 - 22 November 2019. This inaugural workshop achieved two objectives:

- ▶ responding to a common need of all the territories to share information and feedback.

- ▶ strengthening regional cooperation to lead to a synergy of activities as part of PROTEGE.

Upcoming activities:

- January 2020: Announcement of the outcomes of the call for proposals on demonstration farms in NC and PF.
- Regional “Forestry and Agroforestry” Workshop: 9 - 13 March 2020, Noumea, Pacific Community
- Regional PROTEGE Steering Committee meeting: week of 23 March 2020

To learn more:

Follow PROTEGE’s news via social media.
Watch our videos on YouTube.





AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

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

Demonstration farms: On 18 and 19 December 2020, the members of the demonstration farms juries in NC and PF met to select the successful proposals. More than 60 proposals had been submitted, showing the high level of interest farmers have in taking part in this project.

POETCOM visits: NC and WF hosted visits by an organic-certification support mission in December. The same type of mission is planned for PF some time in 2020.

PROTEGE facilitators: the three facilitators have begun their work! They are now facilitating efforts in their theme areas in their respective territories. A warm welcome to Julie Ferrand (CA - NC), Julien Cambou (DAG - PF) and Marine Esnouf (DSA - WF).



Demonstration farm jury in French Polynesia - DAG

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COASTAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

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

Community management: the first community-management service contract in WF will begin with initial awareness activities in early 2020.

Fisheries observatory: recruitment of a project officer is underway.

Guide to monitoring the quality of seawater subject to aquacultural activities: work began in December 2019 and the guide will be available in late 2020.

PROTEGE facilitators: three facilitators have begun their work! They are now facilitating efforts in their theme areas in their respective territories.

A warm welcome to Jean-François Laplante (ADECAL Technopole - NC), Kahaia Robert (DRM - PF) and Baptiste Jaugeon (DSA - WF).



Regional Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Workshop - WF

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WATER

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

For the first time in the Pacific OCTs, an airborne geophysical survey will be carried out to identify new groundwater resources and locate the saltwater wedge. This survey will take place in early 2020 in the municipality of Poum, NC. The lessons learnt from this survey will be of interest to PF as they plan to engage in similar efforts on the island of Tahiti. In WF, drinking water safety actions are currently underway.

An ICPE (environmentally classified facilities) review is planned for early 2020 with NC's support, and the domestic and agricultural wastewater and rainwater master plans should begin soon. In PF, preparations are underway for two calls for tender to set up a quality monitoring system for Fautaua River and to develop five drinking water safety plans for the municipalities of Mahina, Paea, Hao, Rimatara and Tumaraa.

Atmospheric water generators and water bottles: 24 water generators will arrive in the second quarter 2020 to provide drinking water for schoolchildren on Futuna. Each student will be given a water bottle to make it easier to use the equipment.

PROTEGE facilitators: the three facilitators have begun their work! They are now facilitating efforts in their theme areas in their respective territories. A warm welcome to Pearl Winchester (DAVAR - NC), Hitinui Teinaore (DIREN - PF) and Jairo Talalua (STE - WF).



INVASIVE SPECIES

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



EU visit to CEN-PROTEGE.

Equipment: progress made in identifying the biosecurity equipment that will soon be used in PF.

CEN communication: the CEN held its first "Invasive Ungulates" Steering Committee meeting in La Foa on 10/12. The representatives of the NC Government and the three provinces were able to coordinate their efforts and approve the action plan and first phase of activities, which will begin

in January 2020. An initial information and consultation phase with the authorities and local communities will be followed by training sessions and the first participatory culling activities.

PROTEGE facilitators: two facilitators have begun their work! They are now facilitating efforts in their theme areas in their respective territories. A warm welcome to Christophe Nativel (CEN - NC) and Marie Monrolin (STE - WF).

