# Gorée Meeting
November 14 / 17th 2017

## ACTS

### English Version

## Summary

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As the island of Porquerolles saw the emergence of the ambitious Sustainable Islands Initiative (October 2015, France), and the City of Marseille hosted a technical workshop around its famous “Vieux Port” gathering key-players of all horizons for this project’s first phase of construction (February 2017), it was on Gorée Island, renowned throughout history, that the latest big meeting took place to consolidate the SMILO program, which aims to support small islands towards sustainable development.

This event stands as an important structural and decisive step in the 2017-2021 development phase.

Gorée (Dakar, Senegal) welcomed the participants of this conference from the 15th to the 17th of November 2017. The event, supported by the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), was co-organised by the Small Islands Organisation (SMILO) NGO, the Conservatoire du Littoral’s European and international delegation and the town of Gorée.

At this occasion, the representatives of 15 small islands in partnership with SMILO (Western Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean) discussed many different topics that affect their territories and outlined their implication in the program: environmental issues, good practices, progress in the steps to obtain the label, exchanging experiences, sharing knowledge and expertise networks... more than a simple “checkpoint”, this conference also formally structured the NGO carrying the program, with the organisation of the first Small Islands Organisation’s General Assembly which determined the composition of its Administrative Council and its Board.

During the three full days of the conference, participants were able to discover Gorée Island, famous far beyond Senegal’s borders. A small island that was a natural choice for the organisation of these important meetings.

An ideal meeting place: as a fully functioning town, under the mayor and his municipal team’s initiative, Gorée has been committed to environmental protection and sustainable development policies for about 10 years (particularly ISO 140001 approach, environmental management system, waste management, public awareness and information). It is justifiably a pilot site, as planning, development and investment issues that the people of Gorée face, often reflect the issues that many other SMILO member Islands face. As it is very close to the continent, Gorée Island and its key-players were able to discuss the island/continent link with other islanders directly concerned by this subject.
DAY 1 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

MORNING
OPENING SPEECH
SMILO LABEL / PRESENTATION
ISLANDS PRESENTATION
Ibo, Bolama, Emerald Sea, Sazani, Levant, Eigg, Kerkennah, Sainte Marguerite, Zlarin, Santa Luzia, Porquerolles, Pangatalan, Sifnos, Principe, Orango, Gorée

SIGNATURE OF THE COOPERATION CONTRACT BETWEEN ISLAND OF GORÉE AND SMILO NGO

AFTERNOON
ISLAND GOVERNING WORKSHOP
LOCALLY TO INTERNATIONALLY

ROUND TABLE 1 : LOCAL PARTNERS
Thomas PAVY - Fondation SULUBAAI
Creation of a Protected Area by an individual on island of Pangatalan, Philippines.

Christophe CHEVALLIER - CESC
The link between civil part, military part and National Park on Levant Island.

Emmanuel DIAS - IBAP
Concerted management between the National Park and Orango island.

Maud BOISSAC - City of Cannes
Local partnerships on Sainte Marguerite Island.

ROUND TABLE 2
ISLAND/CONTINENT LINKS
Silvana MONTEIRO / Tommy MELO
Create an island committee on Santa Luzia.

Tatienne BE - Diana Region
Tourist office, manager of the islands of the Emerald Sea

Haitham KHEBOUR - Jeunes Sciences Kerkennah
Multipartnership on Kerkennah Island for preservation of traditional fishing.

Manuel Raimundo LOPES - ONG Pro Bolama
Create an island committee on Bolama.

DAY 2 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

MORNING
SMILO NGO : OPERATING AND GOVERNING
NGO MEMBERSHIPS
GORÉE ISLAND VISIT

AFTERNOON
NGO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
DISCUSSION TIME ISLANDS/FACILITATORS
NGO ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
CULTURAL EVENT

DAY 3 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

MORNING
BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE ISLAND WORKSHOP
Rules presentation

GROUP 1 : WORK IN GROUP
Ibo / Santa Luzia / Bolama / Orango / Principe

GROUP 2 : WORK IN GROUP
Gorée / Kerkennah / Emerald Sea / Sainte Marguerite / Levant

GROUP 3 : WORK IN GROUP
Pangatalan / Porquerolles / Sifnos / Eigg / Zlarin

RESTITUTION OF THE WORKSHOP

AFTERNOON
CONCLUSION
DAY 1
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15
The first day of meeting was dedicated to the presentation, the SMILO program's progress and its partner islands’ involvement.

The later part of the morning ended with the presentation of the islands and the beginning of exchanges, in a round-table format, around the essential «Governing» issue. Exchanges continued until the end of the first day.

**OPENING SPEECH**

Augustin SENGHOR  
Mayor of Gorée

Cheikh FOFANA  
Deputy Director Environment and Classified Establishments Management

Dr Henry Mathieu LO  
First Technical Advisor and Representative of the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development

Fabrice BERNARD  
European International Delegate of the Conservatoire du littoral

Maxime PRODROMIDÈS  
SMILO President

**WATCH THE MOVIE**  
SMALL ISLANDS, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PIONEERS
With nearly forty years of international cooperation experience, and following the PIM Initiative for Small Mediterranean Islands’ success, in 2013 the Conservatoire du Littoral developed the Sustainable Islands Initiative, which aims to promote an international network of islands committed to sustainable development, through a label which recognises respectful and effective management methods regarding clearly identified themes. An approach that was concretised by the creation of the SMILØ program and the NGO of the same name, which will now take it to a more international and autonomous level.

The Small Islands Organisation association was created on the 7th of December, 2016. The Conservatoire du Littoral, which supported it during its creation and remains its main partner, aims to support it towards operation autonomy which will enable it to fully ensure its international development.

