School-fish farm proposed by :

Creating a new marine sustainable resource to help developing countries in creating new jobs accessible to all.

Today, traditional fishermen are faced with rapidly decreasing numbers of wild marine fishes. Their harvesting is pushed further off shore, consuming more energy, forcing fishermen to leave their families for longer periods of time, and engage in more dangerous diving practices. Through our innovative technique of **passive collection of post-larval fish**, we offer a **real socio-economic solution,** while quickly and effectively creating new jobs in three different fields: **local supplemental aquaculture, alternative aquariology, and restocking of degraded coral reefs.**

MOANA INITIATIVE is a non-profit organisation in know-how transfer for an alternative aquaculture. Its main goal is to develop non-invasive collection and farming practices of post-larval marine fish, in order to sustain the coral reef's ecosystem in the long term, while aiding local economic and environmental development.

The main founders of MOANA INITIATIVE are Sven-Michel Lourié (hydrobiological engineer, 44 years old), and Gilles Lecaillon (Masters in marine biology and oceanography, 32 years old) they have 6 years of experience in collecting post-larval fish world-wide.

This project of fish farming and studying aquaculture at each "school farm" creates a real hands-on experience, facilitating the transfer of knowledge and technique.
The first school-farm will be settled in Puerto Galera (Philippines) where Virlanie foundation has one of is facility. In this first school farm we will train children coming from Virlanie.
Virlanie is a child care foundation for orphans and street children, it employees 90 Filipino social workers, street educators and 30 volunteers.

Photos copyright Laurent Ballesta, Claude Rives, Ecocean et Virlanie

This important know-how must be transferred as soon as possible to villagers in developing countries. The « school farm » will be a unique place to educate future generations and show them sustainable development in marine environment. Through this newly acquired knowledge, men, women, and children will discover a new source of income, while preserving their environment for generations to come.

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Sustainable development and protection of the environment

Post larval collections, followed by cultivation allows simultaneous development of:

- **Local Aquaculture**: After collecting post-larvae, they will be place in breeding pens to cultivate edible species, such as grouper or snapper. The sale of these enlarged fish will provide an additional resource for populations selling to local consumers, such as restaurants.

- **Marine pets for export:** The current trade of marine aquarium fishes sometimes presents a negative environmental image: The collection of adult fish, damage to coral reef structures, and variable mortality for fish during storage and transport (between collection and sale to the customer). On the other hand, the high quality fish resulting from the "Ecofriendly" collection of post-larvae are extremely robust, exhibiting a high rate of survival, because tank-raised fish are better suited to aquarium life. They are accustomed to human handling, acclimated to 'waste' water in their tanks, and are weaned on pellets. Therefore these exported domestic animals constitute an ecological alternative to fish captured by traditional means, providing more "aquarium-friendly" specimens.

- **The replenishment of natural fish populations** in degraded reef ecosystems: these coral reefs have experienced specific forms of pollution and over fishing, such as the dangerous practice of fishing with cyanide. These actions of restocking could be associated to artificial reefs operations so as definition of Marine Protected Areas (M.P.A), restocking actions financed for example by NGO, local Communities or companies related to beach tourism, within the framework of impact studies, or for recreational target (snorkelling).

All those collection data will be helpful for a better knowledge of the marine ecosystems through scientific studies concerning the biology of the post-larvae:

- Contributing locally to the scientific studies of the ecosystems: The daily data from larvae collects constitute a continuous reserve of very useful space-time data for the scientists studying the coral reef ecosystems to protect.
- Contributing to Monitoring: These actions of collections and repopulation require a follow-up (observations, underwater counting) of the area concerned.

The MOANA INTIATIVE Association combines solidarity and sustainable development into a unique and innovative educational project, while protecting local marine environment.

Become a member and please forward this message to partners or friends of yours; MOANA Initiative needs all types of members that will help for its development.


Damselfish (5 mm)


Wrasses (8 mm)


Scorpionfish (10 mm)

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