



Final steering committee meeting: PROTEGE takes stock as the project ends in French Polynesia



The final Pacific Territories Regional Project for Sustainable Ecosystem Management (PROTEGE) Steering Committee (COFIL) meeting was held on Friday, 8 November in Faa'a, French Polynesia.

The meeting was opened by Minarii Galenon-Taupua, Vice-President of French Polynesia, and Maria Fuata, Deputy Director General of the Pacific Community (SPC), and attended by stakeholders from the Pacific overseas countries and territories (OCTs), namely New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, French Polynesia and Pitcairn.

of large-scale initiatives in support of public policy in the Pacific OCTs, thereby signalling a firm commitment to regional cooperation.

The committee reviewed the project's noteworthy outcomes, placing the various action points carried out since 2019 into perspective, as PROTEGE reaches completion on its due date of 31 December 2024.

PROTEGE is leaving a valuable legacy behind for future generations by reaching a milestone in the transition towards sustainable and resilient economies in the Pacific territories.

Its impact, hailed by regional stakeholders, paves the way for a sustainable future for the Pacific territories.

[Find out more](#)

“ This project was born of a shared vision.”

PROTEGE is a major project in the region. Funded to the tune of EUR 36 million by the European Union, it led to the implementation

Ongoing feedback on project outcomes provided to elected officials in all three territories

The outcomes were presented to elected officials in **French Polynesia** so as to disseminate the information as best as possible and identify multiple options for sustaining PROTEGE's accomplishments:

- 12 November: to the Agriculture and Marine Resources Committee of the of French Polynesian Assembly; and
 - 14 November: to a plenary session of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (CESEC)
- They will also be presented shortly in **Wallis and Futuna** and **New Caledonia**.



What they told us... In their words



Maria Fuata
Deputy Director
General of the Pacific
Community (SPC)

This project was born from a shared ambition: to build sustainable development in anticipation of the increasing challenges of climate change, while valuing biodiversity and renewable natural resources (...) As PROTEGE concludes in a few months, our commitment endures. The lessons learned, the networks of cooperation established, and the innovative practices developed form a valuable legacy for future projects. (...)

Together, we have laid a strong foundation for a more resilient, self-sufficient Pacific that lives in harmony with its natural resources.



Easter Shu Sing
Deputy Director General of the South Pacific
Regional Environment
Programme (SPREP)

PROTEGE is one of the first major projects for SPREP that has a specific focus on the French territories and Pitcairn Island, which has facilitated greater engagement and collaboration with the territories and strengthened regional collaboration with the rest of the Pacific Island countries and territories that are Members of SPREP.

I would like to acknowledge with appreciation the excellent support and collaboration of the territories, which have contributed significantly to the successful implementation of the Invasive Species component of the PROTEGE project.



What they told us...

In their words



Charles Wea
Advisor to the President of the Government of New Caledonia

I would like to highlight the importance of a regional approach and regional co-operation, which enable the Pacific territories to work together, share experience and build capacity to address common challenges. It is difficult to make progress in isolation. SPC and SPREP play an essential role in enabling us to learn from others through their experience and in facilitating the link between the French territories and the region.



Munipoese Muliakaaka
Speaker of the Territorial Assembly of the Wallis and Futuna Islands

The successes and action items have been both collective and individual, reflecting the complexity of this regional cooperation programme: working together and yet doing our utmost for our respective territories; cooperating and yet remaining mindful of everyone's special features and varying development levels; contributing to capacity building and yet offering concrete and visible achievements to our fellow citizens. Together, let us go on building a better future for our territories.



Heimana Ah-Min
First Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Marine Resources and the Environment, responsible for Food

The deployment of PROTEGE in French Polynesia has led to studies and trials contributing to the development of our primary sector and generally more environmentally friendly farming practices. It has also led to more sustainable resource management and development in both fishing and farming.



Evan Dunn
Head of the Pitcairn Islands Office

I'd like to thank and acknowledge the huge support the EU has given Pitcairn over the years. Mr Dunn praised PROTEGE's support for renewable energy in Pitcairn and expressed his gratitude to whole team for their invaluable support in procurement and project implementation. He bid farewell to the whole Pacific OCT community.

Field trip by the PROTEGE final steering committee meeting

On Thursday, 7 November, a field trip was organised to present some of the project's concrete achievements. Representatives of the countries and territories taking part in the Pacific Community's Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA), which took place on 4 and 5 November in Tahiti, were also invited to take part in these visits.