After a pilot phase and setting up projects during three years, which was made possible thanks to the support of donors and sponsors involved in the process, the «Sustainable Islands» label - or SMILØ label is ready to be implemented with partner sites (identified as «Pilot Sites», located in West Africa, the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean) until 2021. The geographical extension of the SMILØ program is planned for 2021.

The SMILØ program is supported by technical and financial partners: the Conservatoire du Littoral, the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), the Water Agency, the City of Marseille, the European Union through the Interreg Marittimo program, and the French Ministry of Ecological Transition and Solidarity. Several other organisations provide important support for implementation, by sharing networks, sharing common objectives or even provide important contributions in terms of message communication: the PIM Initiative for Small Mediterranean Islands (PIM), UNESCO, the Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the Priority Actions Program Regional Activity Centre (CAR PAP) of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Program.

By the end of 2017, 30 islands (<150 km², without any bridges, clearly detached from the mainland at low tide, whether inhabited or not, protected or not, from any seas) were part of the SMILØ program network. Among them, 18 pilot sites are being supported in their labelling process over the 2017-2021 period.

The FFEM supports the islands of: Kerkennah (Tunisia), Santa Luzia (Cape Verde), Bolama and Orango (Guinea-Bissau), Gorée (Senegal), Principe (São Tomé archipelago and Principe), Ibo (Mozambique), Emerald Sea (Madagascar), as well as the overall program. The European Union, through the Interreg Maritimo program and the ISOS project (Isole Sostenibili) supports the islands of: Tavolara (Sardinia), Capraia (Tuscan Archipelago), Palmaria (Italy), Lavezzi (Corsica), Port-Cros, Porquerolles, the Levant and Sainte Marguerite (France). The last two also benefit from the French ecological transition and solidarity Ministry's support. The islands of Frioul (France), Pangatalan (Philippines) and Zlarin (Croatia) have the support of the RMC Water Agency and the City of Marseille to obtain the SMILØ label.

SMILØ
A COOPERATION PROGRAM TO SUPPORT SMALL ISLANDS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
The other twelve islands are part of the SMILO network and are already benefiting from the exchanges of experience generated by these new island connections. They take part in the SMILO technical workshops and will be the next candidates for the label. They are a various islands, sometimes with cultural, historical and geographical ties on the sub-regional level (in West Africa for example), but always driven by a common desire to cooperate to better manage resources.

The SMILO program aims to support small islands towards sustainable development according to strategic guidelines (governing and coordinating knowledge, planning and land development, innovative financing) and topics (water, energy, waste, terrestrial and marine ecosystems, landscapes).

These guidelines are detailed in the «Strategic and Thematic Guidelines» document.
The SMILO label is a recognition of island territories involved in a continuous improvement process. Committing to it involves several steps:

Establishing an Island Committee, representing all the territory's stakeholders;
Adhering to the SMILO philosophy and committing to the labelling process;
Creating an island diagnosis and defining the issues and priority objectives;
Intermediate assessment to recognise the efforts already made by the island and its commitment to the approach;
Implementing operations that contribute to achieving priority objectives;
Final assessment to obtain the label;
Maintaining efforts to improve the sustainability of the island and keeping the label.

Throughout this process, the candidate islands have various tools at their disposal:

Technical and strategic support with the availability of experts/facilitators, good practice sheets, participating in technical workshops and inter-island meetings;
When eligible (criteria depending on the project), access to the Islands Fund, to finance measures to achieve priority objectives.

The network of islands is driven by three main approaches:

Spreading good practices via factsheets available on the SMILO website;
“Celebrate Islands” annual event (around the 22nd of May) to organise local public awareness initiatives;
Organising thematic workshops: in January, a waste workshop will take place in Bonifacio (Corsica), in May, a «zero impact» workshop will take place in Tavolara (Sardinia).

The SMILO communication toolbox consists of:

A website: www.smilo-program.org
Including all information related to the program: projects and associated partners, labelling stages, governing bodies, resources, events etc.
A newsletter, the Islands Journal (twice a year), summarising all SMILO and its partner islands news.
A summary presentation document (4 pages).
Business cards for experts and facilitators.
A complete explanatory booklet (coming soon).
A slideshow presentation in 4 languages (coming soon).

The SMILO labelling process, the available tools and the network have consequences on several levels:

On a local level
Attractiveness of the area
Highlighting the island’s image, its sustainable economic sectors and recognising the efforts provided by the key-players’ commitments.

Resilience, natural resources and global change
Identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the island, vulnerabilities and margins of progress in terms of resource management; carrying out priority measures and technical support for their implementation.

Capacity reinforcement
Local dynamics, governing, management (lobbying, reporting, funding opportunities…), awareness of the paradigm shift.

On an international level
Capitalising on good practices
Highlighting the island’s innovation potential, spreading and sharing actual experience that can be applied to other islands and other areas.

Concrete contribution to ecological transition and the sustainable management of the resources, in application of international conventions.
It would be interesting for Gorée Island to make the link between SMIL0 and the other small islands of Senegal, for which access to information is more difficult. Indeed, it is an important axis of the SMIL0 program, the exchange of know-how and experiences, as well as cooperation on different scales: international, regional, national and local. Ultimately, during the extension phase of the program, it will be necessary to have referents on a sub-regional level (for example Lusophone West Africa) to promote cultural, historical and geographical links between the islands. Additionally, sponsorship by islands already labelled has been planned.

In your criteria, why should islands be less than 150 km² and without a bridge?
There are more than one million islands and small islands in the world, 250,000 are inhabited and more than half are less than 250 km². Every project regarding islands defines size limits according to its objectives. For example, for the PIM initiative, small islands are less than 1,000 hectares, its main issues are biodiversity and flow control. The SMIL0 program’s goal is to support small islands towards a better balance between resource management and human development.

