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## Regional Initiative for the Protection and Sustainable Management Of Coral Reefs in the Pacific (CRISP)

### - Supervisory Mission (18th of September to 10th of October 2008) - Report

#### **Introduction**

Dominique Rojat, who is responsible for this project at AFD, conducted a CRISP supervisory mission from the 15th of September to the 10th of October 2008. Eric Clua, the CRISP Coordinator, was present throughout the mission, except for the trip to Fiji.

The mission took place within the framework of the mid-course review of the programme and his main objective was to participate to the CRISP annual general meeting gathering all the programme partners at SPREP headquarters in Apia (Samoa) from the 22nd to the 26th of September.

The mission successively visited French Polynesia, Samoa, New Caledonia and Vanuatu. Dominique Rojat ended his mission with a trip to Suva (Fiji).

The mission wishes to thank CRISP partners and all the people met, for their availability and warm reception.

The AFD agencies of French Polynesia and New Caledonia have fully participated to the mission in those two French overseas communities. In Fiji, the French Embassy has provided a fully appreciated support and greatly helped the mission to go smoothly. In Vanuatu, the French Embassy has also provided its support in the organization of the meeting held within the framework of the mission. Finally in Apia and Noumea, Thierry Clement, from the independent consulting agency Oreade-Breche, joined the mission.

The terms of reference for the mission, its work programme and the list of persons met are included as appendix. A table with acronyms and abbreviations can also be found at the end of this report.

This present report firstly focuses on the CRISP mid-course review and the partners meeting held in Apia as well as its conclusions. Further down it treats more specifically the question of French Polynesia and New Caledonia involvement in the programme. Finally it addresses the issue of the After-CRISP funding option represented by the Xth EDF with the ACP States and OCTs regional programmes.

## 1. CRISP programme mid-course review and partners meeting (SPREP, Apia, 22-26 of September 2008)

### 1.1. Background

During the first semester 2008, AFD had renewed the CRISP funding agreements to allow the completion of all planned activities and the mobilization of all available funds. The steps taken accordingly are summarized in the following table for each CRISP programme funding agreement:

Signatory	Signature date	Reference number	Amount (K Euros)	Initial Time Limit for Issue	Modified Time Limit for Issue
CI	31/08/2005	CZZ 1282.01 A	2,000 (FFEM)	31/12/08	30/06/2010 (to be confirmed)
CNRS	15/04/2005	CZZ 3012.01 T	1,300 (AFD)	30/06/08	31/12/2009
IRD	12/10/2005	CZZ 3012.02 U	500 (AFD)	30/06/08	30/06/2010
UNF	07/07/2006	CZZ 3012.03 V	900 (AFD) + 900 (UNF)	30/06/08	31/12/2009
SPC	31/03/2005	CZZ 3012.04 W	300 (AFD)	30/06/08	30/06/2009

CI funding agreement was the only one that had not been extended at the time of the mission, and this for two reasons: i) its deadline is set to the 31st of December 2008, which is six months later than the other agreements' deadlines, and ii) the extension length will depend on the results of the call for tenders relative to watershed management currently ongoing. In any case this agreement will be extended before the 31st of December 2008.

### 1.2. CRISP partners General Meeting

The first phase of the CRISP mid-course review consisted into an external evaluation commissioned by AFD and FFEM and implemented by the consulting agency Oreade-Breche in March 2008. The full report (in French) and the executives summaries (in French and English) had been widely disseminated and posted on line on the CRISP website by July 2008.

The Apia meeting, attended by Thierry Clement from Oreade-Breche, represented the second phase of this review, designed to share the conclusions of the external evaluation with all the CRISP partners.

Kosimiki Latu, SPREP deputy director, officially introduced the meeting reminding to all the importance of coral reefs for the Pacific Nations and hoping for a greater integration of the French overseas communities into regional programmes such as CRISP. He also pronounced a closing speech underlining the programme achievements and called for a continuation of its activities.

The meeting welcomed the participation of more than twenty leaders from all over the Pacific and has been a great opportunity to discuss the programme activities. CRISP partners' ability to establish links between research and development, plus the work directly achieved at a community level, has

appeared as characteristic elements. Each CRISP component, based on the external evaluation recommendations, has produced a work plan valid till the end of the funding agreements; those work plans, once finalized by Oreade-Breche, will officially be transmitted by AFD to the CRISP partners. AFD will insist in particular on the complements and improvements to be brought to the project monitoring-evaluation system, which is supposed to gather information correctly linked to the logical framework defined by the CRISP funding agreements and give a detailed view, for all objectives and activities of the programme, of the contracts agreed on, the costs involved in the realization of the activities, specifying unit costs, and the obtained results.