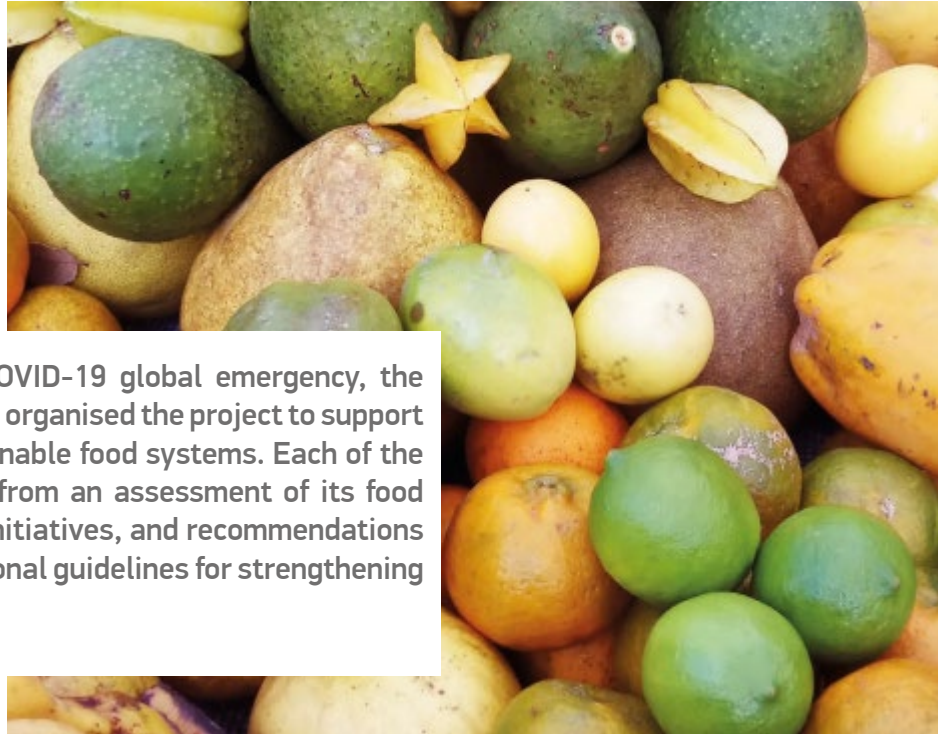
Two sites were visited:

- Taravao: Françoise Henry's agroecology demonstration farm
- Vairao: aquaculture trials at the French Polynesian Department of Marine Resources aquaculture nursery site.



[Find out more](#)

FOOD SYSTEMS



In April 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 global emergency, the PROTEGE steering committee members organised the project to support the OCTs in their quest for more sustainable food systems. Each of the three territories, therefore, benefited from an assessment of its food systems, a baseline study of existing initiatives, and recommendations aimed at defining strategic and operational guidelines for strengthening food system sustainability.

Following the assessments, PROTEGE continued this support by backing **seven inspiring regional initiatives** to help boost and disseminate local solutions for **sustainable food systems in the Pacific**.

The projects aimed to improve access to **healthy, sustainable food**, while **supporting the local economy** and **preserving natural resources**.

SUPPORTING MARKETING SYSTEMS FOR LOCAL ORGANIC PRODUCTS IN FRENCH POLYNESIA AND NEW CALEDONIA

This project, led by the Bio Fetia association in partnership with Bio Caledonia, supported and strengthened three schemes for facilitating organic produce marketing. In French Polynesia, it helped set up the GAB Raromata'i agricultural cooperative. In New Caledonia, Coop 1 and the organic meat industry received support. An experience sharing workshop was held on Tahiti for a week in 2024 to foster experience sharing and showcase the results regionally.

[Read the report](#) 



[Coop 1: a mechanism to market local and organic products in the Pacific](#)



[The GAB Raromata'i warehouse: a storage facility to help market agricultural produce and reduce losses](#)



[GAB Raromata'i: an organic farmers' cooperative on Raiatea](#)



[The organic meat board, an asset for New Caledonian farmers and butchers](#)

2 IMPROVING FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS

Supported by the Kokioho workshop based on the island of Ua Huka in the Marquesas Islands, this project aims to reduce farming losses, increase the islands' food self-sufficiency and demonstrate that agro-processing in remote areas is viable. Regionally, the project liaises with Wake Chaa association so they can both draw lessons from each other's outcomes.

[Read the report](#) 

3 SHOWCASING LOCAL PRODUCE FROM TRADITIONAL FARMING TO PROMOTE FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The Wake Chaa project focuses on supplying local produce to boarding schools in Canala, New Caledonia. By processing produce from 300 farmers into frozen produce and ready-made dishes, Wake Chaa is reducing farm losses and increasing producer income in tribal areas, while at the same time raising young people's awareness of sustainable food issues.

[Read the report](#) 

4 IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF MY MEALS

The aim of this project, run by Alterocéan, a company based on the social and solidarity economy concept, was to offer a training programme in healthy eating, grocery budget management and *fa'a'apu* (traditional kitchen garden) maintenance to 15 disadvantaged families on Moorea. Over a period of five months, these families were supported through hands-on workshops that enabled the participants to break out of their isolation and provided them with a basis for discussing their food autonomy by using kitchen-garden kits and considering the factors contributing to well-being and food education within the family.



5 WALLIS AND FUTUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (CCIMA)

The aim of this project was to take stock of the potential for agro-processing in Wallis and Futuna and train local operators by sharing know-how with French Polynesia. By developing local farm produce agro-processing, the project stimulated the economy while promoting Wallis and Futuna's sustainability and food autonomy. Two regional cooperation trips were made under the project. Project leaders from Wallis and Futuna were able to take part in the Tahiti Agricultural Fair before hosting French Polynesian partners on Wallis Island for the 2023 Christmas Fair. The trips were highly rewarding in terms of skill enhancement and helped build an exchange network between agro-processing professionals that will carry over beyond PROTEGE.



6

AN ORGANIC PLOT FOR THE CANTINES À L'UNISSON (CANTEENS IN UNISON) CAMPAIGN

Led by the Pacific Food Lab association, in conjunction with Bio Caledonia and ASAE Conseil, this project focused on organising organic produce introduction into school canteens in New Caledonia and French Polynesia. By raising awareness among canteen managers and pupils, it promoted local organic foods on school menus, thereby strengthening food education and sustainable consumption. Regionally, it led to several exchange visits between chefs in New Caledonia and French Polynesia and should lead to recommendations for supplying such products long-term in canteen meals.



