

Title: **Effects of Mpa on Small Scale Coral Reef Fisheries and Communities: Evidence From Vanuatu (South Pacific)**

Authors: Nicolas Pascal, CRIOBE - EPHE/CNRS (France)
Clua Eric, CPS (France)
Sompert Gereva
Hugh Govan (Philippines)

Abstract: If the role of MPAs as a conservation tool is now widely demonstrated even with some variability, their effects on fishery yields, tourism revenues and social aspects are only confirmed by very few studies. More than 550 MPA now exist in the South Pacific mostly community based managed- and the expectations on their ecological and socio-economic effects are high. A study based on a control-impact approach has been conducted in Vanuatu (South Pacific) to evaluate the effects of MPA for the local and global community. 3 sites with well established MPAs and their respective control sites have been selected with a similar ecological habitat but with different fishing pressure, tourism development and level of subsistence economy. The most direct effects of MPA on the coral reef fisheries cpue and yields and on the site attractiveness for the tourism industry have been assessed. Other impacts on the social capital bridging and bonding- and governance of local communities were identified too. At a different scale, the benefits in the form of avoided cost for government as well as the attributes of world heritage conservation were considered. Most of these effects were quantified from observed data and as far as possible valued with a bio-economic approach with a special focus on the fishery assessment. The results showed variability in the outcomes between the sites. Some of them present small quantifiable benefits on fishery or tourism and reveal an imbalance between local and global beneficiaries, questioning the future of the MPA. The limits of the western economic approach in the Melanesian cultural context were outlined.