

The activities of the French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER) in the Indo-Pacific

The French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea conducts research, innovates, and provides expertise to protect the ocean, sustainably manage its resources, and share marine data. IFREMER is working in the Indo-Pacific via its three permanent sites as well as via numerous projects and cooperation programmes underway in the region.

Expertise serving the oceans

The work of IFREMER supports local socio-economic activity (local governments, development agencies, companies, NGOs). Projects in the Indo-Pacific are mainly focused around 3 areas:

- Sustainable management of marine resources: knowledge of fishery resources, sustainability of fishing, development of aquaculture,
- Health of marine ecosystems: biodiversity and quality of lagoons and coastal waters, impact on human activities,
- And knowledge of deep-sea ecosystems: geoscience, seismic risks, biodiversity, exploration and monitoring technologies.

An important role in the Indo-Pacific

IFREMER has a strong commitment to the Indo-Pacific through its three permanent sites, located in French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Réunion, as well as through its exploration contract with the International Seabed Authority.

Furthermore, IFREMER operates the French Oceanographic Fleet for the entire French scientific community, in particular through the presence and projection capacities of the ships "Marion Dufresne" (property of the French Southern and Antarctic Territories and based in Réunion) and the "Antea" (based in Nouméa) and through campaigns carried out every five years on board the "Atalante".

Extensive cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

IFREMER is a benchmark institution for marine science and technology, and is carrying out its research in the Indo-Pacific in partnership with universities and other research bodies, both in France (e.g. National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Institut Louis Malardé, French Research Institute for Development (IRD), French National Museum of Natural History (MNHN)) and abroad (e.g. Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Pacific Community).

Furthermore, IFREMER wants to further strengthen its deep, long-standing partnerships with Japan, Australia and New Zealand. For example, in May 2023, scientists from IFREMER and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) installed a new underwater observation system to study the biodiversity and environment of the seamount in the Natural Park of the Coral Sea in Southern New Caledonia, one of the world's largest marine protected areas.

As part of the IFREMER Overseas Action Plan, new action was taken in partnership with neighbouring island states in order to increase knowledge of shared marine ecosystems.