[READ THE REPORT](#)

7

AGRO-PROCESSING PROJECT INCUBATOR

Sponsored by Alterocéan, a business based on the social and solidarity economy concept, the aim of this project was to provide technical and strategic support to primary sector stakeholders wishing to process their produce in order to generate more added value and help supply school canteens with local produce. Two women farmers and a fisherman received 65 hours of support over seven months. In the end, the two women farmers developed new products, some of which were served to the 250 students at Moorea Agricultural Senior Secondary School during “Cantines à l’unisson” week.



[READ THE REPORT](#)

These seven projects illustrate the many possible approaches to supporting food system sustainability in the Pacific. By combining social innovation with agro-ecology, a circular economy and support for local production, PROTEGE has actively contributed to a more resilient food future for the OCTs, while strengthening the local economy and preserving ecosystems.

These initiatives were presented and shared at the regional Pasifika Ma'a Pacific Food System Sustainability Seminar held by PROTEGE from 2 to 6 October 2023 on Tahiti. Some hundred participants from all three OCTs, as well as Fiji, Kiribati, Australia and Samoa, discussed the subject over the week and forged links in order to lay the groundwork for regional cooperation under the next European financial instrument.



[READ THE REPORT](#)

Agroforestry brings the Pacific together in Fiji



The Regional Agroforestry Workshop held by PROTEGE and its partners, PIFON, POETCom and AGIR NC, was attended by more than 60 participants in Fiji and approximately 15 in Noumea from 26 to 30 August 2024. It was funded under the 11th European Regional Development Fund (EDF).

As part of the project's regional cooperation objective for the OCTs and the countries of the Pacific region, the workshop wrapped up five years of agroforestry trials in the Pacific.

Agroforestry, a response to climate change issues



Agroforestry is an effective way of mitigating the effects of climate change by fostering sustainable and resilient agriculture suited to the Pacific territories' soil and climate conditions. In that way, agroforestry helps improve food security.

Trials that have proven their worth

The plenary sessions were attended on site in Nadi and by videoconference at Pacific Community (SPC) Headquarters in Noumea. The talks highlighted certain agroforestry trials in the Pacific Islands but also on Reunion Island and in Australia, as well as the outcomes of studies on several territories.

Link between ancestral knowledge and innovative practices

During site visits, participants were able to discover a project related to breadfruit tree



growing in association with banana plants and other support trees. They were also able to observe the remarkable work done by the FRIEND Foundation, which offered a range of agricultural products processed in a shop and restaurant.

Creative working sessions

The working sessions, called "idea incubators", allowed participants to focus on and think about issues arising from PROTEGE's work tied to the collection of technical and economic data, support for new projects, knowledge sharing, and the ecosystem services provided by agroforestry.

[Find out more](#)

What they told us...

In their words



Georges Dehoux
Deputy Head
Pacific Overseas
Countries and
Territories Office
European Union
Delegation for the
Pacific

For the European Union, supporting agroforestry has become a central element of our strategy for developing greener and more resilient agriculture, commonly known as the Green Pact. The strategy aims to develop and replicate agricultural models that are more productive, environmentally friendly and sustainable.

The workshop's lessons-learned report is now available!



The main objective of this workshop was to share and draw lessons from the knowledge produced, with the aim of identifying the mechanisms and drivers needed to upscale agroforestry systems.



[Download](#)

What they told us...

In their words



Marc Fabresse
Secretary General of
the French Polynesia
Chamber of Agriculture
and Lagoon Fisheries
(CAPL)

CAPL was interested in strengthening our regional partnerships. We started out in the Pacific with a partnership agreement with Wallis and New Caledonia. We were very interested in working with the other Pacific territories, which we know much less about. Through SPC, we were able to meet the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON). This organisation brings producer organisations together from all over the Pacific and works on common issues, such as involving young people in farming, the role of women and breadfruit development. These

are issues that interest us. We had some very productive discussions, which will probably lead to partnerships.

Today, agroforestry, and especially syntropic agriculture, is still in its infancy in terms of agricultural development in French Polynesia. The aim is to regenerate the soil and, above all, work on a production method that uses no inputs and is economically profitable. It is quite complex at the moment. We need to do some extension work. But I think it is appropriate, especially in very difficult soils, such as on atolls, where land is scarce and soils are depleted.

Agroforestry means making full use of the soil, sharing information on the role of the

plants and their impact on the soil and being able to export the plants that we want to market.

CAPL is going to get involved and I think that the territory will move towards these production methods, which are intended to

“Growing methods that are sustainable, environmentally responsible and, above all, cost-effective for our farmers.”

be sustainable, environmentally responsible and, above all, cost-effective for our farmers. And that’s the point

that we’re going to have to focus on, because we can’t offer a solution to farmers that doesn’t allow them to earn a living. We need to work on this. In any case, the initial results from across the Pacific are highly conclusive. We hope to be able to move the solution along and offer it to everyone.



Brice Epailly
Deputy Director General, Chamber of
Commerce and Industry, Trades and
Agriculture (CCIMA) on Wallis and Futuna

I learned a lot at this workshop. It was a time for sharing with stakeholders from the various territories and countries around us. It was also very useful for networking and sharing ideas.

Such forums enable the various stakeholders in the territories to get in touch with each other with the aim of building partnerships in the future to achieve our objectives of food sovereignty and contribute to the food security of our islands.

