

# PACPATH NOUMEA WORKSHOP

From **18th to 21st October 2022**, in **Noumea**, New Caledonia



Our first stakeholder workshop took place in New Caledonia last October. Scientists and stakeholders from New Caledonia and Fiji worked actively on a **common vision** and **sustainable and effective actions** to collectively fight against the impacts of climate change on the ocean and livelihoods, in other words '**SUSTAINABILITY PATHWAYS**'.

**ACTORS CONCERNED WITH MARINE HEAT WAVES, COASTAL EROSION, SEA LEVEL RISE, OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AND DEOXYGENATION WHERE INVITED BASED ON THEIR INTEREST, VIEWPOINTS AND ACTION CAPACITY.**

Regional organizations, research institutes, universities, customary representatives, governments, provinces, municipalities, association of mayors, local structures and associations, all worked for three full days to co-construct an initial socio-environmental diagnosis, reflecting the shared priorities and concerns and laying the foundations for concrete research, monitoring and adaptation actions.

# THE OUTCOMES

Following and official opening with a welcoming custom at the Tjibaou kanak cultural center, the stakeholders started the structured co-design at the Pacific Community in a fully participatory model. They first identified the priority attributes, values and resources (what they valued) and how climate change threaten those— and pointed out the concern about habitability and food security in relation to the aforementioned oceanic processes. Ocean warming, acidification and deoxygenation impact the coral-seagrass-mangrove reef which in turn threatens fish availability (food security) and wave protection (erosion zone and habitability). Sea level rise, combined with other effects (waves generated by distant storms, local cyclones, coastal development) exacerbates coastal erosion and threatens habitability.

From those, stakeholders co-constructed the draft socio-environmental maps of New Caledonia and Fiji, pointing out areas of interest and areas where sustainability appeared to be threatened. A concluding session allowed further inputs from private companies working on coastal management aspects. The workshop was followed by a writing retreat in the Northern Province to discuss the project perspectives based on the workshop results and appreciate local issues, with a mangrove replanting site to combat coastal erosion in Touho (Koe tribe and Hô-üt association), as well as a coastal erosion site that led to the relocation (Tiouandé tribe).

Heath Kesley and Annie Carew (IAN-UMCES) are working to produce a draft for the Socio-Environmental Card for New Caledonia, which will soon be circulated for feedback from the participants, and to the larger PACPATH circle (you). A task force was formed to prepare our follow-up workshop (13-20 February 2023: Salanieta Kitolelei, Mathilde Landemard, Satalaka Petaia, Brian Stockwell, Jasha Dehm, Elisabeth Holland, Nicolas Rocle, Jérôme Aucan, Heath Kesley, Annie Carew, and Alexandre Ganachaud) that will aim at improving the Fiji Socio-Environmental Card and extending the approach to new Pacific Island Countries.

Socio-environmental cards are powerful tools to reveal an expert-based status, catalyze energies and interests from various cultures and values, and serve as leverage to design proposals and convince funding agencies and donors. Two interest groups were formed to pursue this, with one oriented on **coastal erosion and habitability**; the second on **reef ecosystem and food security**. You are welcome to join them or one of them and contribute to the next proposal for research and services in a multi-partner setting. For this, just send an email to:

Mathilde ([mathilde.landemard@ird.fr](mailto:mathilde.landemard@ird.fr))  
and Alex ([alexandre.ganachaud@ird.fr](mailto:alexandre.ganachaud@ird.fr)).



Thanks for reading through this newsletter, and looking forward to your inputs and proposition to share your own research with the PACPATH community.

PACPATH leadership:  
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