### **1.3. Supplementary funding**

In February 2008, AFD has set up a supplementary funding of 2 M Euros, within the framework of a funding agreement signed with SPC, and this in order to:

- continue to finance the CRISP coordination unit (CCU), the payment of the coordinator's wages by the MAEE ending on the 31st of March 2008;
- reinforce the CCU with the recruitment of an assistant;
- reinforce the programme in the fields where gaps have been identified, such as the analysis of MPAs economical impact;
- react to new opportunities, appeared during the project, such as PCC development (Capture and Culture of fish and crustacean larvae for the ornamental market, food or resowing).
- prepare the future: to that purpose funds have been allocated to take in charge the completion of project documents presented at the Xth EDF.

The analysis of MPAs economical impact has been the object of a regional workshop organized in Suva, May 2008, following the recommendations of the supervisory mission of September 2006. This work axis is meant to develop further within the framework of the supplementary funding, as well as the axis on MPAs governance. The issue, discussed in Apia, is from now on considered as a full CRISP intervention field, meant to be promoted during the IMPAC2 congress programmed in Washington in May 2009.

PCC has also become an important intervention axis, for which, on top of the AFD supplementary funding, a specific FFEM funding is currently being processed.

Thus, the supplementary AFD funding has been provided to support specific objectives and it does not have vocation to prolong activities or complement the budgets of the five initial CRISP funding agreements. However, considering the demand and with the agreement of the different partners it has been decided that this budget will finance:

- the translation in English of the mid-course review realized by Oreade-Breche;
- the coordination costs relative to the CRISP component 1 (MPAs and watersheds management) supported until now by CI, thus confirming the option already envisaged in the 2006 supervisory mission report (an option that the mid-course review was expected to settle).

### **1.4. Miscellaneous**

As for the monitoring of the UNF funding agreement, financing SPREP activities, an audit has been conducted at SPREP on a sample relative to the activities of an independent consultant recruited for the implementation of the ReefBase database. The audit has been satisfying, both concerning the general organization of the circuit expenses, with distinctions made between payment authorization and actual payment functions, eligibility of expenses and employment procedure, liquidation and installment.

Discussions have taken place between SPREP and WFC about the funds made available to them by UNF, via funding agreements signed by UNF and UNFIP and then UNFIP and UNEP.

Those resources from AFD and UNF are mentioned in Euros but the UNEP funding agreements with SPREP and WFC, final implementing agencies, specify budgets in US dollars (USD). The amounts are calculated using a 2004 Euro/USD exchange rate.

The dollar having lost value compared to the Euro since 2004, an exchange gain has been generated and should profit project activities (a particularly crucial point for WFC and the further development of ReefBase). AFD will question UNF on that issue.

### **1.5. Recapitulation of AFD next steps:**

- extension of CI funding agreement;
- official transmission to the CRISP partners, either direct beneficiaries of funding agreements or implementing agencies, of the work plans conceived during the Apia general meeting; reminding the need for improvement in the reporting in order to obtain a monitoring-evaluation system able to comprehend activity results and programme expenses, from the initial logical framework to the implementation contracts and their corresponding costs;
- taking in charge the cost, as part of the supplementary AFD funding, of the mid-course evaluation report realized by Oreade-Breche translation.
- taking charge, on this same budget, of CI coordination cost relative to the CRISP “marine protected areas and watershed management” component;
- approach UNF to i) ask for an evaluation of the supplementary funds available in USD, resulting from the exchange gains between Euro and USD stored on top of the AFD and UNF resources since the n° CZZ 3012. 03 V funding agreement signature and ii) ask for those exchange gains, made on resources in Euros destined to SPREP and WFC for the implementation of CRISP planned activities, to be credited to those organizations in order to finance complementary activities conform to the project objectives.

## **2. CRISP activities in Vanuatu**

During its visit to Vanuatu, where five MPAs from the North of Efate Island presented their results in presence of villagers, the mission has been able to note the quality of fieldwork realized by FSP Vanuatu on MPAs and territories management.

The efficiency potential represented by a decentralized management, taken in charge by users, and adapted to modern law, within the Pacific context, is well illustrated by this type of actions. So is the interest of measuring MPAs socio-economic impacts in order to raise awareness amongst stakeholders and to promote suitable regulations and directed investments.