“The various solutions made sense”

The field visits were a highlight of the workshop. The fact that we were able to see first-hand what life is really like for Fijian farmers showed us in a different setting how the various solutions used in agroforestry make perfect sense: both in Fiji and our own territories.

It enabled us to draw inspiration from certain methods and practices implemented in a neighbouring country.

I’ll go back to Wallis and Futuna with fresh ideas and contributions to pass on to farmers and stakeholders in the primary sector.



Victor Carawiane
Director of the Loyalty Islands Rural
Development Support Centre (CADRL), New
Caledonia

All the factors incite us to move towards a system that is resilient and eco-friendly and manages to incentivise sharing and mutual respect.

It’s important to have guidelines. We can develop some by forging ties between farmers, because they have a vast store of knowledge and know-how in family farming and cultural, time-honoured and traditional practices that can inspire the agroforestry of tomorrow.

I think such a model can be developed by research organisations. It’s important to involve them. Unlike farmers, they can experiment and take risks. It’s important for this model to be practical and tested by science. That’s what farmers want.



What they told us...

In their words



Stéphanie Lequin

Head of the Forestry, Agroforestry and GIS Unit of the Wallis and Futuna Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DSA)

A great deal of experience sharing happened at the workshop and ideas abounded. We had a very good overview of agroforestry plot typology in the Pacific region.

I believe in agroforestry, because it has already proven its worth. It's not a new technique. Our ancestors already knew how to farm.

“Agroforestry is a real solution for Wallis and Futuna.”

Agroforestry is a real solution for Wallis and Futuna. As it is simple and practical to implement, it can solve a number of problems arising from environmental impacts that are set to worsen with climate change. It can also provide

solutions for the local economy and public health.

On Wallis and Futuna, our soils have become much more depleted and are already very degraded. **Agroforestry enables this type**

of soil to be regenerated naturally, reviving it and making it fertile again. We are in the process of proving this on a plot of poor soil on Wallis.

At the same time, by planting trees, we are controlling erosion, soil leaching and water resource degradation on our islands.

As well as being able to grow crops where there are none, agroforestry would also help overcome land ownership issues,

“It’s a nature-based solution”

as the same plot of land could be cultivated for 10, 15 or 20 years without using chemical fertilisers. It’s a nature-based solution that’s ideal for our

territory and enables us to create a highly diversified, healthy and sustainable food supply for the community.

An agroforestry plot can produce all year round with better yields. We heard concrete examples from the growers themselves at the workshop. We know that an agroforestry plot takes time. It takes three to four years to reach its full potential.

That’s why we need to start thinking about agroforestry now and encouraging it in our public policies without delay.

A user guide for the most common agroforestry support species in Pacific overseas countries and territories

The guide presents the state of knowledge on the support species most commonly used in agroforestry in the Pacific OCTs. It is a decision-making aid for selecting and using them.

In response to strong demand from local farmers, the information in this booklet is the outcome of practical experience in New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna, as enhanced and validated by scientific data. This information will evolve as the surface area and duration of existing agroforestry plots increase, based on feedback from the field and advances in research.

Written by the AGIR NC association under PROTEGE, the booklet is intended to be a practical, open-ended guide to help farmers and agroforestry enthusiasts with their projects. It aims to offer practical advice and concrete examples to help select the best support species.



[Download](#)



Deratting operations on Ua Pou: promising news for Marquesas seabirds



Following eradication efforts carried out in the second half of 2023 on Motu Takaë, Motu Ōa and Motu Mokohe off Ua Pou, an inspection trip confirmed that no rats were left one year after poison had been dropped. So, the three small islands are once again safe nesting sites for endangered native seabirds, paving the way for an entire ecosystem to return to equilibrium.

Tehani Withers and Roberto Luta from SOP Manu scoured the three islands off Ua Pou for a fortnight. The traps and night cameras they set up found no rats on Motu Takaë, Motu Ōa or Motu Mokohe.

Because of the motus' rugged landscape, the deratting operation was carried out in 2023 using a drone operated from a boat. Biosecurity measures were then developed with local fishermen to prevent any rats from being reintroduced.

This success should lead to an increase in the populations of 14 seabird species present on the motus and perhaps even the return of

two endangered species that have not been seen there since 1995. This recovery should increase the nutrient flow of towards the open sea, contributing to a resurgence of phytoplankton at the base of the marine food chain.

This action item is part of a series of successful and forthcoming deratting operations on other small islands aimed at preserving the environmental integrity of the Marquesas Islands, which were declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in July 2024.

On Taputapuātea, key invasive-species-control facilities for preserving natural and cultural heritage were inaugurated



Association, Avera municipality and the DCP branch responsible for managing the Taputapuātea marae. As heritage plant nurseries, they will help continue environmental restoration on cultural sites by reintroducing local plant species.

The ecological trail opened in Puohine municipality has been designed to promote invasive plant species control and facilitate local species reintroduction. It will make it easier for Tamarii Puohine association, which is responsible for the site's upkeep, to organise educational and, later, tourist excursions.

These achievements are the high point of more than four years' work to restore local biodiversity and preserve cultural heritage by controlling invasive species. Coordinated

by Raimana Teriitehau, the site's dedicated ecologist throughout the project, PROTEGE's action points have resulted in a major effort to raise awareness, build consensus, characterise biodiversity and remove invasive plant species in order to strengthen the resilience of Taputapuātea's natural ecosystems and cultural heritage.

The PROTEGE team would like to pay tribute to Mme Armelle Masse, Deputy Mayor of Puohine, who passed away on 8 August 2024. Her energy, dedication and kindness greatly helped in building a more resilient future for Puohine.



