



IRCP



École Pratique
des Hautes Études



South Pacific

Newsletter of the Institute for the
Coral Reefs in the Pacific
N°6 - February 2019



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Created in 2009 by the École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE), the Institute for the Coral Reefs in the Pacific (ircp.pf) promotes the necessary link between fundamental research, conservation policy and training of stakeholders in coral reef management for those who have the capacity to make a positive difference in Pacific island communities and beyond.



2018 witnessed the launch of the construction of the Fare Natura, a museum of nature, which will offer an iconic and modern vision of extraordinary Pacific island nature.

2019 is a pivotal year for the institute, which will see the finalization of the agreement between French Polynesia and EPHE for the management of the Fare Natura, which is scheduled to open in June 2020, as well as the appointment of its first director.

Of course, IRCP continues its usual actions, promoting education and training in the conservation

of coral reefs and associated ecosystems. Training on marine protected areas will take place on Easter Island (see p. 4) in the first half of 2019 and another training course on shark behaviour and conservation is expected by the end of the year.

With the monthly «Thursday of Knowledge» conferences and a new documentary with French actor Lambert Wilson, we will always provide civil society with access to knowledge and promote the conservation of coral reefs.

Serge Planes, director de l'IRCP



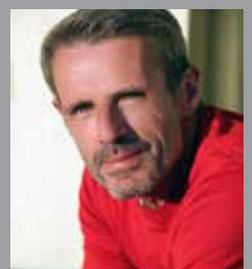
In May 2018, I had the great honour of meeting Serge Planes who invited me to follow him to French Polynesia to make a documentary, produced by the local television network Polynésie Première, to celebrate the International Year of the Coral Reefs. The idea was to play a Candide on a quest to discover the incredible beauty and variety of the local reef, but also of its great fragility.

During my stay, I met researchers and students of the CRIOBE*, fishermen, passionate divers, members of environmental associations. Through their eyes, I discovered the extraordinary universe of coral reefs, I understood the isolated and protective position of French Polynesia but also that it is not protected from the global threats facing our planet. The determination of local populations, and especially the younger Tahitian generation, to preserve their incredible environment has reassured me about the management of local ecosystems. And, as Tamatoa Bambridge, CRIOBE's anthropologist, says, according

to Polynesian tradition, all humans are connected by the oceans. Whatever happens somewhere on earth will have an impact on all of humanity through this link.

While some areas of Polynesia give a poignant illustration of our ability to destroy our environment (I am thinking here of the beaches covered with waste on uninhabited islands...), I am extremely grateful to Serge Planes and the CRIOBE team for having enabled me to understand how much this place can also serve as an example to the rest of humanity. An example of an amazing biodiversity and a humanity determined to study and preserve it.

Lambert Wilson



* Centre de Recherches Insulaires et Observatoire de l'Environnement
www.criobe.pf



For the IRCP and CRILOBE, the year 2018 provided a valuable opportunity to meet partners, scientific collaborators, but above all the public: Polynesian, French, foreigners, adults, adolescents, children, teachers, tourists, artists... The actions carried out throughout the *International Year of the Reef* aimed to raise awareness of fragility and conservation among as many people as possible. Several conferences were held in Moorea, in the newly inaugurated Fare'ite amphitheatre in Opunohu Bay, and in metropolitan France. Scientific, photographic and artistic exhibitions have been organised, in order to offer the public a multitude of perspectives, a variety of media as well, with the construction of original structures in triptychs exposing Alexis Rosenfeld's photos. The CRILOBE also opened its doors to welcome the public and schoolchildren during the Science Festival, the opportunity to present the research laboratories, current experiments and to learn more about coral reefs through the scientific eye. Acidification, rising water temperatures, plastic pollution...



Coral Reefs, objects of art and science :

The event brought together, at the Galerie des Tropiques, about a hundred works by **25 polynesian artists**: painting, sculpture, photography, pottery, mother-of-pearl engraving... as many techniques and perspectives on these ecosystems to protect!

The exhibition benefited from **numerous supports**: CRILOBE, IFRECOR, the Intercontinental Tahiti Hotel, the Rotui factory, Air Tahiti Nui, Fenua Ma, OPT-ECO, the city of Papeete and the autonomous port of Papeete.

In French Polynesia



The artists surrounded by Rose Vermande (owner of the Galerie des Tropiques) on the left, and Tea Frogier (Minister in charge of energy) and Pierre Labrosse (Regional Delegate for Research and Technology) on the right.