Isn’t the labelling process too long?
The first steps before the intermediate assessment takes a few months, whereas achieving the objectives can take between 3 to 5 years on average, depending on the island. The label can therefore be obtained after 3 or 4 years. It should be noted that the process towards obtaining the label is in itself conceived as a «setting in motion» of all the island’s key-players in these measures of continuous improvement, and in this sense, the dynamics of human time invested locally for the label (and not the wait) is itself a key factor in its validation.
ISLANDS PRESENTATION

Going around the table of SMILQ network member islands took us around the world. All the representatives took turns to present their island territories: location, size, number of inhabitants, protection policies, main issues; as well as their progress in SMILQ labelling process (for the 18 sites concerned). An important first step for the continuation of exchanges, which also demonstrated the depth of the issues and the partner territories’ diversity.

CLICK HERE TO READ FULL POWERPOINT PRESENTATION
SIGNING OF
THE COOPERATION
CONTRACT BETWEEN
GORÉE ISLAND
AND SMILLO

A historic signing for the SMILLO program! Mr. Augustin
Senghor, Mayor of Gorée, and Mr. Maxime Prodromidès,
President of SMILLO, signed the program’s first cooperation
contract.

By this official act, Gorée Island committed to getting
mobilised to respect all the labelling process stages, as
well as contributing to the life of the network. The SMILLO
program, meanwhile, committed to supporting the Island
Committee in its labelling process, and to facilitating
exchanges of knowledge and experience for the benefit
of Gorée Island’s progress in all stages of the process.
Exchanges on a human scale are one of the pillars of the program’s philosophy. Through this session, the goal is to share experiences and know-how, to discover innovative approaches that rely on integrated governing, putting all key-players around the table (multi-sectoral and multi-scale) with the aim of contributing to the preservation of islands.

It should be noted also that sharing about projects that didn’t come to fruition and measures that did not succeed, are testimonies to be shared for true mutual aid and favours sincere exchanges around island problems.
Thomas PAVY  
SULUBAAI Fondation, Philippines  
THE CREATION OF A PROTECTED AREA BY A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL ON THE ISLAND OF PANGATALAN, PHILIPPINES

On Pangatalan, a project to create a Marine Protected Area was initiated by an individual private owner. A personal approach that was carried out through the SULUBAAI Foundation. The issue is to manage a private area, while developing sustainable tourism which must ensure several functions: financing the sustainable management of the site year round; promoting employment and local development; ensuring the protection and restoration of ecosystems. Responses to terrestrial issues (construction with local materials, re-vegetation, organic farming, solar energy installations…) and marine issues (marine protected area, immersion of artificial reefs, restoration of coral reefs and mangroves) involve many key-players on this private island: the municipality, surrounding villages and populations, fishermen… and many others!

Emmanuel DIAS  
IBAP Orango, Guinée Bissau  
CONCERTED MANAGEMENT BETWEEN THE NATIONAL PARK AND THE ORANGO

Orango Island is part of the Orango National Park, which includes 5 islands, 33 villages with 3,400 inhabitants that live mainly from agriculture, fishing, shellfish harvesting and cashew nut cultivation. This area has exceptionally rich biodiversity. The Park’s Internal Management Committee meets every 3 months, the Extended Committee every 6 months, for an update on current projects and to take care of planning. Part of the funding is provided by a tax, paid by each tourist entering the Park, and redistributed according to needs to the small islands in the area. An eco-lodge owned by a conservation foundation promotes soft tourism and maintains a good relationship with the National Park.

Christophe CHEVALLIER  
Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the PNPC  
THE LINK BETWEEN THE CIVIL PART, THE MILITARY PART AND THE NATIONAL PARK ON THE LEVANT ISLAND

How is island life organised on the Levant Island, being the centre of numerous administrative and territorial overlaps? The island is 90% military and 10% civilian, the Levant is a district of the town of Hyères, which depends on a community of agglomerations (Toulon Provence Mediterranean). It is in charge of water, waste, urban planning and maritime transportation. The Provence Alpes Côte d’Azur Region helps by providing funding for the implementation of projects, the State is involved through the Ministry of Defence, but also through the Port-Cros National Park. In fact, the island is in the adhesion area of the new Park charter, now involved in landscaping or new expertise (such as studies on energy consumption reduction). Many key-players are involved in a small area, which naturally imposes imperatives to the people of the Levant: committing to a voluntary approach to participate in the conservation and harmonious development of their territory, and promoting dialogue to find agreements and solutions.

Maud BOISSAC  
Town of Cannes, France  
LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS ON SAINTE MARGUERITE ISLAND

In terms of property, Sainte Marguerite Island brings together different profiles: the city of Cannes, the State (on the Public Maritime Domain and the National Forest), the EDF Company as well as a private property. Management of the islands (Sainte Marguerite and Saint Honorat) is the fruit of a lot of collaboration between these landowners and other very diverse organisations: the Ministry of Culture, Lérins Abbey, the National Forests Office, CPIE, University of Côte d’Azur and CEPAM laboratory, DRAC PACA, Department of Alpes-Maritimes, PACA Region, associations… The island’s issue is to find compromises between its different uses (both a leisure centre and a place loaded with historical monuments for example). Cannes’ Islands are candidates to become UNESCO World Heritage sites, a collective project whose first step was to identify the issues related to this historic heritage, and to conduct a comparative study with other world classified islands to highlight the unique value of these areas.
How to implement a no-take zone?

Thomas PAVY, Fondation Sulubaaï
In the Philippines, a Marine Protected Area (MPA) is a «no-take zone», the law requires each municipality to allocate 15% of its area to MPAs.

Christophe CHEVALLIER, Levant island & CESC
We need i) a legal obligation, ii) a consultation to explain the stakes of the ban and the long-term benefits.

