

*Fi Titi = tiny fish in the Mahorian language

EDITORIAL

Dear members,

It is always a great pleasure producing Fi TiTi to keep you informed of developments at Moana Initiative. Now things are really starting to happen, we hope to produce an edition of Fi TiTi at least once every four months.

*This Fi TiTi is full of good news. The Moana Initiative **Guide to Eco-Jobs Created from Post Larvae Collection** has just been finalised and printed. This guide, co-financed by UNESCO, presents a clear summary of what post larvae collection can bring in terms of conservation and sustainable development. It appears that lots of organisations are becoming interested in Moana's work after receiving copies of the guide, and we hope this will facilitate the diffusion of this new technology.*

The many overseas field trips that we undertook during 2005 and 2006 also confirm that this sustainable alternative technology has a promising future. As a result, Moana Initiative will finally carry out a pilot scheme somewhat closer to home – in our own back yard, to be precise, in the Mediterranean!

Many thanks once again to the Universities (EPHE Perpignan), NGOs (ReefCheck), our very active honorary members (Pr Bernard Salvat, Bernard Leveaux, Stuart Green) and many others too numerous to mention. The idea acquires an unstoppable momentum, and so our motivation is at maximum!

Gilles Lecaillon et Sven Michel Lourié

The founders, as Paul Simon so eloquently puts it, "Still crazy after all these years."

Capacity building in fish restocking for artisanal fishing development in France.

Moana Initiative is most appreciative of the generous financial support provided by the Pôle Herault Department Council (France) for our ongoing pilot study in the Mediterranean Sea.

This pilot study involves the transfer of knowledge of post-larval collection and rearing activities in order to conserve the livelihoods of local artisanal fishermen in our home region, with the final objective being to repopulate the marine environment. Post-larvae collection will be carried by the fishermen of Grau d'Agde, who have been trained to use the CARE collection system. The pilot study will begin at the end of June 2006 and continue for 4 or 5 months. The larvae will then be shipped to the CREUFOP marine station in Sète, where students trained by Moana will carry out species identification, sorting and rearing.

Once grown to a viable size, the juvenile fish will be reintroduced near artificial micro-reefs at the end of the summer. These micro reefs will be immersed beforehand, in order to facilitate colonization by the new arrivals, and will be situated amongst established artificial reefs lying off Agde.

The primary area of interest for the pilot study is to evaluate the reliability and replicability of each step of this innovative process. If the pilot study proves to be conclusive, the long term objective of any follow-up initiatives would be to increase the richness of the marine environment, both for the maintenance and enhancement of local fisherfolk's livelihoods, and to increase local marine biodiversity.

The reef ecosystem, a tangle of complex trophic networks.

The creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) is one of a number of possible solutions to limit the damage caused by humans to the marine environment. Dr. Peter Mumby examined the results obtained from MPA creation in terms of return of species to Exuma Cays Marine Park, Bahamas, where fishing has been prohibited since 1986.

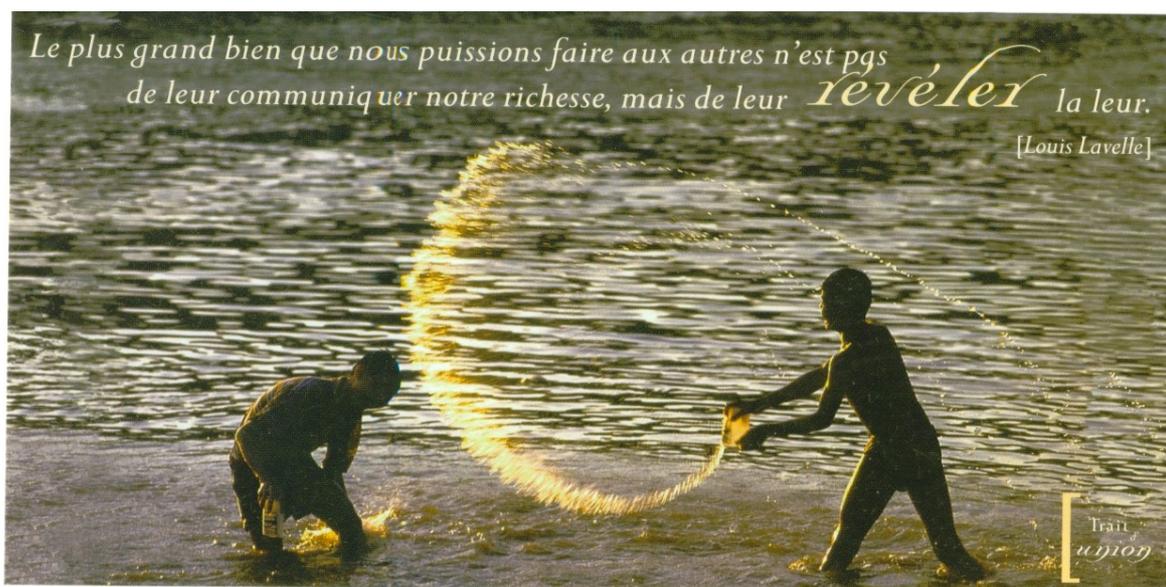
At the beginning of the 1980s this area underwent a massive mortality of black sea urchins, the main grazer of the coral reefs. The establishment of the park generated an increase in the parrotfish population. These animals also graze on algae (which when over-abundant may destroy the corals) and have progressively taken over the role of the sea urchins. However, the researchers also noticed a strong increase in the grouper (a parrotfish predator) population. Their concern was that a decline in the parrotfish population due to predation would cause damage to the corals because of a lack of daily cleaning (i.e. algal grazing).

