



**MIL-OSI Translation: Worn on the baptismal funds ...**

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MIL OSI Translation. French Polynesian to English -

Source: Government of New Caledonia

The Scientific Committee of the Coral Sea Nature Park held its first meeting on Wednesday, December 12, and elected its president, Gilles Bœuf, its vice-president, Claude Payri, and his secretary, Géraldine Giraudeau. This installation is the last stone of a year 2018 particularly rich in the preservation of the oceans for New Caledonia.

International Year of Coral Reefs, 2018 will also be the 10th anniversary of the inscription of some of our reefs as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, from the classification of pristine reefs in the Coral Sea Nature Park to wilderness areas ( 7,000 km<sup>2</sup>) or enhanced nature reserves (21,000 km<sup>2</sup>), from the integration of New Caledonia to the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), new protection commitments (seamounts to the south -est of Grande-Terre) acclaimed at the "Our Ocean" conference in Bali, or the presentation of the Palme Ifreco to Philippe Germain. A particularly dense year, therefore, "crowned" by the installation of the scientific committee of the park.

This first meeting was held at the university's university library (UNC), in videoconference with the House of New Caledonia in Paris where were the President of the Government Philippe Germain and the High Commissioner of the Republic Thierry Lataste, co-chairs of the park's management committee, but also the scientist Gilles Bœuf, "environmental physiologist" as he describes himself, who, after the election of the office, was appointed by his peers president of the scientific committee.

Enlighten, support, engage

"Our role will be to discuss with the geopolitical world but also the citizens, to support the questions of the management committee, but also to engage us by taking on some of these issues," immediately told his colleagues in Noumea he who also chairs the scientific council of the French Agency for Biodiversity, having chaired those of Ifremer, the National Museum of Natural History and CIRAD.

Created on September 11, 2018 by decree of the government, the scientific committee of the Coral Sea Nature Park has the mission to make recommendations to the management committee with the aim of guiding the scientific debate around preservation. biodiversity, to help spread the park's influence or to attract international research. Its members have been identified by the CRESICA (Consortium for Cooperation for Research, Higher Education and Innovation in New Caledonia) as independent specialists recognized for their scientific skills and knowledge of the ecosystems present in the park.

Do not deprive yourself of "fantasy"

"I'm counting on you to make this scientific committee innovative, in its operation, its recommendations, its assistance, that it off the beaten track, said Philippe Germain. It must guide research, coordinate actions, so that the preservation and enhancement of our exceptional biodiversity become a true economic wealth. " First big step for the president, the surveillance of the park. "Otherwise the preservation goals will be in vain! "

Gilles Bœuf working eight days a week (!), It is the vice president Claude Payri who, in Noumea, "will hold the shop". Here is how she imagines the task awaiting the club of twelve: "Enlighten the management committee of

the park and the future GIP that will ensure cohesion between the two committees, to him back the fruit of the work and consultation. But also to anticipate, not to deprive oneself of fantasy, to project oneself into what can happen tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. History has shown us that when we have not been careful enough, we have lived, and we are still living, ecological disasters.

After the election of the Bureau, the scientific experts continued their work on Thursday, December 13, with the agenda, the drafting and adoption of rules of procedure and a code of ethics, as well as a reflection on the park's scientific strategy.

The twelve scientists

President: Gilles Bœuf, professor at the Pierre and Marie Curie University, Sorbonne, specialist in biodiversity, conservation and enhancement of the marine world, president of the AFB's scientific council, worked twenty years at Ifremer, based in France.

- Vice-president: Claude Payri, Director at the IRD of the Entropy Joint Research Unit working on coral ecosystems, specialist in algae ("phycologist").

- Secretary: Géraldine Giraudeau, law professor, professor at the UNC, specialist in international law, territorial issues, the law of the sea, exploration and exploitation of natural resources, in hydrocarbons ...

- Members: Pascal Dumas, geographer, researcher at the UNC, works on island vulnerability - geomorphological tracking of islands, coastal erosion ...; Geoffroy Lamarche, marine geophysicist by training, associate professor at the University of Auckland, specialist in ocean bottom and marine cartography, based in New Zealand for thirty years; Christophe Menkes, director of research at IRD, climatologist, physicist of the ocean and the atmosphere, conducts work on the impacts of climate change on ecosystems; Daniel Pauly, a fisheries professor at the University of Vancouver, known for the quality of his expertise on the effect of fishing on ecosystems, based in Canada; Bernard Pelletier, geologist, director of research at IRD, specialist in seabed, particularly of New Caledonian subsoil tectonics and acoustics; Bertrand Richer de Forges, a former researcher at the IRD, has devoted a great deal of research to benthic fauna and to those living on seamounts; Emmanuel Tjibaou, director of the Tjibaou Cultural Center, will bring his expertise to the work of the committee on cultural, heritage and historical aspects; Eric Vidal, research director at the IRD, terrestrial and animal ecologist, works on biological invasion, biodiversity crises, seabirds ...; Laurent Wantiez, lecturer in marine ecology at the UNC, specializing in the spatial and temporal dynamics of coral reefs that he has been following for twenty-five years.

Objective TIGAFin April 2019, the government will file with the State a nomination file for the TIGA program - Territory of great ambitions ambitious (TIGA) - with an overall budget of 450 million euros (54 billion FCFP) for a twenty winning projects. Entitled "The Coral Sea Park, or How to Make Biodiversity a Growth Engine in the Pacific", this issue is based on five pillars. A hot spot of international research to better know, protect and optimize the economic benefits; a pole of excellence for innovation to observe, monitor and secure the park; a blue economy development laboratory based on research and innovation; a place emblematic of the history and culture of the inhabitants of the country, whose sea is the common point; a regional model for preserving and enhancing the wealth of the ocean, which can be shared with our neighbors. So many axes that will develop a real technopole dedicated to the sea. It would be installed in Nouville, near the university.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is a translation. Apologies should the grammar and / or sentence structure not be perfect.

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