Constance CORBIER, FFEM
In the Quirimbas (Mozambique), the creation of an MPA associated the fishermen. A year later, the concrete results of these efforts were shown to them for the better. It was a good example of the benefits of associating local economy stakeholders, and of the concrete added value of the results, which motivates to continue with the commitment.

How can heritage be highlighted?

Maud BOISSAC, Town of Cannes
Cultural and military heritage is strong on islands, organising artistic events makes it possible to see the islands differently, both objectively and subjectively.
**Tatienne BE**
Diana Region, Madagascar
**THE TOURISM OFFICE, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE EMERALD SEA ISLANDS**

The Emerald Sea is a prime tourist destination and an area with multiple issues: Local communities have a strong attachment to customs and traditions, which has for the moment helped to keep the site in good condition. Regular and year-round winds lead to the significant development of tourism based around sailing sports. Finally, the site is surrounded by three municipalities that would like to benefit from tourism revenues, the distribution of which is a tense subject.

One of the biggest challenges for the local population is access to drinking water, which is currently very difficult. On an environmental level, coral reef degradation has been noted. To provide adapted solutions to this context, the Diana Region has set up a Management Committee, its extended version constitutes the Island Committee, involving the implicated institutions.

**READ FULL PRESENTATION HERE**

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**Haitham KHEBOUR**
Jeunes Sciences Kerkennah, Tunisia
**MULTI-PARTNERSHIPS ON KERKENNAH ISLAND FOR THE PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL FISHING**

Kerkennah Island is subject to seasonal fluctuations. Summer tourists, in large numbers (about 250,000 people), are mainly from the Kerkennian diaspora, who reinvest the island on sunny days and vacation periods. This high concentration of visitors is very problematic, particularly in terms of water and waste management.

Traditional fishing, a centuries-old local activity, must be preserved. Unfortunately, there is a loss of craftsmanship; not to mention that traditional fishing materials being thrown away, leads to significant plastic waste pollution that needs to be urgently dealt with.

Furthermore, trawling is severely deteriorating seagrass beds that are slowly starting to disappear. According to the observations made by the Kerkennah Young Science association, the key to raising awareness regarding these issues is primarily economic. This subject is the gateway to debates which are then refocused on environmental issues. The association leads, among other things, measures to promote ecotourism, consultation processes, animated workshops with artists to involve local populations and promote local craftsmanship.

**READ FULL PRESENTATION HERE**

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**Manuel RAIMONDO LOPES**
NGO Pro Bolama, Guinée-Bissau
**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ISLAND COMMITTEE ON BOLAMA**

Bolama Island, located 3 hours from the capital by boat, has a population of about 10,000 inhabitants, and an exceptional construction heritage although very it is degraded. The island has strong challenges with access to drinking water and energy.

The sector of Bolama, like the other islands of the area, depends on regional governing, appointed by the central power. The latter did not appoint a representative for the Bolama sector. The island faces several difficulties. On one hand, the absence of this important representative strongly limits the possibilities of intervening with the central power; and on the other hand, decisions regarding local investments are taken by the central administration and not on a local level.

The Pro Bolama NGO is counting on the creation of the SMILIO Island Committee to have a leverage effect and therefore solicit the central authority in a more legitimate and structured way.

**READ FULL PRESENTATION HERE**

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**READ SANTA LUZIA FULL PRESENTATION**
**EXCHANGES**

**Do local beliefs in the Emerald Sea really help to preserve the site?**

Tatienne BE, Diana Region

To a certain extent, they have made it possible to conserve “sanctuary” islands. On the other hand, they also prevent the development of infrastructure, or the fight against rats which are considered reincarnations by the local populations… They are therefore an asset for conservation but also an obstacle in certain cases.

**How did the Kerkennah Young Science association manage to become a central player on this archipelago among traditional fishing communities?**

Haitham KHEBOUR, Jeunes Sciences Kerkennah

By setting up ideas such as «pesca-tourism» (tourism carried out on boats, focused on fishing). This is once again an economic benefit to attract stakeholders to more environmental practices.

**What emblematic measures have been carried out in the Bolama area?**

Manuel RAIMONDO LOPES, NGO Pro Bolama

We managed to obtain strong local involvement when writing the diagnosis. And we are actively preparing the establishment of the Island Committee.
### ROUND TABLE 3
**ISLAND/CONTINENT LINKS**

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<th><strong>Augustin SENGHOR</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Municipality of Gorée, Sénégal</strong></td>
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<td><strong>IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT ON THE ISLAND OF SIFNOS</strong></td>
<td><strong>GORÉE ISLAND, A FULLY FUNCTIONING TOWN</strong></td>
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Sifnos Island’s 100% renewable energy project is led by a cooperative of people living on the island: the Sifnos Island Green Energy Cooperative. Decisions are made at a local assembly that ensures dialogue with government authorities. The conceptualised system is based on wind turbines and pumps that store seawater in a high altitude container, which can then be released to produce energy.

The project’s estimated cost is 37.5 million euros, funded by the European Union’s network of energy cooperatives (Rescoop.eu), EU subsidies, private investment and selling electricity to the state.

Read full presentation here

Watch the movie that explain the project

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<td><strong>CONCERTATION IN VIEW TO CARRY OUT MEASURES AS PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PORT-CROS NATIONAL PARK CHARTER</strong></td>
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The process of creating the Port-Cros National Park charter, initiated in 2012, was very complex due to the extension of the heart of the Park to part of Porquerolles and to the defining of a marine area adjacent to the islands and an optimal area size included on the continent. Defining a new perimeter and constructing a new identity required consulting all the multiple stakeholders in this area. A trust that has been earned over time, with many exchanges to develop a truly common project, with the implementation of projects to show the need to cooperate and collaborate. A dedicated organisation was created to elaborate, animate and implement this charter: the Economic Social and Cultural Council, representing all the areas key-players.

