

*Fi Titi = small fish in Comoros language

EDITORIAL :

The first project of the association is well on its way... its name: C-FARM¹ ("Sea-Farm"), its objective: to give back smile to underprivileged children in The Philippines in giving them a job. This project is being carried out with the support of VIRLANIE foundation (Cf. heading "WHITE"). The main goal of C-FARM project is to support the creation of new marine trades through "farm-school" and museum in aquaculture. This project will use a new accessible marine resource, thanks to the experience of MOANA Initiative's founders. This project combines solidarity and sustainable development.

SOLIDARITY. The Virlanie foundation, which gathers more than 25 local programs, takes care of children from the streets or maltreated. After providing moral support and home, Virlanie offers them an education. The Foundation aims to propose them a job bringing back income and dignity while avoiding their rural migration. The know-how of MOANA Initiative will quickly provide a solution to job creations in fishing and aquaculture, thus maintaining the children on the islands.

DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT. Today, to supply wild marine fish, the fisherman collects always further, spends more in energy, stays longer away from his family and increases the inherent diving risks. We offer, through our technique of post-larvae collection, a real socio-economic solution while contributing concretely and quickly to the creation of new trades relative to fish farming. These trades cover three fields: local aquaculture, alternative friendly aquariology and restocking over-fished coral reef areas. This activity is therefore a solution to over-fishing and destroying practices (fishing with cyanide and explosives), and lies clearly within a sustainable development scope. Moreover, the post-larvae excess collected and raised for the aquaculture and aquarium trade can be used for the reintroduction ("stocking with fish") on reefs.

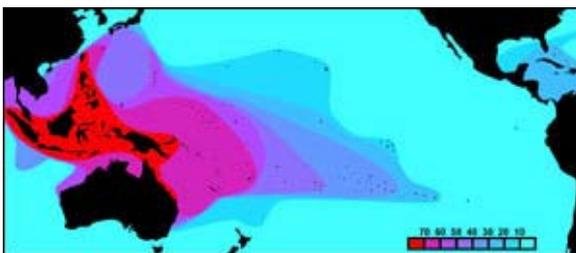
Have a good immersion!

Gilles Lecaillon et Sven Michel Lourié
Enthusiastic Founders



VERT: the marine world in The Philippines

South Asia (Indonesia, New Guinea, and The Philippines) is the most important area in term of marine species fauna richness and diversity. The Philippines, gathering more than 4000 marine fish species, is seen as the world center of dispersion (see figure under). In 1994, nearly 75% of the coral reefs were degraded, and only 5% remained in excellent condition. The project site is in Mindoro, island in the south of Manila; precisely not far from the "White Beach" in Puerto Galera. Location 13° 25' North; 120° 50' East.



Marine Biodiversity gradient



Diversity and abundance in « Manila Channel »– oct 04

¹ C-F.A.R.M : Collect Fish for Alternative aquaculture, Rearing and Museum.

WHITE: Sven comments about the first mission in October 2004:

The mission: the objective was to prepare the project in The Philippines (baptized C-FARM). Thus, the first week was dedicated to meet the administrations in the ultra polluted atmosphere of Manila. I also met the members of the Virlanie Foundation. They are our partner on this project because the purpose is to propose to the young people issued from the Foundation, a know-how transfer to create jobs in alternative aquaculture. The second week went off in Puerto Galera (Island of Mindoro) because the firm school will be on one of Virlanie sites on the very touristic "White Beach" - we like to combine work and pleasure in Moana (Cf. photo). There was a very nice and convivial atmosphere between fishermen, with whom I shared tasty local beers and fishes. Some immersions in the large blue to make sure that the ichtyofaune did not leave and the mission ended; I forgot! I felt an earth-quake to put back my ideas, 6.6 on Richter magnitude.



Conclusion: the project lights passed to green and I hope that we will obtain the various necessary authorizations before the end of this year.

The Virlanie Foundation:

Virlanie takes charge of the children in the streets of Manila and offers them care, home and education. Virlanie is a non profit N.G.O, recognized of "public utility" by the Department of social Affairs of Filipino. Dominique Lemay, founder of Virlanie, assisted me during the mission. He had a lot of work with the organization of the arrival of Princess Caroline de Monaco, sponsor of the Foundation. With the aquarium hobbyist Dominique (more than 50 aquarium at his place!) we, for a long time, evoked the future of this pet trade.

I also could visit some Virlanie homes. Ninety Filipinos (social workers, specialized teacher, volunteers) help Virlanie to take care of more than 300 children (www.virlanie.org).


BLUE: a favorable context

The Philippines is, with Indonesia, the first countries exporting marine aquarium fishes. The principal reasons are a high specific diversity in a poor country turned towards the marine resources and whose demographic rate is one of highest in the world (60% of the population have less than 20 years). It is also the country with the highest percentage of dead corals, partly by man hand and often because of the destroying practices of collections. The use of cyanide fish capture, intended for the ornamental market, raised at the end of the fifties in The Philippines. Although fishing with cyanide was officially prohibited in Southeast Asia in years 75, it remains nevertheless always a common practice. This country counts 18.000 km of coast with 27.000 km² of fringing reefs where 50% of animal protein resources come from fishing and aquaculture. Fishes of the coral reefs provide a resource to more than one million of small fishermen, bringing more than 1 billion of \$ per annum.

Unfortunately, overexploitations, destroying employed techniques, as well as strong observed terrigenous sedimentation largely contribute to the destruction of a great part of the coral reefs. Today, the rates of captures decrease unceasingly; this problem becomes considerable for the coastal populations.

The environmental stake is therefore major there; the Philippines is the country where our alternative is most relevant. Moreover, Filipinos are adapted to maritime activities and to aquaculture practices, which will facilitate the transfer of know-how.

This letter is also a support of expression for all our members; if you want to write a paragraph, to inform us about your projects, do not hesitate to propose them. A heading "the reader wrote" will be created. Reply and question are to be proposed by email to moana_initiative@yahoo.fr