Disability: Improving our practices for a more inclusive society

Today, people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to climate change. According to the United Nations, they are four times more likely to lose their lives in natural disasters: only one disabled person in four is able to evacuate a location easily in the event of an emergency, and barely 11% of them know whether or not a disaster management plan exists in their community.

The effects of climate change are also exacerbating inequalities in healthcare. The World Health Organisation has highlighted that people with disabilities face significant barriers in accessing health services and are three times more likely to be denied care.

Improving risk management for people living with disabilities and reduced autonomy

The Pacific Community (SPC) is working with the Government of New Caledonia and the Collectif Handicaps to develop specific mechanisms for improving risk management in the event of emergencies, particularly those linked to the growing impact of climate change. The aim is to ensure the safety of people living with disabilities or reduced autonomy during natural disasters or health emergencies, for example.

As part of its social and environmental responsibility (SER) action plan, PROTEGE has been working to improve the climate change resilience of people with disabilities based on two objectives:

- find ways to better identify and geolocate vulnerable people in New Caledonia (people living with disabilities and reduced autonomy)
- find a tool to improve how New Caledonia's Department of Civil Defence and Risk Management handles relief efforts for such persons.

Ensuring inclusive access to information for all

Via PROTEGE, the Pacific Community (SPC) has produced a series of videos in French sign language to ensure equitable access to information, particularly for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. These awareness-raising and information videos cover key issues such as water management, agroforestry and food systems. They have been widely broadcast on television in New Caledonia and also in Papua New Guinea, as well as on social media and the PROTEGE website. This is to reach a diverse audience and ensure that vulnerable communities, including persons with hearing disabilities, have access to information on natural resource management and environmental challenges.

Promoting inclusive events and communication

PROTEGE organised inclusive events such as the discussion evening "Let's change our perspective on disability". The event was interpreted into English, French and French sign language, a first at SPC, making it accessible to a wide audience. Persons living with disabilities were actively involved in preparations for the discussion evening, in particular by testing venue accessibility and contributing to the event in various ways. A video was produced with beneficiaries of the *Association des parents d'enfants handicapés de Nouvelle-Calédonie* (New Caledonian association for parents of disabled children -APEH NC), who found this inclusive project highly motivating. They also demonstrated their artistic skills through art therapy workshops, which led to artwork being created. The latter was showcased in an exhibition at SPC during the week preceding the event. They also played a central role at the event, welcoming guests and taking part in the entertainment by creating an original slam poetry.

Lastly, guests were invited to a reception prepared by persons living with disabilities who are entering the workplace via the Handijob association

[Find out more](#)

Report on the discussion evening

"Let's change our perspective on disability" at the Pacific Community (SPC). This event brought together stakeholders from New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, French Polynesia, Tonga and Fiji to encourage Pacific regional cooperation on this issue.

Some 230 people participated in the discussion evening – in person and via video conference. The sheer number of people in attendance demonstrated the importance of discussing the inclusion of people with disabilities.

The report will be available by late January 2025 at <https://protege.spc.int/en>



Disability clip: the strength of our ties



Let yourself be carried away by these words filled with resilience and hope for a more inclusive society.

This awareness-raising video on changing attitudes to disability was produced in collaboration with the APEHNC and SPC through PROTEGE.

[Watch the video](#)

Strengthening Pacific technical agents' hydrometric skills: a key training course in Papeete



Some 17 staff including hydrology engineers, technicians and specialists from New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna received training in hydrology and hydrometry from 22 to 31 October in Papeete, French Polynesia.

The aim of this training was to enhance their hydrometric skills by providing them with the classroom, practical and technical training they needed to carry out in-situ

measurements and make the most of hydrological data in order to ensure the long-term future of their work. The agents who took part in the training learned about new techniques for measuring flow in rivers, such as with easy-to-use metered depth gauges or by drone or camera, which are particularly suitable during flooding. They were also assisted by an INRAE researcher, Jérôme Le Coz, for analysing and processing field data.

The initiative will ultimately help transition overseas countries and territories (OCTs) towards more integrated, climate-change-adjusted water management.



Protecting drinking water: study on Wallis and Alofi Islands' water lenses

The Territorial Environmental Department (STE) wished to update Wallis and Alofi Islands' freshwater lens hydrogeological profiles under PROTEGE in order to assess their condition and inform decision-makers about the risks and resources needed to protect them.

The initial field trips were made in September 2023 with site investigations so that the MICA Environnement NC/ Terrascope/ IngéoNC/ WGS consultancy cluster could prepare the second stage of the hydrogeological prospection. The first measurements were taken in March 2024 when STE, the Public Works Department and study teams spent several weeks clearing access tracks, raising public awareness and running power lines weighing more than 20 kg along several hundred metres of track in order to set up the probes and carry out the measurements as accurately

as possible. In all, 12.3 km were analysed. It was an arduous task but was successfully completed, as all the stakeholders lent a hand.

The final report was scheduled for September 2024 but had to be postponed because of the crisis in New Caledonia in the first half of 2024.

The prospection results were presented to the local authorities in late November. The data collected are highly strategic, as they supplement the master plans also carried out under PROTEGE (Drinking Water Supply and Stormwater Drainage). The study provides the territory with robust decision-making aids for defining its water management policy.