To the researchers' astonishment, the corals actually benefited from the return of the grouper. The return of this major predator had led to an increase the average size of the parrotfish, the largest ones avoiding predation better than the smallest. Algal grazing of the corals is now more effective, as the mouth of each grazer is larger and its

appetite correspondingly greater, which ensures the future health and vitality of the Exuma Cays reef. Cecile Dumas' article in *Nouvel Observateur* (France, January 6th 2006) drew from an article in the journal *Science* to demonstrate clearly that the processes that govern ecosystem cohesion are extremely complex. This is a timely reminder of the multiple dimensions involved – and their vast complexity – when restocking marine ecosystems. As Moana Initiative becomes ever more deeply involved in marine ecosystem restocking, we will do our very best to take such ground-breaking research into account as we develop and improve our new alternative technology.

News, activities and initiatives

- The UNESCO-sponsored *Guide to Eco-Jobs Created from Post Larvae Collection* has just appeared, with 700 copies published and distributed already! We spent a number of months producing this guide, which describes through examples and photos the value and importance of post larval collection for providing eco-jobs and restoring marine biodiversity. We would like to thank the following for their support: Peter Dogsé from the Division for Ecological Sciences of UNESCO's MAB Programme; the REEF CHECK Philippines team, an NGO dedicated to coral reef protection who we collaborated with for more than a year; and of course the local authorities, stakeholders and fisherfolk from our project site in Bohol, Philippines. Each contributor received a copy of the guide. The guide has been produced in English at the request of UNESCO, for distribution to all persons in charge of MAB reserves around the world. A French version is being studied with a sponsor, and we hope to add other languages in the future. The full version of the guide is downloadable from the Moana website. Non-members who would like a hard copy of the guide, please contact us.
- Sven gave a presentation on Moana Initiative's work at St Clément de Rivière Town Hall, as part of World Francophone Day (World French-Speaking Day), in the presence of the Seychelles ambassador. M. Cacciaguerra, Mayor of St Clément, graciously presented Moana Initiative with the St Clément's Civic Medal of Honour.
- Make sure the latest version of the Moana Initiative website, www.moanainitiative.org, is top of your list of favourites. Many thanks to Seb, a member of Moana's Board of Directors, for the time and effort spent upgrading the site. This latest version includes downloadable versions of all previously published newsletters in English and French, as well as many photographs of the all stages of our projects, from collection of post larvae to restocking.
- This is the last call for subscriptions for 2006. If we are to carry out all of our planned actions and initiatives for the coming year, we depend on your generous support and assistance. The form is downloadable at: http://www.moanainitiative.org/PDFS/FormulaireAdhesion_2005_2006.pdf.
- Finally, Moana addresses its warmest thanks for their support to all our members who have already subscribed for 2006 : B. Dupuy, J.G. Saquer, P. Cecchi, J.L. Fernez, Ph. Dupuy, A. Dayde, C.&C. Dupuy, P. Danet, M. Maraval, I.de Beaumont, Y. Nisenbaum, B. Salvat, P. Lepinay, S. Sanfilippo, B. Petit, D. Petit, G. Fauvelot, C. Fauvelot, C.&D. Ottavi, J. Lecaillon, H. Lecaillon, C. Soun, N. Thierry, la Mairie de St Clément de Rivière, J.J. Pointier, Polytech.



The best thing we can do for others is not to pass on our own wealth, but to reveal the wealth they already own.