Read full presentation here
**ROUND TABLE 4**
**INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

**Antonio DE ABREU**
Principe Trust, Sao-Tome & Principe

**UNESCO PARTNERSHIP FOR WATER&RECYCLE PROJECT**

The Principe reserve is in charge of three main activities: conservation, development and education. Several important issues should be noted in this area, such as waste problems, particularly because of the critical mass needed to set up treatment infrastructures, as well as access to drinking water, which remains difficult. The Principe UNESCO Biosphere Reserve has set up the Water & Recycle project to take measures both on water and recycling. In this framework, a major awareness campaign was carried out to change individual behaviours. All the students attending school were sensitised (2,000 students). The principle is to offer to exchange 50 used plastic bottles for reusable bottles.

To offset the reduction in the number of containers, drinking fountains were installed in markets, schools and other public places. We have also set up 13 water purification units. 6,000 reusable bottles were distributed. More than 500,000 plastic bottles were collected and recycled. Currently, there are no more plastic bottles on the island. The cost of the operation was less than € 50,000. A complete success!

READ FULL PRESENTATION HERE

**Camille DRESSLER**
ESIN, Eigg Island

**EUROPEAN SMALL ISLANDS NETWORK & SMART INITIATIVE**

The European Small Islands Network (ESIN) is a network of 11 island federations, with the aim of lobbying, funded by the Interreg 3C program. It was initiated after a first project focused on energy independence that was launched in 2007, with Eigg Island in Scotland as one of its pilot sites. ESIN is in partnership with an energy governing project. An event that strongly marked its current affairs in 2016 was the «Smart Islands Declaration» in Brussels, highlighting the benefits of European islands for the implementation of innovative technologies.

READ FULL PRESENTATION HERE

**Vjeran FILIPPI**
LAG5 Local Action Group, Croatia

**LAG 5, A LOCAL ACTION GROUP TO IMPLEMENT LEADER APPROACH ON CROATIAN ISLANDS.**

LAG5 is an NGO composed of volunteers and employees. It was created to implement the LEADER approach in Croatia. Its mission is to create a community with a competitive economy and high quality of life. The area involved is 5,166 square kilometres, straddling 12 local authorities (municipalities), including 3 inhabited islands-archipelagos and the Lastovo Natural Park and the Mijet National Park.

LAG5 works through calls for tenders: the rural development fund goes to stakeholders who respond. A strategic document frames its involvement regarding the implementation of the LEADER approach in the area. Its measures are based on three pillars: 1) supporting agricultural activities; 2) strengthening non-agricultural activities in rural areas; 3) investing in social infrastructure to improve quality of life and appeal. LAG has a driving role in development. It links to existing structures on the mainland and allows access to European funds.

READ FULL PRESENTATION HERE

**Mathieu THÉVENET - PIM Initiative**

**VOLUNTEERING TO PROTECT MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS**

It was the PIM Initiative that inspired the creation of SMIL0. It operates in the Mediterranean on islands less than 1,000 hectares, and focuses its activities mainly on knowledge and preservation of terrestrial and marine biodiversity. After having been created and supported by the Conservatoire du Littoral, the PIM Initiative is now an independent structure, supported by an association of the same name.

It provides technical support and expertise to key-players involved in island protection, by sharing data and organising on-site operations. Its measures involve a wide range of people (scientists, managers, institutions, NGOs, etc.). On a local level, the PIM Initiative mainly intervenes in four ways: project structuring, creating strategic
documents, on-site operations (for example invasive species eradication), and capacity reinforcement. The NGO develops multi-scale approaches, from a local level alongside administrators, to a regional or national level through lobbying measures. It creates innovative approaches and provides expertise for priority measures by supplying volunteer experts, often carried out through international exchanges.

Constance CORBIER-BARTHAUX
French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM)
THE EXAMPLE OF FFEM, A FINANCIAL MECHANISM SERVING TERRITORIES TO BE PRESERVED

The French Facility for Global Environment was created in 1994. Its priority beneficiaries are the key-players on the ground, to help achieve concrete measures. It works in support of the SMILLO program, on one hand on certain pilot sites but also by supporting the initiative as a whole, for several reasons: the existence of priority geographic areas, as well as the dual existence of conservation and socio-economic issues.

Strong complementarities exist between SMILLO and the French Facility for Global Environment’s strategy: developing a transversal approach; supporting local initiatives; risk taking in innovation; learning and knowledge exchange; and finally capitalising on acquired knowledge.

READ FULL PRESENTATION HERE
DAY 2
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16
The second day of the conference was dedicated to the presentation of SMILØ NGO as a structure for implementing the program. An essential step to help understand its specific system.

This session was followed by a guided tour of Gorée Island until lunch time. The afternoon was started by the NGO’s very first General Assembly, followed by the Administration Council meeting.

During that time, exchanges between experts/facilitators and islands took place at various meeting points.

VISIT OF GORÉE

The visit of the island, organised by the commune of Gorée, was a good opportunity for the participants to discover the immense historical and cultural significance of this site classified as a World Heritage site for Humanity since 1978. Alternately under Portuguese, Dutch, English and French rule, Gorée Island is a symbol of the memory of the slave trade in Africa, as the House of Slaves currently bears witness, an overwhelming place intensely charged with emotion. During the visit, participants discovered the old colonial mansions and artists’ stalls, while passing by the Castel, the highest point of the island, to meet the inhabitants. Participants were able to immerse themselves in the daily life of this small colourful island and explore for themselves issues and problems maybe similar to those of their islands…

CULTURAL EVENING

A cultural party was organised by the commune of Gorée in the Drancy place. In this vast esplanade in the heart of town, singers, musicians and dancers from Asico Band and África Djembe, captivated guests with their energy and talent. This was another opportunity to promote the partnership between SMILØ and municipality of Gorée, which was expressed by the Mayor Mr Augustin Senghor, as well as to continue informal exchanges between participants to prepare for the third day of the conference.
SMALL ISLANDS ORGANISATION NGO
GOVERNING AND OPERATING

OPERATING

SMILO NGO supports and monitors islands in their labelling process. When required, it provides the appropriate experts and facilitators. Finally, it sends applications to the Assessment Committee and then awards the labels in the event of favourable recommendations.