Lessons learned

Watch the latest videos



<https://protege.spc.int>

and our social media



On You Tube CPS SPC



THE LATEST VIDEOS



Focus on members: renewing Punaruu's orange trees

Find out how the association, its environment and working conditions developed from 2019 to 2024 through member testimonies

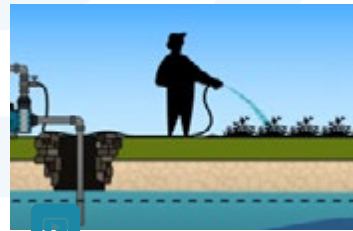
[Watch the video](#)



Freshwater lenses: how do they form? - The example of French Polynesian atolls

French Polynesia is made up of 118 islands, 78 of which are inhabited. There are high islands and low islands, the latter known as atolls where there are no rivers, mountains or lakes to collect water in valleys. Yet on most of these atolls, there is fresh water in the ground. Where does it come from and how is it replenished?

[Watch the video](#)



Freshwater lenses: what happens when humans draw on resources?

Freshwater lenses are fragile resources that are replenished solely by rain. During the year, only a few rainy episodes have an impact on freshwater reserves, while most of the rainwater that seeps into the soil is also lost to the lens.

[Watch the video](#)



PROTEGE demonstration farm network

In New Caledonia, 12 passionate farmers take restocked of their results in this video produced by the New Caledonian Chamber of Agriculture and Fisheries.

[Watch the video](#)



SHARING KNOWLEDGE

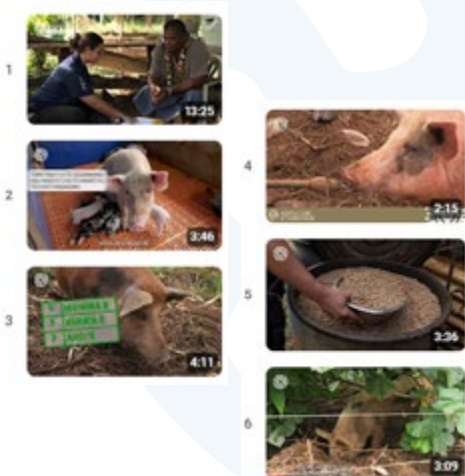
Agroecology: six new best-practice clips for adopting rotating pens in open-air pig farming on Wallis

As part of a series of trials aimed at improving agro-ecological practices, the Wallis and Futuna Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DSA) worked on upgrading rotating pens in pig farming with the help of European funding through PROTEGE as implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC).

In order to help disseminate these best practices among "family" farmers, a six-video series was produced by DSA with PROTEGE support. The videos enable the farmers involved in the project to share their experience beyond Wallis and Futuna.

The videos are freely available on Youtube:

- [PROTEGE electrified rotating pig pen trials on Wallis Island](#)
- [Best animal husbandry practices: weaning piglets on Wallis and Futuna](#)
- [Best animal husbandry practices: pig breeding on Wallis and Futuna](#)
- [Best animal husbandry practices: watering pigs on Wallis and Futuna](#)
- [Best farming practice: feeding pigs on Wallis and Futuna](#)
- [Best pig farming practices: equipping a pen on Wallis and Futuna](#)



Catch up on all the latest news on the PROTEGE website and app



<https://protege.spc.int>

and on our social media



ARTICLES



Pacific Regional Research Symposium – May 2025

Pacific Regional Research Symposium – May 2025

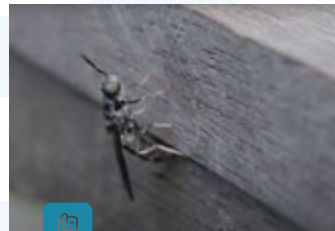
[Read more](#)



A video revealing the strength of PROTEGE's agroecology demonstration farm network

A network of enthusiastic farmers united by a single vision..

[Read more](#)



A local black-soldier-fly-frass-based alternative to fertilisers imported into New Caledonia

The New Caledonian biotechnology company, Neofly, is developing a new local alternative to fertilisers imported into the territory.

[Read more](#)



Emag de l'Outre-Mer devotes an article to PROTEGE's activities

Freely available at no cost, this e-mag on environment for French departments and territories promotes exciting initiatives for biodiversity and sustainable development in all French overseas areas.

[Read more](#)



Customary Marine Protected Area (CMPA) in Wallis

In line with the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Services Department's actions via PROTEGE, the dedicated team at the Fisheries Service carried out two awareness-raising actions for schoolchildren.

[Read more](#)



Restoring Punaruu Valley orange trees to preserve Punaauia municipality's natural and cultural heritage in French Polynesia

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New Caledonia scoops 2024 Pacific Invasive Species Battler of the Year Award

Patrick Barrière, Coordinator of the Threats Unit at the New Caledonian Biodiversity Agency (ANCB), has been honoured as the 2024 Pacific Invasive Species Battler of the Year.

[Read more](#)



Firsthand account video series: agroecology in New Caledonia

Some New Caledonian farmers were invited to share their agroecological practices with the farming community through video testimonies.

[Read more](#)

See the project's most recent outputs



<https://protege.spc.int>

and on our social media



OUTPUTS

8 lessons-learned reports: PROTEGE regional workshop reviews

These documents take stock of the successes and difficulties encountered and the lessons learned from each regional workshop:

- [Coconut industry - November 2019](#)
- [Integrated forest and agroforestry resource management - March 2020](#)
- [Regulated fishing areas in French Polynesia - May 2022](#)
- [ATERCAP - Aquaculture - March 2023](#)
- [Pacific food system sustainability - October 2023](#)
- [ATERPECHE - Coastal Fishiers - November 2023](#)
- [Drinking water supply and health hazards - March 2024](#)
- [Agroforestry - August 2024](#)



Pacific beekeeping | Guide to beekeeping know-how

This guide is part of a series of initiatives in support of the agro-ecological transition, which is helping to make agricultural produce more resilient to hazards, particularly climate hazards.

