

\*Fi Titi = baby fish in the Mahorian language

## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2006 !



### EDITORIAL

*Dear members,*

*A little more than one year ago the Moana Initiative Organization was born. Thanks to your support we have now carried out several activities: we presented a show about reef conservation and aquariology (CIRCOP), we produced posters and published articles in specialized reviews, we published 5 newsletters and created a web site, we carried out sensitizing operations, and finally we produced a proposal to further develop our marine conservation initiatives.*

*We have very recently produced a guide at the request of UNESCO (Man and Biosphere program), in order to promote awareness of the new eco-jobs resulting from the collection of post-larval fish, and to encourage the transfer of the associated know-how.*

*Our fervent wish for the coming year is see some positive results from the grant application and tender invitations we have responded to, so that we can develop fish farming schools to replenish marine protected areas and implement sustainable aquaculture in developing countries. We would also like to try out our initiative on the long-suffering French coastal fisheries.*

*We would like to wish to our 60-plus members a very happy and fruitful 2006, a year packed with environmentally friendly activities and solidarity amongst conservationists. And most of all we would like to wish you all good health to carry out all your projects, personal as well as professional.*

*Sven Michel Lourié and Gilles Lecaillon  
Founders*

### GREEN

#### The Book “Planète MERS”

We would like to give a huge plug to the Book “Planète MERS” (Lafon Edition) by Laurent Ballesta and Pierre Descamp, especially as Oeil d’Andromède is an honorary member of the Moana Initiative. In this remarkable book you will discover, amongst many other wonderful things, the superb photographs of post-larval fish that Laurent lent us for our booklets, as well as a foreword by Nicolas Hulot, with whom Laurent shares photo sequences and shivers while photographing the marine emissions of Ushuaïa. 400 pages of wonderful pictures bathe the eyes with sheer beauty, and the text eloquently introduces the unique subject matter.

In short, run - don’t walk - to your bookseller, because at less than 40 euros this book is certain to sell out immediately. And don’t forget to tell your friends that the “Oeil d’Andromède” and Moana Initiative are organizations which share the same vision and work towards the same goals, reaching towards a horizon filled with hope for the marine environment. All friends of Fi Titi should buy this book in order to thank Laurent and Pierre, who have frequently and gracefully donated their splendid photographs of larvae to make our publications even more persuasive and convincing.

#### European Animal Status

The Mayor of Rome, the Italian capital, published a decree on 25 October prohibiting the inhumane practice of keeping goldfish in bowls; Monza and Turin have already implemented similar measures. The decree also proposes penalties for any person not walking his or her dog three times per day. The European constitution already stipulates that Member States must take full "account of the requirements of the well being of animals as being imperative (article 321); and the treaty of



Amsterdam affirms the "well being" of animals. Several Convention countries modified their legislation to take account of this. In France, ever since the Napoleonic Code, animals are regarded as simple chattels, property of their human owners. In May 2005, the French Minister of Justice submitted a report on the legal status of animals, to ensure that they become entitled "to the respect of integrality of their organization". Hopefully France will soon fall into line with more animal-friendly countries in terms of animal rights.

## BLUE

### **Functions Performed by Ecosystems (or the benefits which man obtains from ecosystems)**

A landmark study launched on March 30, 2005, reveals that approximately 60 % of the functions performed by ecosystems, which make life on Earth possible, are degraded or overexploited (Review Article on the Evaluation of the Ecosystems for the Millenium (MA), [www.millenumassessment.org](http://www.millenumassessment.org)). Although we do not have all the data yet, the experts can affirm right now that the degradation observed for 15 of the 24 functions performed by the ecosystems evaluated by the study - in particular fisheries stocks - increase the probability of abrupt changes which can seriously affect the well being of humans. Humans have modified these ecosystems more rapidly and extensively during the last 50 years that at any other time in history! The changes to those ecosystems, which provide substantial net benefits to human well being and economic development, were obtained at a price that is increasingly high in comparison to the degradation of other ecosystem functions. Only four functions performed by ecosystems saw an improvement during 50 last years (e.g. the successful introduction of aquaculture). The MA Review Article also establishes that the poorest populations have suffered the most profound changes in their ecosystems. The Review Article mentions the "possible options to preserve or improve certain functions provided by ecosystems while reducing the negative effects or increasing the positive impacts on other functions. For example, the protection of natural forests safeguards fauna and flora while providing fresh water and simultaneously reducing the effect of carbon emissions". Moana Initiative can quote another example of such a virtuous circle; the protection of reefs through fish repopulation using our process. This makes it possible to stimulate repopulation of marine protected areas, and subsequently generate fish migrations into the adjacent zones, thus regenerating stocks for artisanal fishing. All the proposals presented to our clients (local Authorities, Foundations, ONG, European Commission, etc.) emphasize these benefits and focus in this direction.

## WHITE

### **Contributions for 2006**

In order to carry out all of these actions and initiatives, we would once again like to solicit your support for the Moana Initiative in 2006. You will receive many gifts this year, in order to continue your work as a Moana Ambassador:

- A Moana Initiative Tee-shirt, which can protect you from sunburn even in winter when you read our news of the palm-fringed tropics. We also plan to provide special protective glasses which make it possible to see life in "blue-white-green", which we are planning to unveil the following year....
- To ensure that you can always pass the word around, we will give you not words but pictures. A CD with hundreds of photographs will enable you to explain to your family, friends and relations exactly why you choose to donate your hard-earned money to the Moana Initiative.
- Finally you will receive – as a reward for your generous contribution - an illustrated guide to our project. The guide is delicately perfumed with essence of post-larvae and the honest sweat of fisher folk, to ensure that this introduction to "the new trades of the sea" is rapidly circulated from person to person.

The most important gift we wish to receive from you is news that you are well, and bursting with energy and determination to pass the word around and recruit new members.

The 2006 contribution form is attached, and you can also download it from the new Moana Initiative website at [www.moanainitiative.org](http://www.moanainitiative.org). Thanks to Website creator Sebastien Delecraz, a member of the Moana initiative office staff!