Islands adhere to the NGO through their Island Committees and apply for the label. To carry out this application, they receive support from experts and facilitators and can access intermediate tools (technical and/or financial) provided by SMILO. The label application is then submitted to the Assessment Committee.

The facilitators are the link between the islands and the NGO, and are there to directly support the islands in their labelling process. The experts provide technical or scientific support regarding the topics identified by the label.

Finally, the Assessment Committee analyses the diagnoses and strategic plans in the intermediate phase, as well as the final assessment.

GOVERNING

The association is composed of 5 colleges that have the right of vote:

1. Founding members, people who created the association, guaranteeing its objectives and that its original ethics are respected. They are ex-officio members of the Administration Council.

2. The representatives of the island committees: individual people who have been designated by the island committee they represent. They uphold the interests of the Island Committees.

3. Participants in island life: any individual person – or legal entity - who actively participates in the life of an island. They uphold the interests of island communities.

4. Institutions and networks representatives: represent the institutions and networks that work towards the development of the SMILO program.

5. Qualified people who provide their specific skills to help the association.

Finally, anyone with common sensitivities to the NGO can become a sympathiser or benefactor (if there are donations). This status allows privileged access to SMILO events and resources but does not carry voting rights in general assemblies.

READ THE FULL PRESENTATION - CLICK HERE
The General Assembly consists of the 5 colleges mentioned above. Its roles are:

- Electing the members of the Administration Council.
- Deciding on NGO directions, voting on reports and budgets.
- Validating the decisions concerning the strategic directions suggested by the Administration Council.

The Administration Council is composed of 12 elected members:
- 4 founding members,
- 2 representatives of Island Committees,
- 2 representatives of island life participants,
- 2 representatives of institutions and/or networks,
- 2 qualified individuals.

Its roles are:

- Electing the members of the board as well as the president and vice-presidents.
- Suggesting the main strategic directions at the general assembly,
- Ensuring the regular operation of the association, and applying the decisions taken during the general assemblies.
- Awarding the label after the favourable recommendation of the Assessment Committee.

The Office is composed of NGO paid employees, currently an executive secretary and a project manager. Its role is the overall coordination of the NGO, from its objectives to its operation. It coordinates activities with the islands and solicits the experts, the facilitators, the Assessment Committee and the Administration Council.

The Assessment Committee is currently being put together (planned for 1st quarter 2018). The principles are set: it must be composed of members that are independent from the NGO, and will assess the island’s measures based on the strategic plan as a reference. It will carry out the intermediate and final assessments and will convey its recommendations to the Administration Council in regards to awarding the label.

Experts and facilitators are private or public key-players, whose experience in terms of natural area management allows to provide good quality technical expertise to islands. Facilitators follow one island in particular and support it in its labelling process. They are also the ones who ensure communication between islands and the NGO.

JOINING THE NGO SMALL ISLANDS ORGANIZATION ON THE SECOND DAY OF CONFERENCE

The Board is currently composed of 5 seats, the President and two Vice Presidents, the Treasurer and the Secretary. The members of the board are elected by the Administration Council.

Its roles are:

- Executing the decisions of the general assemblies
- Representing the association
- Managing and controlling its activities

Managing administrative and financial operations.
The afternoon of this second day of conference allowed to collectively structure the SMIL0 NGO, which signed its first official memberships (29), thus providing each of its five colleges.

The level of representation within the Administrative Council, by the very fact of these college votes, has been expanded. The Administrative Council is now composed of 12 members. Two vice-president positions were created, broadly expanding the geographic representation of the Administrative Council and improving gender equity. This change therefore brings the number of board members to 5.

**MEMBERSHIPS**

**FOUNDING MEMBERS**

M. Maxime PRODROMIDÈS  
M. Roger ESTÈVE  
M. Sylvain PETIT  
M. Fabrice BERNARD  

**ISLANDS COMMITTEE**

Emeral Sea (Madagascar)  
Santa Luzia (Cap Vert)  
Zlarin (Croatie)  
Gorée (Sénégal)  

**ISLAND LIFE**

Corporation  
Commune de Gorée  
Fondation SULUBAAI  
Association Jeune Sciences Kerkennah  
Association les Amoureux de Porquerolles  
Abbaye de Lérins  
Autorités institutionnelles de Bolama  
Association Méditerranée Action Nature  

Individual  
M. Christophe CHEVALLIER  
Mrs. Brigitte CHEVALLIER  
Mrs. Camille DRESSLER  
M. Thomas PAVY  
Mrs. Marie Louise DIAGNE CORREA  
M. Mansour SOW  

**INSTITUTIONS / NETWORK**

ONG PIM  
(Initiative PIM pour les Petites Îles de Méditerranée)  
GLISPA  
(Global Island Partnership)  
ONG LAG 5  
(Local Action Group)  

**QUALIFIED PEOPLE**

M. Guillaume THIERIOT  
facilitateur Bolama, Guinée Bissau  
M. Antonio DE ABREU  
facilitateur Principe, Principe  
M. Christian DESPLATS  
facilitateur Gorée et Levant  
Mrs. Céline DAMERY  
Conservatoire du littoral  

**SYMPATHISER**

PAP RAC  
Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Center  
représenté par  
Mme. Zeljka SKARICIC  
Executive Director
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is composed of all the members belonging to the colleges:

