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# Development of the Network of Educational Managed Marine Areas in 5 Schools of French Polynesia

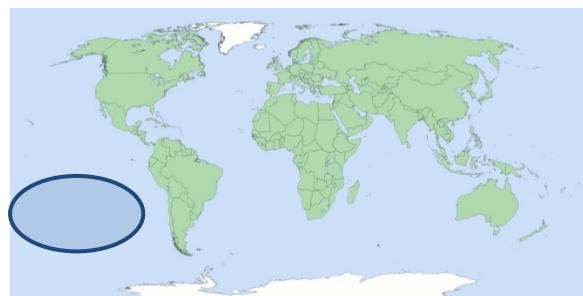
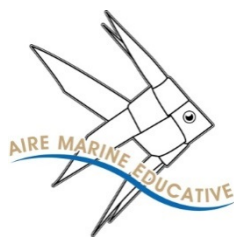
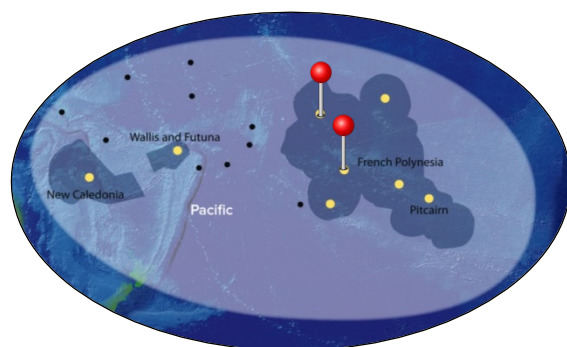
**Targeted territory:** French Polynesia

**Total project budget:** 49,968 Euros

**BEST 2.0 grant awarded:** 49,968 Euros

**Duration:** January 2018 – December 2018 (12 months)

**Lead organisation:** Fédération des Associations de Protection de l'Environnement de Polynésie française (FAPE)



## Background:

The concept of the Educational Managed Marine Area (EMMA) is a participatory approach involving students around a citizen action project for the management of the marine environment. Launched in 2013 by the Vaitahu primary school on the island of Tahuata (Marquesas archipelago), the approach has been structured and standardized so that it can be applied to other areas. Today there are 6 EMMA's, one for each of the Marquesas Islands. Six new schools have recently been approved and a seventh is in the process of being approved.

The establishment of an EMMA implies the realization of the ecological status of the chosen site, the identification of a referent "marine educational area", the organization of a sea council of children, the



proposal of a maritime coastal zone, the inclusion of major objectives and actions in the school curriculum, the signature of the EMMA charter, and then obtaining a favourable opinion from the municipality on the area proposed by the school.

### Description of the Project:

This project aims to continue the development of the network of Educational Managed Marine Areas in French Polynesia by creating five new EMMAs. As part of the project it is necessary to set up the activities necessary for

the creation of an EMMA, namely the definition of the initial ecological state, classroom interventions, the supply of teaching materials and communication on the actions carried out.

The coordination of this project will be ensured by the FAPE, by the General Directorate of Education and Education (DGEE), the country's service, whose agent is in charge of EMMAs. The French Agency for Biodiversity (AFB) provides technical support for the project.

The label committee and the steering committee dedicated to EMMAs provide support, maintain and supervise new EMMAs and existing EMMAs.

The project will support the implementation of the new EMMAs allowing more Polynesian students will benefit from lessons and activities related to EMMAs. In addition, although an EMMA does not have the characteristics of a marine protected area its presence can have direct effects on the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.

### Intended results:

The general objective of the project is to contribute to better knowledge of the local marine environment and improve its preservation by encouraging young people to become future responsible managers.

The goal at the end of the project is to involve students and local communities in actions related to the study of the marine environment of the EMMA. The EMMA is used as a pedagogical tool for the transfer of skills and a tool for protecting biodiversity.

Expected results at the end of the project:

- Definition of the initial ecological state of the zone (perimeter of the 5 new EMMAs) that will serve as a basis for students' monitoring of environmental improvements as a result of its protection.
- Acquisition of scientific knowledge by students through integration into the school curriculum.
- Improve awareness through effective communication of actions around EMMAs.



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