It compiles the most common tried and tested beekeeping practices recognised by established producers.

The authors share their practices, observations and trials in New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna.

Through their experience, learn about beekeeping in these territories, pollinator biodiversity, inspiring farms and a variety of other resources.



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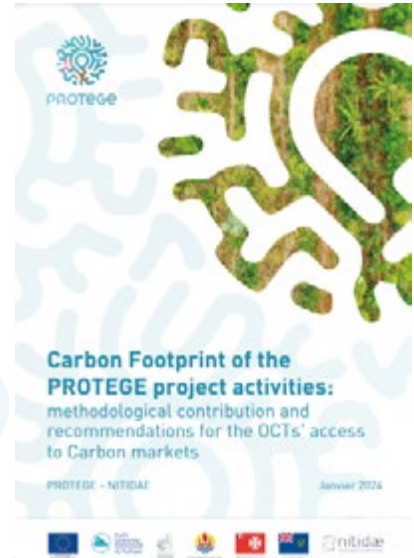


PROTEGE and its carbon footprint: a promising first step

PROTEGE carried out a carbon assessment, highlighting the impact of ecosystem restoration action points on greenhouse gas sequestration. The report also discusses ways in which the OCTs could gain access to carbon finance, and how projects could more systematically include measuring their carbon footprint.



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Fertilisers and organic soil improvers - Practical guide

The aim of this guide is to provide the industry with technical information on organic fertilisers and soil improvers in New Caledonia. These organic materials, sourced from local waste recycling companies, help reduce dependence on imported inputs while playing an essential role in improving soil quality.

An organic matter recycling industry has emerged and taken shape in the territory in recent years and now offers a wide range of products suitable for a variety of uses, including agriculture, nurseries, revegetation and landscaping.

This guide, produced in collaboration with Valorga members and in partnership with Repair, aims to pool key information on currently available local products and shed light on some key organic matter concepts. The products on offer are subject to change and do not reflect the entire New Caledonian market, as they are only VALORGA members' offerings as at late 2024.

Agroecology in French Polynesia - Practical Guide

This guide was created by the Department of agriculture (DAG) of French Polynesia, the lead agency for the Agriculture and Forestry theme of the PROTEGE project. It presents several technical sheets resulting from work carried out by farmers in the network of demonstration farms in agroecology and the teams of the DAG of French Polynesia. These sheets are categorized by major themes: water management, crop protection, soil acidity, labor hardship, soil fertility, and ecosystem services of outdoor livestock farming. This guide aims to share the results of the actions and experiments undertaken during PROTEGE and allows everyone to appreciate the reproducibility of the methods or equipment. It provides numerical data, technical advice, and relies on the testimonies of farmers in the network.



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Eight reports by the French Polynesian Department of Marine Resources

French Polynesia’s Marine Resources Department produced seven publications from 2023 to 2024 to share discoveries and the knowledge acquired in aquaculture, reef and lagoon fisheries and pearl oyster farming. The aim is to develop these industries locally while preserving resources over the long term.

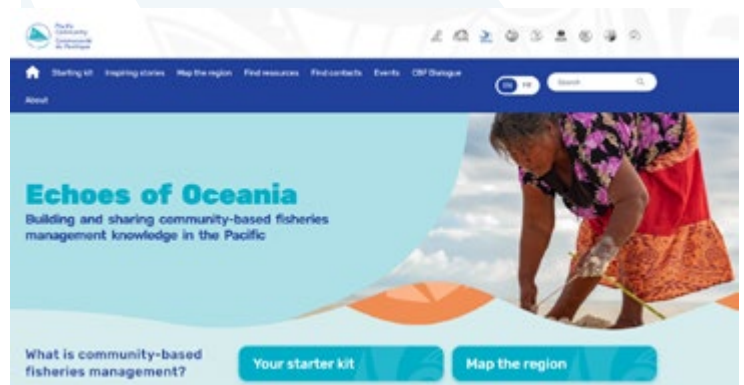
- [Technical brief: coir rope manufacturing method](#)
- [Final report: Developing macro-algae cultivation to support the aquaculture industry in French Polynesia](#)
- [Final report: Arutua and Rangiroa fisheries social and anthropological dynamics](#)
- [Study report: Assessment of reef and lagoon fish, crustacean and shellfish numbers harvested in French Polynesia](#)
- [Final report and management recommendations: Apataki Atoll, Tuamotu Islands commercial sea cucumber stocks](#)
- [Final report: Managing Marava’s fish larvae production for low-cost, locally appropriate and climate-change resilient fish farming in French Polynesia](#)
- [Final report: RESOLAG \(French Polynesian pearl-farming lagoon monitoring network\)](#)
- [Final report: Strengthening and developing management in French Polynesia’s Regulated Fishing areas](#)



Echoes of Oceania

A new platform for supporting community-based fisheries management practitioners in the Pacific Islands was set up in 2024 by the Pacific Community. It aims to strengthen coastal fisheries resilience by creating a space for effectively sharing knowledge and reliable information sources. Pacific Island communities play a pivotal role in coastal fisheries management, because they depend on marine resources for their livelihoods, cultural heritage and well-being. Members of these communities are also an abundant source of traditional knowledge, which is essential for site-specific management, and this platform builds on their experiences and stories.