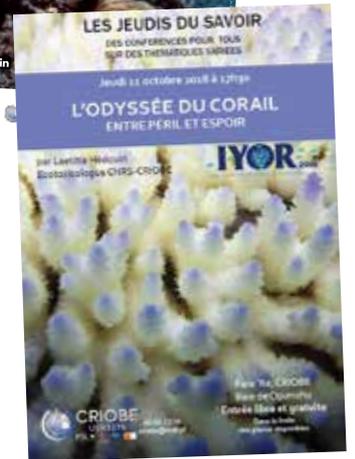


Our human activities have serious impacts on our immediate environment and the oceans of the entire planet. Through these awareness-raising actions, the IRCP hopes to continue to raise public awareness of underwater beauties, help them to better understand them so that they can love them without fear and thus be able to protect them. 2018, International Year of the Coral Reef, officially ends on 31 December 2019 (one year declared, two years of actions). IRCP's actions have been going on for 10 years and will continue for a long time to come!



Thanks again to all our partners for the realization of these various events : CRIOBE, PSL-EPHE,

CNRS, UPVD, Maison des Océans, the Méga Castillet cinema, Rotui factory, Labex Corail, Tara Expédition, Fenua Ma, OPT-ECO, the city of Papeete, the autonomous port of Papeete, TNAD, the 'Opunohu highschool, the municipality of Moorea, Ocean-Climate, IFRECOR, the Scientific Center of Monaco.



an artistic exhibition from Papeete to Paris



From l. to r. : Alexis Rosenfeld, Jean-Luc Bousquet, Bernard Berbille, Olivier Louzé, Agatha Korzack, Lambert Wilson and Serge Planes

The event brought together 200 people around five artists who came to present their **committed and original works** on coral reefs. During an evening, the Parisian public was taken to the other end of the world, so that coral reefs would no longer be so far away and their protection would become everyone's business!

The event was held in collaboration with the Maison des Océans, the Tara Expédition Foundation, LabEx CORAIL, PSL University.



Coral Reef Monitoring in the South Pacific



Agenda 2019 Polynesia Mana

Takapoto
January

Tetiaroa
February

Tubuai
March

Tonga / Samoa
April

Moorea
June

Tahiti
July

Cook Islands
October

Mangareva
November

All CORAIL Observation Service data available on the Internet: observatory.criobe.pf



Management of marine protected areas in the South Pacific Collaboration with Rapa Nui

IRCP organizes training as part of a process to transfer French knowledge and expertise to Pacific civil society in the fields of conservation and management of marine protected areas. In this context, IRCP will set up round tables and seminars in Rapa Nui (Easter Island) that will bring together more than 30 researchers, managers, fishermen, people from civil society and various NGOs, and technical staff from the Tahiti and Rapa Nui territories. These roundtables will identify actions to better manage coral reefs, their biodiversity, fish stocks and eco-tourism. These recommendations will be forwarded to the authorities of the various Pacific island countries.



Connected Buoys BIOceanOR

In November 2018 a new partnership was set up between CRIIBE-IRCP and BIOceanOR for the installation of 3 connected buoys in Opunohu Bay in Moorea. These buoys continuously measure water quality and transmit it in real time: salinity, temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, pH, chlorophyll, phycoerythrine. It is an intelligent device connected remotely, which can transmit data up to 30 km from the coast. The objective of these new devices is still to help safeguard ecosystems, thanks to a better knowledge of the reef environment, making it possible to visualize in real time changes in the environment and, for example, in the event of pollution, to be able to anticipate and alert in order to better protect coral reefs.

IRCP GRANTS

Alba Ardura Gutierrez is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Oviedo in Spain and winner of an IRCP 2018 scholarship. She spent a month in French Polynesia studying non-native species found in the port areas of the islands. "Foreign" biodiversity, biofouling samples from different substrates (natural and artificial), as well as water samples were taken from eight sampling sites in order to quickly obtain an inventory and a DNA database.

The long-term objective: to find solutions to avoid these unintentional intrusions by wildlife from elsewhere that could take over native species.

For more information on the four grants of 2018 : <http://www.ircp.pf/en/ircp-grants-2017-the-results/>



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Launched in 2011, the IRCP grants are a competitive scholarship program for young researchers (under 35 years of age) in master's, doctoral or postdoctoral studies. This grant is intended to attract promising coral reef researchers to French Polynesia, where they will conduct research and share their expertise with the Pacific Island community. Four grants of €4,500 are available each year to cover travel, accommodation and research costs.

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