

Title: **Conservation Policies and Changes in the Economic Status of Activities and Marine Resources: the Case of Marine Protected Areas in French Polynesia**

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Abstract: Reefs and lagoons ecosystems of French Polynesia have been since a very long time the support of important traditional activities. They are today concerned by conservation public policies, which have considerable consequences about the relations between local societies and their environment.

The necessity to stop the degradation of marine biodiversity and habitat has encouraged to implement environmental policies, and particularly the implementation of Marine Protected Areas. In French Polynesia, the Marine Space Management Plans, as that established in 2006 in Moorea, are quite recent experiences but their analysis allows identifying their main impacts.

We shall show how the local system of activities has been affected by these policies. In particular the balance between extractives uses (fishing, shellfish gathering) and recreational activities seems to be challenged by the new regulations introduced by conservation policies.

The new lagoon space zoning and the changes in access rights to lagoon space and biological resources have induced deep changes of their economic status. These changes will be analyzed by the mean of the public goods theory using exclusion and rivalry criterions. This economic approach will be completed by anthropological and institutional analysis in order to take in account the specificity of local rights and practices.

We shall show how a policy oriented toward the preservation of marine biodiversity may induce drastic changes in access and use rights for different users categories but also in the overall economic system depending from lagoon and reef resources. These changes will in turn impact the local representation and adhesion to MPAs.