FOUNDING MEMBERS

ISLANDS COMMITTEE

ISLAND LIFE

INSTITUTIONS AND NETWORK

QUALIFIED PEOPLE

BOARD

M. Maxime PRODROMIDÈS
President

Mrs. Tatienne BE
Vice-presidente

Mrs. Annie JOUGA
Vice-presidente

M. Roger ESTÈVE
Treasurer

M. Sylvain PETIT
Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

12 members

made up of representatives from each college:

FOUNDING MEMBERS

M. Maxime PRODROMIDÈS
M. Roger ESTÈVE
M. Sylvain PETIT
M. Fabrice BERNARD

ISLANDS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Tatienne BE
Emerald sea island committee, Madagascar
M. Tommy MELO
Santa Luzia island committee, Cap Vert

ISLAND LIFE

Mrs. Annie JOUGA
City of Gorée
M. Frédéric TARDIEU
SULUBAAI Fondation

INSTITUTIONS / NETWORK

INITIATIVE PIM NGO
GLISPA (Global Island Partnership)

QUALIFIED PEOPLE

M. Guillaume THIERIOT
facilitator Bolama, Guinée Bissau
M. Antonio DE ABREU
facilitator Principe, Principe & Sao Tomé
DAY 3
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER
The workshop took place in two parts:

1. Exchange between islanders/good practice topics

2. Work time to build a sustainable island together

Three working groups were formed with the islands present:

**Group 1**
Santa Luzia, Bolama, Orango, Principe.

**Group 2**
Gorée, Kerkennah, Emerald Sea, Sainte-Marguerite, Levant.

**Group 3**
Pangatalan, Porquerolles, Sifnos, Eigg.
Going round the table allowed the key-players to share in more detail the nature of their commitments to their islands’ sustainable development and/or to highlight specific good practices. Interesting and lively discussions developed between islanders and new ties were created within the SMIL0 community.

Silvana Monteiro, (Santa Luzia, Cape Verde) talked about volunteers and students’ involvement in monitoring and observing biodiversity. There are about twenty people trained by technicians for more autonomy and efficiency. In Santa Luzia, population awareness happens through religious gatherings. Every year during a Mass on December 3, a bishop talks about environmental protection to the congregation, a very religious group of people that gathers a large number of fishermen.

Antonio De Abreu (Principe, Sao Tome & Principe) presented a new «participatory science» initiative. It was noticed that the passage of marine animals in the area coincides with the school holidays, so a training course for volunteer high school students was organised. Within two years, knowledge regarding certain species improved significantly with this way of monitoring. Another notable good practice was the creation of a local «Príncipe Responsável» label, which focuses on two points: fostering local producers’ knowledge and identifying/promoting good practices. It concerns both goods and services. To date, 200 applications have been submitted and 20 companies or institutions have obtained the label. Organisations that have been refused are helped to potentially try to obtain it.

Manuel Raimundo Lopez (Bolama) spoke about the value of ancient beliefs in conservation awareness. The main religion is animism, and flora therefore holds a very special place. If an area is identified as inhabited by ancestors, it is consequently preserved. Agricultural activities are also organised according to this. As a result, there are many «giant» trees in Bolama.

Emmanuel Dias (Orango) talked about the involvement of local populations in monitoring and protection measures for emblematic species, such as sea turtles. A guard is associated with 4 members of the local communities, and they receive payment. They are also involved in monitoring fishing, by organising surveILLANCE BRIGADES.
Sustainable island #1, SÃO SMILO is 100 Km². It is mountainous, has a population of 9,000 and is visited by 2,000 tourists per year.

A prerequisite was set to put measures in place: the island needed a **sufficient level of administrative autonomy** to ensure its development.

A **need for knowledge** was identified to act effectively on the island's issues:

- Identifying the reasons for **overfishing** and **agricultural development** (local consumption, export, tourism...)
- Identifying the **origins/type/quantities** of waste
- Identifying the **ecosystem sizes and conditions needed for ecosystem services**

Based on this information, several measures were advocated.

Firstly the **creation of a governing tool**: a platform for local dialogue, with these objectives: 1) awareness of key-players, 2) concertation, 3) implementing measures. This platform would act as the centre of information.

On an **energy level**, the island is currently supplied by an oil power plant. It was suggested to pump marine water, after depolluting it, into elevated containers, which could also benefit from significant amounts of rainfall in this case. The water pumping would be done with the green energy produced during moments of weak demand. The energy would be produced by turbines as the water descends. Solar panels integrated into the landscape would complete this set up.

To improve **waste management**, individual and collective composting was suggested, as well as grinding green waste. The implementation of recycling and waste recovery was also planned on site. Finally, to limit both plastic waste and resulting marine pollution, an anti-plastic rejection plan would be implemented on the entire island.

Based on **knowledge gained**, an **action plan and ecosystem management plan** was developed, including ecological restoration.

Finally, to **limit landscape degradation**, several measures should be implemented. The priority is creating urban and landscape plans, to limit the consumption of natural areas and protect the most sensitive areas. Restoration operations for degraded landscapes and ecosystems should be carried out. Finally, a legal framework was suggested with the creation of an **Integrated Landscape Plan**, involving the social, economic and environmental components of the island.
GOOD PRACTICES

Going round the table allowed the key-players to share in more detail the nature of their commitments to their islands’ sustainable development and/or to highlight specific good practices. Interesting and lively discussions developed between islanders and new ties were created within the SMIMO community.

Abdoul Wahab Sow (Gorée, Senegal) talked about waste management on Gorée Island. In 2014, as part of the environmental management system, the landfill was removed. Subsequently, a waste management and treatment system was set up with: selective collection (organic and bulk, plastic, aluminium and glass), and a compost centre and a storage and sorting centre were also set up. Non-recyclable waste is sent every 2 days to Dakar. To manage this efficiently, monitoring performance indicators and user awareness (children, families, restaurants) are essential.

