Economic value of coral ecosystems

in French overseas territories



















Saint Martin

Saint Barthelemy Guadeloupe

New Caledonia

French Polynesia

Annual value of services provided by coral ecosystems

> billion **EUR**

Key figures for deciding

Coral reefs, sea grass beds and mangroves contribute 1.3 billion EUR yearly to the economy of 9 overseas territories.

Around 12 000 companies, 50 000 jobs and more than 175 000 homes depend, to varying degrees, on services provided by these ecosystems.

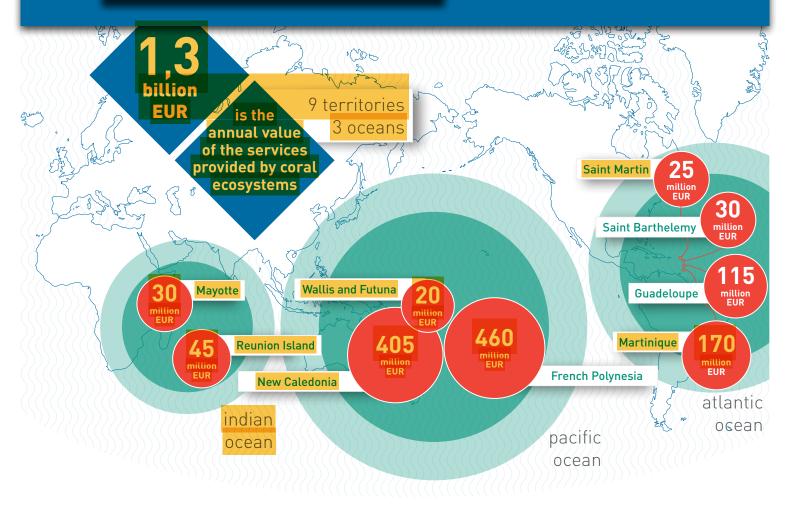
This economic role provides evidence on the importance of sustained management of natural marine environments, as a sustainable economic development tool for the French overseas territories.





Levers of development

for island economies





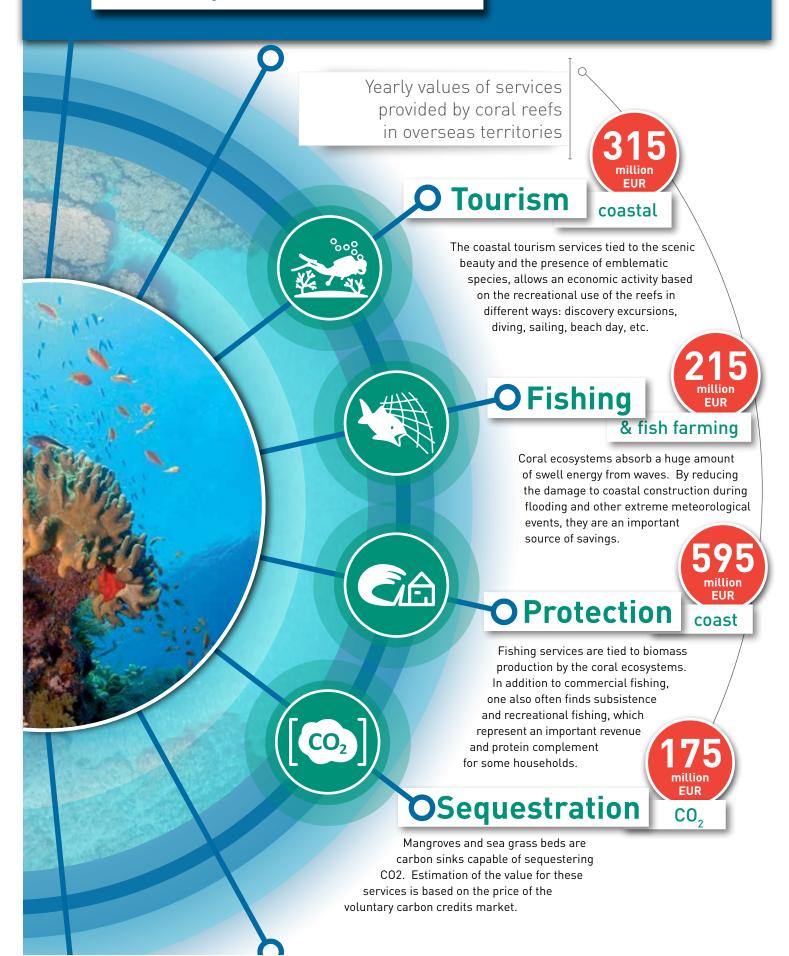
of the territories' economies via the added values of services provided by coastal tourism and fishing associated with coral ecosystems. They contribute directly up to 2%, on average, to the regional governments' GDP. contribution can reach 8% for those whose GDP is lower, as is the case for Saint Barthélemy.