PROTEGE funded the French-language version of the site through its European funds. This operation is helping to improve regional cooperation between the OCTs and the region’s English-speaking countries and their integration with the latter.



<https://cbfm.spc.int/>



Educational kits: two awareness-raising tools for young people

WATER theme

Following the success of an educational kit on water produced as part of the project on Wallis and Futuna, the New Caledonia Animal Health, Food and Rural Affairs Department (DAVAR), French Biodiversity Office (OFB) and Pacific Community (SPC) adjusted the kit to the New Caledonian context.

The kit can be borrowed free of charge for awareness-raising campaigns.

Designed to be used in all sorts of situations (in the classroom and at water and science festivals, etc.), the kit is aimed at both young people (primary school level) and the general public.

It consists of:

- six posters illustrating the landscape of the main island of New Caledonia, the Loyalty Islands landscape and focus sheets: the audience is invited to place magnets representing the natural water cycle, domestic water cycle and threats to this resource. They cover subjects such as average consumption by type of use, and water-borne diseases, etc.
- experiment kits: the public can visualise some of the concepts discussed in the posters.

In order to encourage ownership, the kit comes with instructions and technical information leaflets explaining how to display the posters, place the magnets, the key messages to be conveyed and the protocols for the various experiments.

The New Caledonian Government produced 20 kits through joint funding with the OFB and European Union through PROTEGE to cover the whole of New Caledonia.

FISHERIES theme

Following on from the work carried out under PROTEGE with the Wallis and Futuna Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DSA), SPC designed two educational kits to raise awareness of sustainable fishing.

The kits were developed in two distinct formats to meet the needs of schools and the general public.

They are unique tools in the Pacific region, because of the quality and wealth of materials they offer:

- complete lesson plans including species identification cards, posters, colouring sheets, board game and 3D model to learn about fish anatomy.
- two user guides have also been developed to support the facilitators (teachers, facilitators from associations and DSA technicians), detailing the objectives and activities of each lesson.

In November 2024, DSA received eight educational kits that will be made available to schools and environmental associations in Wallis and Futuna.

A facilitator training course is scheduled for early 2025 in order to prepare the deployment of these teaching aids.



Find out more in the video tutorial





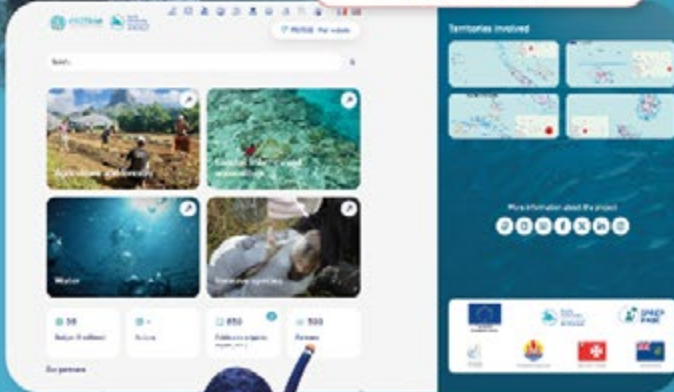
PROTEGE

PACIFIC TERRITORIES REGIONAL PROJECT FOR SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

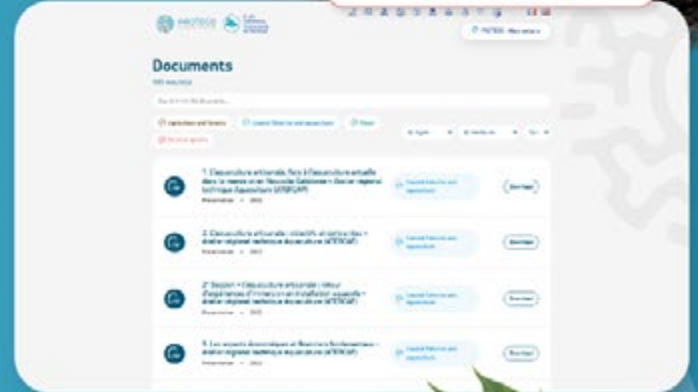
FIND ALL THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROTEGE PROJECT

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Key results



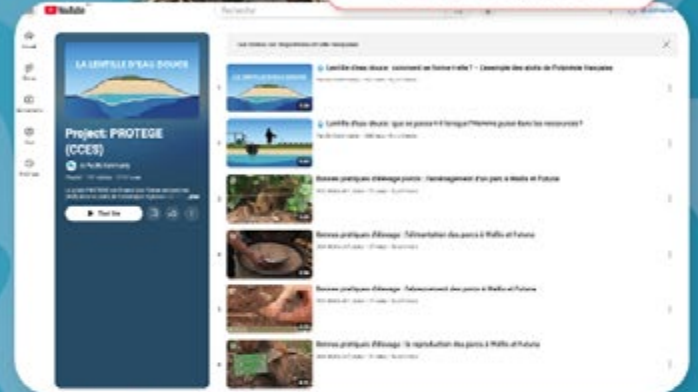
Documents



Interactive map



YouTube channel



Building, through regional cooperation, sustainable development and climate-resilient economies in overseas countries and territories (OCTs) by emphasising on biodiversity and renewable resources.

The PROTEGE project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the Pacific Community and the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, began in October 2018 and ended in December 2024.



Find PROTEGE news on: www.protege.spc.int and on the PROTEGE app.