



European Commission

underwater trail - Synthesis

02/23/2023 LIFE18/CCA/FR/001184



| Titre | Order request on a case-by-case basis: Marie-Galante pedagogical underwater trail - Synthesis LIFE Adapt'Island Project - [LIFE 18 /CCA/FR/001184] |
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1. Context

The Pedagogical Underwater Trail (PUT) is a practical example of actions taken to increase the sustainable development of a territory.

It is based on an aquatic activity of discovery with, at disposal, light equipment. Educational and awareness-raising activities on the theme of nature protection are carried out on site with a focus on marine and coastal environments as well as both the animal and plant species that depend on them. Also, these actions aim at raising awareness on the environmental issues of the territory in order to better integrate these stakes in everyone's practices.

On the one hand, the GPMG and the LIFE Adapt'Island project aim to improve and facilitate access to the sea for the local population. The objective is to discover and protect ecosystems such as sea grass beds. The actions will be particularly aimed at schoolchildren and young people in general and will aim to highlight ecosystems that are little known to the general public, such as sea grass beds. Integrated in an approach of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), the PUT could notably arouse an interest and vocations among young people and encourage the appropriation of this environment.

In a second plan, it is a question of constituting an attractive and educational activity aiming at sensitizing other audiences such as tourists and transients.

In 2021, a preliminary study was carried out in order to identify the points of ecological interest which can be developed within the framework of this project.

During 2022, the project was evaluated by the Local Nautical Commission (LNC) and was the subject of a case-by-case request to the DEAL. In the following sections, information from the environmental institution response is detailed.

2. Information from DEAL response to the case-by-case request

A file requesting a case-by-case examination prior to the realization of an impact study concerning the PUT project was transmitted during the year 2022. This file has been registered with the administrative authority of the French State competent in environmental matters (DEAL) under the number CC-2022-511 DEAL/MDDEE dated 14/09/2022. A response was provided by the Prefect and by delegation of the Director of the DEAL on October 19, 2022. Considering the elements transmitted, the project is accepted and not subject to an impact study.

The DEAL recalls the project technical and contextual specifications that are widely described within the technical specifications document being part of the public tender, peculiarly the anchoring techniques, the periods of intervention, the project location with regard to the surrounding various ecological protection areas (e.g. Prefectural Orders of Biotope Protection).

The DEAL also informs that:

- The project is likely to cause an increase in site traffic and thus an increase in disturbance to local wildlife;
- Visitors are likely to generate waste that will encourage the presence of invasive alien species;
- Recorded data has to be transmitted using the DEPOBIO system;
- The project encroaches on the Public Maritime Domain and thus must be subject to a request for a Temporary Occupation Authorization.