The setting up of MPAs and the realization of studies on fisheries sustainability and coral reefs status indicators on the same sites, combined with new activities prospects relative to watersheds management, economic analysis and governance, make this zone, North of Efate, a CRISP reference site.

## **3. Involvement of French Overseas Territories and Communities**

It is to be reminded that OCTs have benefited from CRISP resources through activities and co-funding set up by CI and WWF, even though they were not eligible for AFD (except for Wallis & Futuna) and FFEM grants.

150 K Euros will be added, according to an AFD demand, within the UNF co-funding offered to SPREP.

The precedent supervisory mission (September-October 2006) had already approach the question of OCTs within CRISP.

Within the framework of the supervisory mission, object of this present report, it has been agreed on that the CRISP coordinator will produce briefing cards summing up the programme actions in the different territories and their involvement in the programme.

Globally, OCTs recognize CRISP potential in terms of regional cooperation and express more interest for the programme than in 2006.

This is especially true in the case of French Polynesia, at the level of either the International Relations Service chief, the Environment & Land Affairs minister or the Environment director.

In the following paragraphs, we will focus again on actuality issues, mainly related to MPAs and PCC, in French Polynesia and New Caledonia.

### **3.1. French Polynesia**

In December 2007, French Polynesia has signed a partnership agreement with ANAMP. MPAs are currently developed on the territory: following the set up of the Moorea MAMP, preliminary work in collaboration with WWF is currently undergoing on Fakarava Atoll. Listed on the Unesco World Heritage List, this atoll has seen its tourism activity remains stable despite a global decrease in tourist number all over French Polynesia.

Within the CRISP framework, the Polynesia eco-regional analysis has started and the Moorea MAMP has gain a socio-economical study as well as funds for the purchase of an engine through SPREP. Work is currently undergoing for the set up of a MAMP in Wallis (in collaboration with IFRECOR) and the Cook Islands.

New work axis opened up by CRISP on economic impact analysis and MPAs governance reinforce the opportunities of cooperation with French Polynesia.

In addition, concrete partnerships will be renewed with CRIOBE and, for the first time, will be extended to the Fisheries Services of French Polynesia to operate PCC operations on giant clams and Manti shrimps.

Bio-security issues raised by the increase of organic products circulation in the Pacific area, a predictable result of PCC and related activities development, should be discussed at a regional level and CRISP could dedicate resources on this theme.

Finally, CRISP coordinator invited the programme partners to summit communications to the 11<sup>th</sup> Pacific Science Inter-Congress (PSI 2009) taking place in Papeete in March 2009.

### **3.2. New Caledonia**

A meeting gathering CRISP partners, three ministers of New Caledonia government, SPC deputy director, Richard Mann, and the ambassador France representative at SPC, took place in Noumea on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September.

On this occasion, Richard Mann acknowledged positively the bridge built between CRISP and SPC, which translates by the integration of the programme coordination unit within SPC as well as the integration of the coordinator to the organization staff.

He also expressed SPC wish to dedicated part of the Xth EDF funds to the continuation of CRISP actions; he specifically stated that SPC wishes to see France continuing to support the programme too.

The French representative indicated that Pacific Fund (Fonds Pacifique) could continue to support the programme. The South Province representative shared detailed information on MPAs management costs and dispositions.

Following the example of French Polynesia, New Caledonia would probably benefit the most from CRISP expertise on MPAs and could get further involved in the activities developed by the programme on that theme.

The South Province is on the verge of signing an agreement with ANAMP and New Caledonia, as a whole, could benefit from the experiences shared through networks set up by CRISP as well as save substantial funds, especially as Unesco World Heritage List will require mobilizing huge means and amounts to monitor and manage its precious barrier reef. New Caledonia's challenge, obviously showing during the visit to a MPA of the North Province, is also to set up efficient governance balancing the use of managing tools coming from local custom and modern laws.

#### **4. CRISP in the future**

Funding agreements have been extended to 2009 or 2010 (see table paragraph 1.1). CI agreement should be extended to 2010 and SPC agreement relative to the supplementary funding is running until the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2011. Therefore CRISP has at least two years to complete all the planned activities, plus use and disseminate the obtained results as much as possible.

However, AFD does not plan to allocate further funding and the expected FFEM contribution is limited, so far, to the PCC project (see paragraph 3.1). That is why programme partners and AFD gathered in Apia have agreed to undertake actions (like promoting CRISP label and its innovative partnerships) to rally the Pacific Fund, and furthermore obtain funding from the Xth EDF within the framework of the ACP States and OCTs regional programmes in order to continue to finance CRISP activities.

