

About French Polynesia

- ▶ Extends over more than five million square km
- ▶ 118 islands scattered into five archipelagos
- ▶ 84 listed atolls which regroups 20% of the world's atolls
- ▶ 15 050 square km of coral reef ecosystem
- ▶ Belongs to the world's biodiversity hotspot of Micronesia-Polynesia
- ▶ The management of this luxurious and tremendous area involves ecological, cultural and socio-economical territory issues

Characteristics of French Polynesia's marine protected areas

Since 1971, French Polynesia, according to its local jurisdiction, has been setting up marine protected areas with multiple goals (protected areas, PGEM marine area management plan) but also regulated fishing areas which contribute to a better marine area management.

Meanwhile, some areas are internationally recognized and awarded by UNESCO's "Man and Biosphere" program (Fakarava atolls) and by the RAMSAR convention on the international importance of wetlands (Moorea lagoon).

French Polynesia also host traditional community-based management measures such as the "Rahui", which are still used nowadays in Rapa and Maiao, for instance.

Finally, French Polynesia has marine sanctuaries covering the entire waters under national jurisdiction for marine mammals and sharks.

Environment Department of French Polynesia
www.environnement.pf

Marine and Mining Resources Department of French Polynesia
www.peche.pf

Planning and Town Planning Department of French Polynesia
www.urbanisme.gov.pf

Marine Protected Areas Agency
www.aires-marines.fr



French Polynesia

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Marine protected areas in French Polynesia



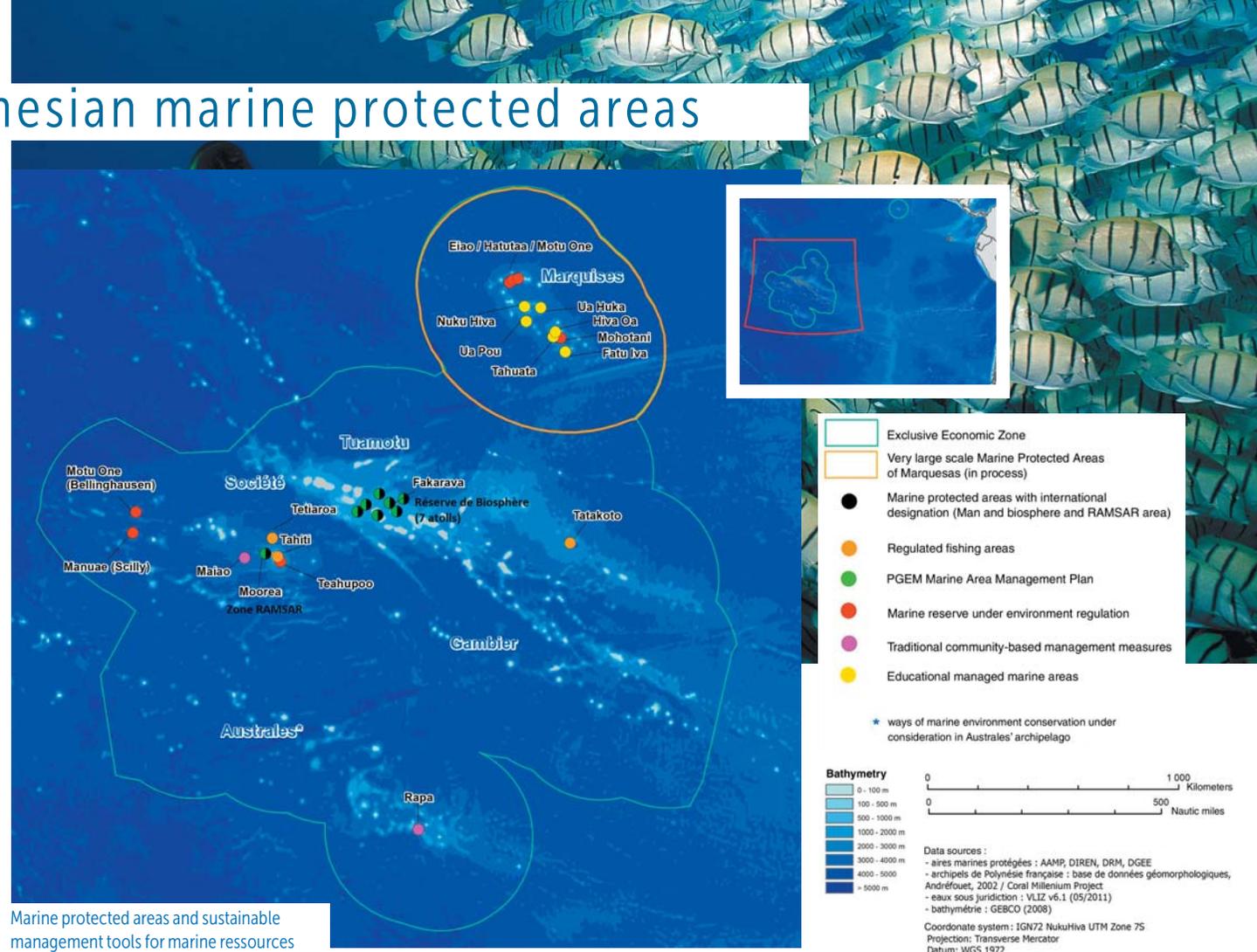
Focus on some of the Polynesian marine protected areas

Marquesas' PUKATAI network of Educational Managed Marine Areas

PUKATAI is a pilot network of six Educational Managed Marine Areas (EMMA) in the six inhabited islands of the Marquesas archipelago willing to federate their management. EMMA consists of coastal zones which have a local and participatory management by children.

The PGEM Marine Area Management Plan of Moorea is celebrating its 10th anniversary

Being since long conscious of the importance of preserving its lagoon, the municipality of Moorea-Maiao with the support of the government of French Polynesia, has decided to create the first "PGEM Marine Area Management Plan" in 2004. As an integrated management tool, it aims at sustainably managing the diverse uses taking place in the lagoon and aims at ecosystems protection. It is coordinated by a management committee which is helped by a local association. Nowadays, thanks to an increasing involvement of the population, the governance tends to a "more" Polynesian view. One of the main issues remain the better integration of the lagoon fishermen, whose knowledge is a major asset to guarantee a sustainable use of the marine resources.



Marine protected areas and sustainable management tools for marine resources

Fakarava's Man and Biosphere reserve

Tairao has been, in 1977, the very first atoll to join the UNESCO's «Man and Biosphere» (MAB) program. Nowadays, the biosphere MAB Reserve involves seven atolls of the municipality of Fakarava: Fakarava, Kauehi, Niau, Raraka, Toau et Tairao. Its governance involves a management committee, a scientific council and local NGOs in charge of defined actions. It allows achieving multiple actions involving the local population.

The ongoing creation of a large scale marine protected area in the Marquesas islands

The Marquesas islands have an outstanding marine ecosystem characterized by strong rate of endemism and a large primary productivity (plankton). The archipelago contains a strong and living culture linked to the marine environment. The government of French Polynesia has pledged to a creation process of a large scale marine protected area of 700 000 square km with a consultation plan involving the Marquesan population and the divers stakeholders. This step will contribute to help a process of registration of the Marquesas islands in the UNESCO world heritage (mixed site).

