

Co-management of reefs and lagoons with high natural values, New Caledonia - FR

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment

2. Key Approaches

- Integration
- Participation
- Knowledge-based
- Socio-economic

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The building up of enabling conditions for coastal resources co-management in a tropical lagoon.

4. Overview of the case

Under the Development Research Institute (IRD) located in New Caledonia, the COGERON initiative is the fruit of a concerted effort with the island North Province authorities and the French Initiative for Coral Reef (IFRECOR) in the context of the newly acquired World Heritage status for a substantial part of the coral reefs and lagoons of New Caledonia. It is thus a pilot in support to public policies in one of the North Province lagoons.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

The siting of a Nickel-processing factory in the area of Voh-Koné-Pouembout (VKP) is of utmost importance to the socio-economic development of New Caledonia in the rather under-developed North Province. The societal changes generated are linked to issues regarding the management of the VKP lagoon area. What are these issues? How can the expected changes with fishing practices be monitored? How can the area adapt whilst conserving local traditions and culture and anticipating the over-exploitation of marine resources? It is these questions that this initiative has been addressing since 2008.

b) Objectives

Promoting the VKP lagoon resources co-management with local stakeholders following the emergence of a major mining and processing project in order to avoid use conflicts over the marine area and its resources. The same kind of co-management approach could be transferred to the neighbouring Ouvéa island located in Loyalty Province as the third province of New Caledonia.

6. Implementation of the ICZM Approach (i.e. management, tools, resources)

13. Sources

- MEDD LITEAU 3 Interim report. 2009 – Marc Leopold, IRD, New Caledonia



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