Other services, such as protection against coastal flooding and carbon sequestration, are not taken into consideration in the economic statistics, although they do save countries high costs from the avoidance of damage carbon stocks respectively.



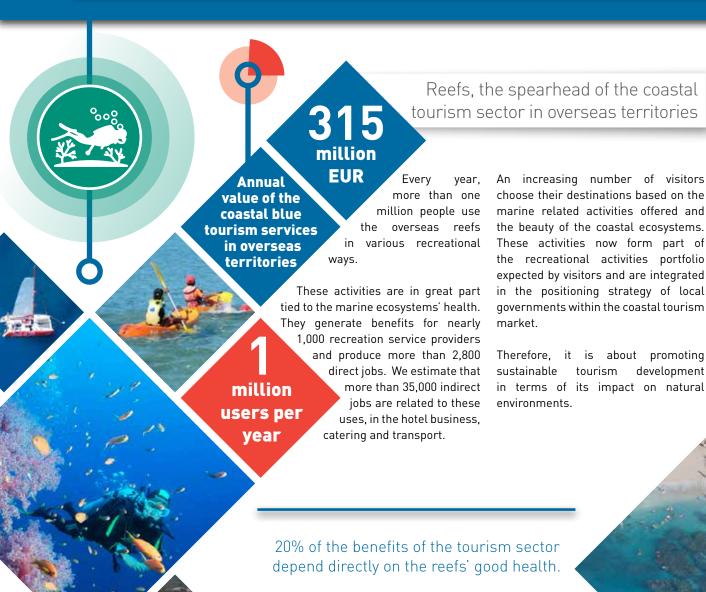
— High economic value

of ecosystem services



O Coastal tourism

a high potential of sustainable development



According to local governments, 80% of visitors took part in a sea excursion or went diving.

For the last 10 years, coastal tourism has represented a very promising source of economic growth and job creation while less subject to the economic cycles of the traditional tourism market





26 M£















development

Saint Martin Saint Barthelemy Guadeloupe

Martinique

Reunion Island

Mayotte

New Caledonia

French Polynesia

Wallis and Futuna

Reef fishing

fish and pearl farming

million

A food source usually exploited in a non-sustainable way

Annual value of services provided by fisheries in overseas territories

EUR ecosystems' biomass production services development important activity of fishing. It involves more than 14,000 professional fishermen who receive an income from this activity.

Likewise, than 90.000 more households obtain additional income and protein important to their wellbeing.

professional These fish captures often fishermen represent important portion of the fish consumed in households, thus limiting protein imports and improving the overseas territories' trade balance results.

Distribution of the added value of coral ecosystems biomass production services

> Commercial fishing 100M€

Subsistence and recreational fishing 85 M€

Pearl farming in French Polynesia 30 M€

In the Antilles, and close to the overseas large urban





















Saint Martin

Guadeloupe

Martinique Reunion Island

New Caledonia

French Polynesia

Wallis and Futuna

Coastal protection

a source of considerable savings



Important damages avoided

EUR mangroves and grass beds absorb up to 90% of the swell's energy. When well preserved, these environments form a natural

protection that allows to limit coastal damages during extreme meteorological events. They limit flooding and contribute to the protection of beaches and coastlines against erosion.

Even if these services are often recognized, they are paradoxically seldom taken into consideration by planning policies or by the compensatory measures of the impacts. Nevertheless, this economic value is considerable for each overseas community.