While visiting Fiji, the mission has approached the European Union Regional Delegation in the Pacific and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, which reacted positively to the idea of an EDF funding via the ACP States programme. The regional strategy reference document, used as a framework for the Xth EDF programming, approved by the Forum Secretariat in October 2008 and presented on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November in front of the EDF committee, ranks environment issues as top priority.

This option remains to be concretized within the framework of the Xth EDF programming proceedings. Next step is a call for tenders launched by the Forum Secretariat in October 2008, following revised guidelines supported by the Commission in order to obtain Concept notes from regional (but not exclusively) organizations before the end of the year. Those Concept notes will be shortlisted early 2009. Full project documents will be drawn up in the course of 2009. Meanwhile the first disbursements are expected in 2010.

Following the steps taken in Fiji, AFD and CRISP coordinator have pursued the exchanges with SPC and SPREP leaders with a specific objective: that the two Concept notes prepared by those two organizations, answering the Forum call for tenders, take into consideration as much as possible the actions lead by CRISP which comply fully with the regional strategies of these regional entities. It was

reminded that funding resources could be made available by CRISP for the realization of the projects documents when necessary.

Regarding the Xth EDF regional OCTs, French Polynesia and Wallis & Futuna officials, met or approached during the mission, declared themselves favorable to the funding of coral reef ecosystem management activities in continuity with the CRISP, in particular regarding MPAs management. Several New Caledonia officials have also reacted positively. This EDF OCTs programme, complement of the EDF ACP States programme and potentially helping to preserve the regional cooperation character of CRISP, also remains to be concretized.

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## List of abbreviations and acronyms:

ACP States	African, Caribbean and Pacific States (Pays d’Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique -liés à l’Union Européenne par l’accord de Cotonou)
AFD	<i>Agence Française de Développement</i> (French Development Agency)
MPAs/AMP	<i>Marine Protected Areas (Aires Marines Protégées)</i>
ANAMP	<i>Agence Nationale pour les Aires Marines Protégées - France</i> , Marine Protected Areas National Agency
CCU	<i>CRISP Coordination Unit (Cellule de coordination du CRISP)</i>
CI	<i>Conservation International</i>
CNRS	<i>Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique</i> (National Scientific Research Center)
SPC/ CPS	<i>Secretariat of the Pacific Community (Secrétariat de la Communauté du Pacifique)</i>
CRIOBE	<i>Centre de Recherches Insulaires et Observatoire de l’Environnement</i> , (Island Research Centre and Environment Observatory)
CRISP	<i>Coral Reef InitiativeS for the Pacific</i>
DLVF	Date limite de versement des fonds (Time Limit For Issue)
EDF/FED	European Development Fund ( <i>Fonds Européen de Développement</i> )
FFEM	<i>Fonds Français pour l’Environnement Mondial</i> (French Fund for the Global Environment)
FSP Vanuatu	<i>Foundation for the Peoples of South Pacific Vanuatu</i>
IFRECOR	<i>Initiative Française pour les Récifs Coralliens</i> (French Coral Reef Initiative)
IMPAC	<i>International Marine Protected Areas Congress</i>
IRD	<i>Institut de Recherche pour le Développement</i> (Institute of Research for Development)
MAEE	<i>Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et Européennes</i> (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
<i>MAMP/PGEM</i>	<i>Marine Area Management Plan</i> (Plan de Gestion de l’Environnement Marin)
<i>SPREP/PROE</i>	<i>South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (Programme Régional Océanien pour l’Environnement)</i>
OCTs/PTOM/ CTOM	Overseas Countries and Territories ( <i>Pays et Territoires d’Outre-Mer-de l’Union Européenne/Collectivités Territoriales d’Outre-Mer-de la France</i> )
EU/UE	European Union ( <i>Union Européenne</i> )
UNF	<i>United Nations Foundation</i>
UNEP/PNUE	<i>United Nations Environment Programme</i> (Programme des Nations-Unis pour l’Environnement)
UNFIP	<i>United Nations Fund for International Partnerships</i>
WFC	<i>World Fish Center</i> (CGIAR/ <i>Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research</i> )
WWF	<i>World Wildlife Fund for Nature</i>

## Appendices:

1. Terms of Reference for the mission
2. Work schedules and list of people met in the visited countries and territories.