

Press release - December 02, 2022

LIFE ADAPT'ISLAND

Adapting to climate change: A port innovation project in Guadeloupe



The Grand Port Maritime de la Guadeloupe, in partnership with the European Commission and two co-beneficiaries, is implementing the Life Adapt'Island project. Financed up to 45% by the European LIFE funding program, it enables the deployment of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) for climate change adaptation.

This innovative environmental project is dedicated to preserving three fragile coastal ecosystems :

- Coral reefs ;
- Mangroves and swamp forests (wetlands) ;
- Seagrass beds.

These ecosystems are real lungs of biodiversity, protecting our coasts from natural phenomena. They play a vital role for our island society (protection against erosion and cyclone mitigation, water purification, strategic habitats for fish and shellfish, carbon sinks, etc.).



Focus - Key Figures

The french West Indies alone account for 80% of France's biodiversity :

- Nearly 4,000 species endemic to the French overseas territories listed by the IUCN, more than in the whole of continental Europe
- 10% of the planet's coral reefs and lagoons

In partnership with local civil society, the project aims to raise awareness among cruise passengers, students and schoolchildren of the need to protect Guadeloupe's ecosystem. Scientists are tasked with identifying best practices and drafting restoration protocols for the targeted species, with a view to disseminating them to other Caribbean territories. The scientific committee set up for this purpose includes two IPCC experts specializing in island areas.

A commitment recognized by Ecoport

The Grand Port Maritime de la Guadeloupe (GPMG), has been committed to these themes for several years. Back in 2016, the GPMG launched a comprehensive environmental program, becoming the first ultramarine port to be awarded the Ecoport label. This pioneering program in the region, aims to restore coastal ecosystems and natural areas by bringing together local economic players and the world of research. The LIFE ADAPT'ISLAND project will enable us to step up our efforts and make Guadeloupe a model of excellence in terms of innovation and best practices for other port authorities in the region.

Find all press releases on the LIFE Adapt'Island press area

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About the European LIFE Funding program

The LIFE program is the European Commission's financial instrument for supporting environmental and climate projects. Launched in 1992, it has funded 5,500 projects in 4 areas: nature and biodiversity, circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and energy transition. Its total budget for the period 2021 - 2027 amounts to 5.4 billion euros.

The Grand Port Maritime de la Guadeloupe (coordination and implementation)

The GPMG (or Guadeloupe Port Caraïbes) is a public industrial and commercial establishment, spread over 5 sites and headquartered in Pointe-à-Pitre. A general port (trade, passenger transport, logistics), it ranks 11th among French commercial ports (more than 4 million tons of freight, more than 200,000 containers per year). More than a million passengers a year pass through the port.

URAPEG-FNE (co-beneficiary)

A Federation of Guadeloupean associations working in the environmental field, URAPEG-FNE 971 will be involved in raising awareness and communicating the project.

Pilot4Dev (co-beneficiary)

An independent think tank based in Brussels, active in climate/environment issues and the implementation of sustainable development objectives, including gender equality. Its role is to support the dissemination of the project on a European scale.

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