

The French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) in the Indo-Pacific

The French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) is taking part in scientific research, contributing to the understanding and management of environmental and social issues in the region and supporting societal change towards fairer, more sustainable social, economic and ecological models in the Indo-Pacific. The IRD is a sustainable, multidisciplinary, open and civic organization, committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Responding to priority scientific issues in the region

Many global challenges at the heart of the 2030 Agenda are concentrated in the Indo-Pacific. In order to respond to them, the IRD is creating an "inter-basin" approach, based around overseas communities in the Indo-Pacific with five priority scientific issues:

- Preserving oceans, coasts and marine resources: pollution (fine particles, plastics, chemicals), coral reefs, fishing resources, deltas and marine biodiversity,
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change and environmental risks: atmospheric pollution, intense weather events, heatwaves, coastal erosion, submersion, seismic and volcanic risks, vulnerability of islands,
- Developing the "One Health" approach and fighting against infectious and vector-borne diseases: zoonoses and risks of their emergence, environmental health, sterile insect technique,
- Responding to urban processes and fighting against inequality: migration, sustainable cities, demographics,
- The sustainability of continental ecosystems and food systems: forests, biodiversity, security and food independence, nutrition, agro-economy, sustainable aquaculture, soils.

An important role in the Indo-Pacific

The IRD is conducting several projects in the Indo-Pacific. For example, it is supporting adaptation to climate change in South-East Asia, in the South Pacific and in Vanuatu, through the CLIPSSA regional programme, in collaboration with the Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency) and Météo France. In New Caledonia, the IRD is involved in managing the Natural Park of the Coral Sea and chairs its scientific council. In the Indian Ocean, many IRD projects are helping to maintain coral reefs such as BRIDGES (Fisheries and Biodiversity in the Western Indian Ocean Research Program), in order to sustainable marine resource management.

Furthermore, the IRD is a member of many research spaces through a network of IRD representatives in the region, a network of local partners and collaborations with key regional organizations (ASEAN, the Pacific Community, the Indian Ocean Commission) and French and European research and development stakeholders.

The IRD is also highly committed to capacity building among its Indo-Pacific partners, where it is currently deploying six structuring training programmes and five research training institutes.