



## POLYPERL

### DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE PEARL CULTIVATION IN FRENCH POLYNESIA

With more than a 90% share of the market, French Polynesia is the world's leading producer of coloured pearls. In a period of 30 years, the activity has become essential to the Polynesian economy, with 3,700 people earning their living from it. Pearls are now the territory's foremost resource export.

But for the past decade, the Polynesian pearl cultivation sector has been in crisis, with the price of pearls continuing to tumble. There are many reasons for this: an unfavourable international economic situation, a competitive market, fraud, etc.

The aim of the POLYPERL project is to develop sustainable pearl cultivation in French Polynesia, with industrial production essentially focusing on the species *Pinctada margaritifera*. The project plans to explore the system of pearl oyster cultivation overall, from an environmental, technological, economic and indeed social perspective.

The project will provide the means, on the one hand, to improve understanding of the biology of the species and, on the other, to offer innovations and decision-making tools geared towards sustainable management and incorporated into pearl cultivation in French Polynesia.

#### Partners

##### Companies

Acobiom, Montpellier  
Gauguin's pearl, ferme aquacole, Pirae, Polynésie

##### Research centers

Ifremer, Taravo, Polynésie [[Project Developer](#)]  
AMURE-UBO, Brest  
CRIOBE, Centre de recherches insulaires et observatoire de l'environnement, Moorea, Polynésie  
Ifremer, Boulogne-sur-Mer  
Ifremer, Brest  
Ifremer, Nantes  
Ifremer, Toulon  
IRD, Nouméa, Nouvelle-Calédonie  
LAMETA (Laboratoire Montpelliérain d'économie théorique et appliquée), Montpellier  
PRL, service periculture (rattaché au Ministère), Tahiti, Polynésie  
Université de Polynésie Française, UMR 241, Faaa, Polynésie

##### Other partner

Te Mana et te Moana, Moorea, Polynésie

#### Funder

- Agence Nationale de la Recherche

#### Labelisation

23/09/2011

#### Overall budget

3 012 K€