



CRIOBE - UMS 2978 CNRS-EPHE
SERVICE D'OBSERVATION INSU
MOOREA - POLYNESIE FRANCAISE



MINISTRY OF MARINE RESOURCES
RAROTONGA, COOK ISLANDS

AGREEMENT ref.: PM/CRIOBE/COOK.IS/09

To implement on-site reef monitoring in the Cook Islands as part of the GCRMN – Polynesia Mana network

BETWEEN :

The *Ministry of Marine Resources* represented by its Secretary, Mr Ian Bertram, on behalf of the Government of the Cook Islands.

On the one part

AND :

The *Centre de Recherches Insulaires et Observatoire de l'Environnement* (Centre for Insular Research and Observatory for the Environment - CRIOBE) represented by its Director, Mr Serge Planes.

On the other

WHEREAS

The Polynesia Mana Coral Reef Monitoring Network is the South Pacific branch of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and is recognised by the International Coral Reef Initiative. It is an ongoing sixteen-year-long term project of monitoring the outer reef slopes of twenty islands spread over the four French Polynesian archipelagos (Australis, Marquesas, Society and Tuamotu) and six neighbouring island states or territories (Cook Islands, Niue, Kiribati, Tokelau, Kingdom of Tonga and Wallis and Futuna). The project mainly focuses on the effects natural and global change disturbances have on the coral reef ecosystem. The Cook Islands are part of the Polynesia Mana but CRIOBE now wishes to strengthen the network and collaboration with the participating countries by transferring our coral reef monitoring method, standardized across all the islands within the Polynesia Mana project.

CRIOBE (Centre de Recherches Insulaires et Observatoire de l'Environnement) is a French Government research centre, consisting of two institutions : EPHE (Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes) and CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique). CRIOBE has been in operation since 1971 and is housed on land administered by the Government of French Polynesia. In the current convention, CRIOBE operates as a public French research institute.

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1- Purpose

The purpose of this Agreement is to implement, as part of the Polynesia Mana network, on-site monitoring of the reef ecosystem on the outer slope of the island of Rarotonga at a site located in the northwestern part of the island. This monitoring will include fish censuses (species richness, sizes and abundance), photo surveys of Scleractinia coral populations (genus richness, coverage percentages, land forms) using the *permanent photo quadrat* method and recording hydrologic parameters (temperatures to the nearest milli-degree, swell heights and frequencies, sea level heights) by depth recorder on an on-going basis.

Article 2 - Length of this Agreement

This Agreement shall take effect as from 1 February 2009 for an indefinite period of time.

This agreement may be terminated by one party, by submitting written notification to the other party. This agreement will be terminated not less than six (6) months from the date of the written notification.

This Agreement may also be terminated in the event of force majeure that makes it impossible for one or the other of the Parties to execute their obligations.

Article 3 - Work of CRIOBE

As part of this Agreement, the work given to CRIOBE involves carrying out following actions:

- coral, fish and hydrological monitoring surveys at the selected site on the northwest outer slope of Rarotonga, with the biological surveys being repeated at least every two years.
- integrating local staff into monitoring and training them during this work.
- managing the database with the *Ministry of Marine Resources*.
- help for analysing data.
- help for producing an internal report.

Article 4 - *Ministry of Marine Resources* obligations

The Ministry of Marine Resources commits to facilitating CRIOBE's work during field campaigns. So, the provider shall receive as much aid and assistance as possible from the *Ministry of Marine Resources* to prepare for the work, use the marine (boat, diving units) and human resources and for relations with the technical and administrative agencies involved in this area.

The *Ministry of Marine Resources* will also provide accommodation every 2 years, for 2 researchers for the duration of 5 days.

Article 5 - Confidentiality

The principle of confidentiality shall apply to all data, more specifically to any documents and information arising from the data collected. The database shall be administered by CRIOBE and the *Ministry of Marine Resources*. The *Ministry of Marine Resources* shall have full access to it for internal use.

Article 6 - Communications

All scientific communication activities carried out in relation to the topic of this Agreement shall be subject to prior approval by both Parties.

Article 7 - Number of copies

This Agreement is hereby issued in duplicate originals.

Date 10/02/09

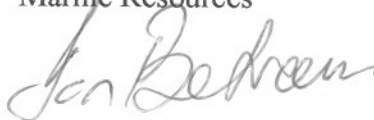
Director of CRIOBE



Serge PLANES

Date 24/02/2009

Secretary of the Ministry of
Marine Resources



Ian BERTRAM

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