2.4 million square meters of hotel and public infrastructures benefit from these protection services.

that all of the atolls and low-lying islands are exposed to hurricanes and tropical storms.



























Martinique Reunion Island

Mayotte

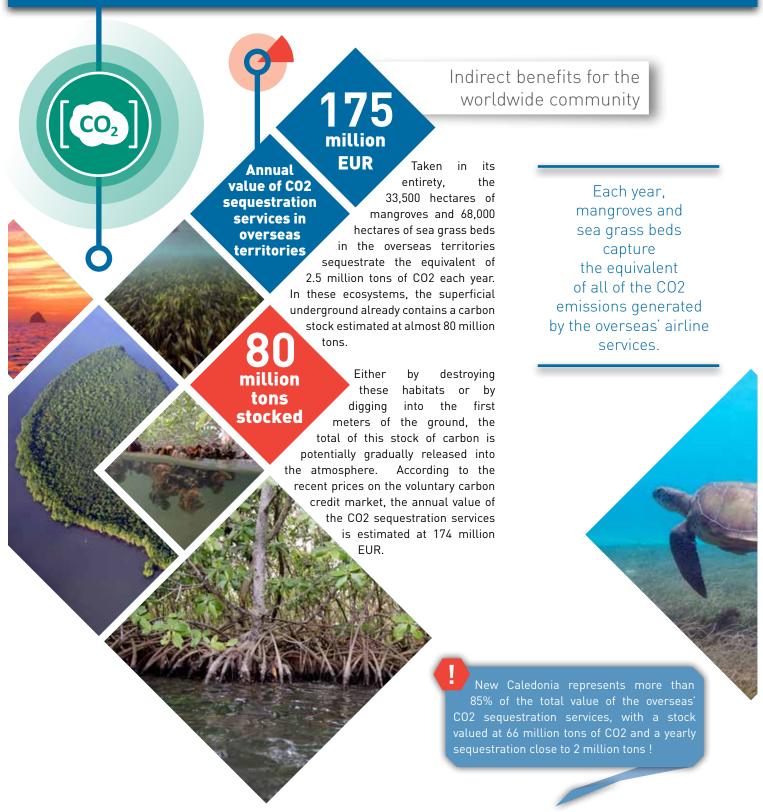
New Caledonia

French Polynesia

Wallis and Futuna

CO2 sequestration

of carbon sinks for the climate





3 M€

Guadeloupe

10 M€

8 M€













Saint Martin Saint Barthelemy

Martinique Reunion Island

Mayotte

New Caledonia

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Wallis and Futuna

4 decisive actions

for improving the state of preservation of the French coral ecosystems



Foster their consideration in national and local strategies

Reinforce the need to take these ecosystems into account, in the overseas planning and development tools (sectorial policies, infrastructure and sustainable development outlines, etc.). Support integrated management development plans for the coastal zone, particularly consolidating the networks of marine protected areas, as well as the financial means for their good administration.



Fight against sea water pollution and sedimentation

In order to reduce the impact of sea water pollution, it is crucial to link up all housing to a collective or individual sanitation system. To limit the flux of suspended materials at the origin of hyper-sedimentation in coral ecosystems, the fight against ground erosion will be based on improvements to agricultural practices and adequate urban planning. Integrated approaches to watersheds are necessary to better manage the impact of activities upstream of the reefs.



The value of the services rendered by coral ecosystems in the overseas communities' economy depends on the state of preservation they are in.

Organizing the sustainable management of these sensitive natural spaces is a crucial investment for the economic development and the future of overseas territories.



Manage sustainable fishing

In order to maintain resources, fishing management includes the preservation of a sustainable capture level and the practice of nondestructive fishing techniques for the environment. Training fishing professionals is crucial, as well as more regular controls, developing alternative techniques and giving greater value to resources in the islands.



Promote sustainable tourism

The development of durable tourism related to the coral reefs is one of the main levers of overseas economic development. Systematizing project impact studies and educating tourism operators on sustainable practices, contributes to the development of a long-term tourism product.

French Initiative For Coral Reefs



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