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### Towards an international awarness

Following the enthusiasm generated by the first EMMA in the Marquesas Islands, the experiment has now been extended to mainland France and its overseas territories, where it has been well received by the key stakeholders. It will be extended to terrestrial areas.

The approach was presented to the World Parks Congress in Sydney in 2014 and has already raised interest in various countries. The congress in Hawaii and others will be the opportunity for the global community to get involved and cooperate to develop a joint strategy and move towards broad international awarness. This network of EMMA could one day bring together children from different corners of the globe to discuss and discover their respective ecosystems and cultures. Sould they challenge policymakers, users and citizens on their commitments and actions for protecting the ocean.



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Gouvernement de  
 la Polynésie française



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# EDUCATIONAL MANAGED MARINE AREA



Young people learning  
 about and protecting the sea

# Educational Managed Marine Area: Young people learning about and protecting the sea



An “Educational Managed Marine Area” (EMMA) is a small coastal area a few km<sup>2</sup> wide, managed in a participatory way by primary school students, in accordance with principles defined in a charter. The children become part of a local project that draws on the expertise of the school and local municipality, along with user associations and environmental protection groups.



The concept was born in the Marquesas Islands in 2012 after students from a school in Vaitahu spoke of their desire to look after a marine area near their school.

French Polynesia and the founding partners<sup>1</sup> have since structured the concept to create an EMMA label.

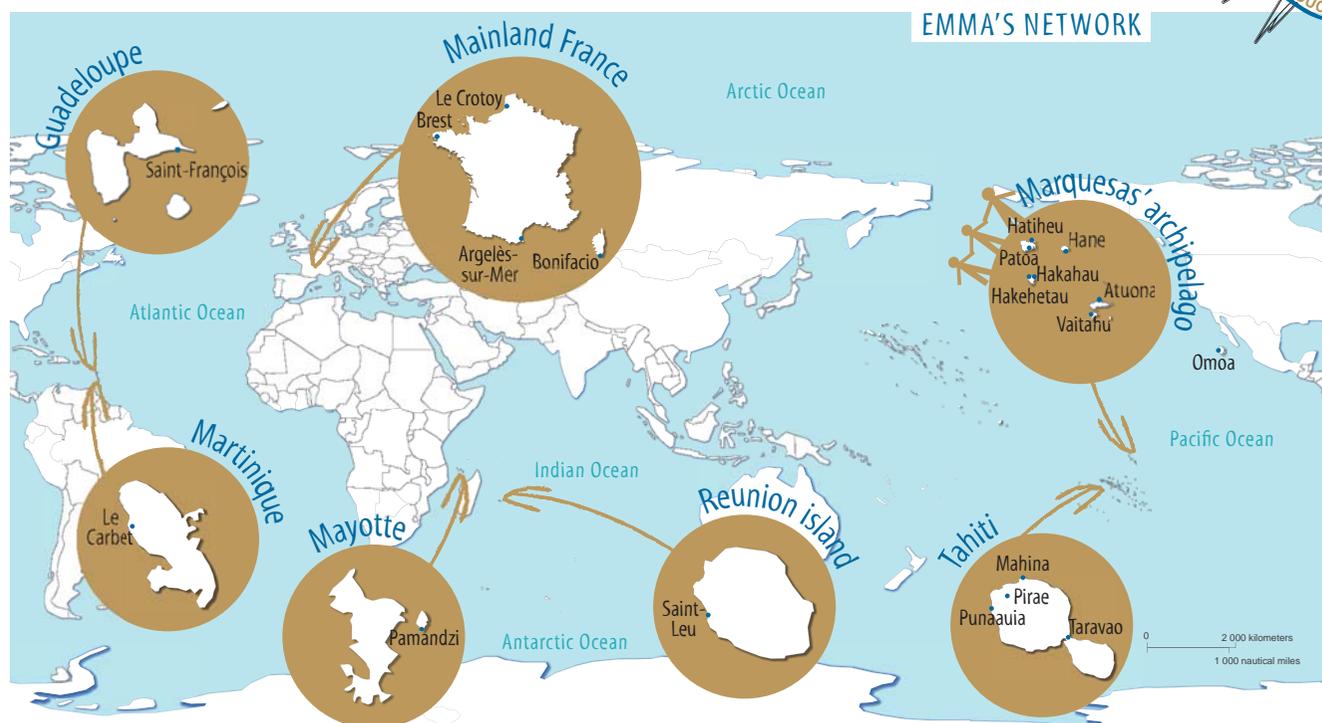
To take the strategy further, the “Pukatai” (coral in Marquesan) pilot network of six EMMA was launched on in 2014.

Watch the video on:

<http://www.aires-marines.com/Educational-Managed-Marine-Area>

During the Cop 21 in Paris, a partnership was signed between the French Ministry of Environment, Energy and Oceans and the French Polynesian government, in order to continue the success of the Polynesian network of EMMA and to promote the approach across France in accordance with the philosophy of the original concept.

<sup>1</sup> Cultural federation of the Marquesas Islands “Motu Haka”, Marquesas Islands “communauté de communes” (federation of municipalities), and Tahuata Primary School, supported by the long-term institutional partners – the French Marine Protected Areas Agency and IFRECOR (French coral reef initiative)



## Gradual roll-out of EMMA

Since 2016, pilot projects have been carried out in eight schools across mainland France, Corsica and a number of overseas territories. At the end of the school year, these schools were awarded official certification by the EMMA Steering Committee, which includes the French Ministries of Ecological Transition, Education and Overseas Territories, AFB and IFRECOR in overseas departments. Backed by this success, the approach has now been rolled out at other schools with around fifty candidate schools for the 2017-2018 school year.

At the same time, the network continued to grow in French Polynesia, under the management of the Polynesian Ministry of Education, with the support of the local AFB office. In 2017, two more schools were certified in the Marquesas and four in Tahiti.

AFB is now working on creating a land version of Educational Managed Marine Areas.

## Eco-citizen project

The concept of EMMA is based on three pillars: “**knowing, experiencing and sharing**”.

Each school needs to implement a programme of actions:

- Conducting an ecological survey in the chosen area involving the children alongside scientific teams;
- Establishing a children’s sea council to discuss the actions to be implemented;
- Investing in educational activities within the areas so that the students can develop new understanding in a real-life situation.
- Developing relationships with decision makers, professionals and academics in order to link up different generations.