Maud Boissac (city of Cannes, France) talked about good practices concerning two topics: waste and highlighting island heritage. Following a shocking video comparing the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival and the pollution generated by cigarette butts, the city of Cannes set up «gaming ashtrays» on the island of Sainte Marguerite, that encourages smokers to throw their butts in a fun way, in the form of questionnaires with a double choice (cigarettes can be thrown by choosing to «shoot» or «point» like in the game of “petanque“, or people can choose between football teams «OM» or «PSG»…). In addition, as part of the UNESCO World Heritage site application, specialists (sociologists, historians, forest rangers, scientists…) are popularising knowledge to better understand the history of the islands: treasure hunts, press articles, photographic exhibitions… a big public awareness campaign!

Haitham Khebour (Kerkennah Young Sciences, Tunisia) talked about the diversification of activities on the Kerkennah Archipelago, particularly through ecotourism. Fishing, the island’s main activity, is rich with traditional techniques such as “charfia” and “gargoulette”. Kerkennians feature this knowledge in the museum of island heritage, during festivals and make derivative products (lighting, decorations…).

It is important to highlight the specificities of the island to maintain the spirit of the place.

Brigitte Chevallier (Local Benefit Committee of the Levant Island, France) discussed the evolution of waste management on the island: up to 2015, it was stored and brought back by the military boat, which during the summer could not provide the necessary rotations. Since 2017, composting and sorting have been implemented, but public awareness is still essential especially for tourists who do not necessarily sort waste the same way at home. Invasive species management is another important topic on the island, which is home to migratory birds. In order to stabilise cat populations, they are captured, sterilised, cared for and fed.

Tatienne Be (Diana region, manager of the Emerald Sea site, Madagascar) talked about Suarez Island. It is uninhabited (there are no installation permits), but nonetheless it hosts 150 tourists per day. It is therefore difficult to control waste management, even if in theory everyone should bring waste back. The «sages» of the municipality are part of the Island Committee and will be trained in waste management methods. Indeed, as the lands of Suarez are sacred, this community possesses the necessary influence for change.
Kyranis, is a small island (0.5 km²) located in Tunisia. Half of the island is military and the other civilian, with a village of 500 inhabitants and 10,000 tourists visiting in summer.

The main challenge was to generate revenue throughout the year to develop the island sustainably (including improving existing infrastructure) by developing sustainable tourism.

There was no link between the civil and military parts, so they decided to set up an Island Committee to bring these stakeholders together and to think together in a cooperative way, to form a new governing model. A first joint venture emerged in the development of part of the island where the two parties could unite their skills to plan and find funding.

The first objective was to spread tourism throughout the year (it was condensed over 2 months) and therefore reorganise activities, with a reservation system allowing to control flows, by suggesting a winter festival, by training the island’s young people in tourism and by creating a marketing strategy focused on well-being and sustainability, a preserved island, with relaxing hikes, local and sustainable fishing, and organic food. The key-players also wanted to obtain the AOC label (Appellation d’Origine Contrôlée: registered designation of origin) and enhance landscapes with traditional organic farming already present on the island. The blue crab, an invasive species on the island, would be regulated by fishermen and featured in local culinary delights.

Water management, obtained until now by desalination should be diversified with rainwater recovery, individual meters should be set up and tourists and residents should be made more aware (flyers, information panels). For sanitation, a wastewater recovery system (reusable for irrigation) and dry toilets should be put in place.

In terms of energy, solar panels and wind turbines already exist on the island. A study would be conducted to research the possibilities of marine currents and waste incineration. Waste sorting, not yet available, will be introduced.

**DOCUMENTATION**

- Good Practices Emerald Sea
- Good Practices Levant
- Good Pratice Sainte Marguerite
GOOD PRACTICES

Going round the table allowed the key-players to share in more detail the nature of their commitments to their islands’ sustainable development and/or to highlight specific good practices. Interesting and lively discussions developed between islanders and new ties were created within the SMIL0 community.

**Claire Mignet** (Port-Cros National Park, France) shared her experience about setting up the COPAINS project (Heritage Insertion Collection). It’s a solidarity project, in synergy with the National Park, the National Botanical Conservatory and the Association for the Safeguarding of the Var Forests, specialised in social and professional insertion. The objective is to maintain fruit collecting in the Park and to produce processed products from this local agriculture: olive oil, jams... which are sold on the island, particularly to visitors. This initiative initially worried some residents with the arrival of these new employees to be integrated, but confidence was gradually established, especially via the CESC which played an intermediary role between the association and civil society. This reinsertion program also provides employees with various training courses in arboriculture/agroecology/ permaculture.

**Frédéric Tardieu** (Pangatalan, Sulubaaï Foundation, Philippines) spent a year camping to discover the island’s ecosystems, its biodiversity, to analyse the area, including the zones to be reforested and its hydrometry... He then decided to take action with the aim of achieving a balance between man and nature. For him, an island can only be sustainable if the constructed area related to human activities does not exceed 10%. His approach is based on buildings adapted to climate change, as the area is particularly exposed to typhoons which means building with hard materials. It is not about concreting everywhere, far from it, but to lay solid foundations, able to withstand these extreme events, while using materials available on site as much as possible.

**Camille Dressler** (ESIN, EIGG Island, Scotland) talked about Eigg Island, where she lives year-round, which is now energy self-sufficient. It is characterised by a lot of rain and wind in winter and a sunny summer, as well as having a morphology adapted to using renewable energies such as hydroelectricity, wind and solar energy. There are 3 dams, 6 wind turbines and several solar panels. Currently, efforts are still focused on raising awareness and getting the population to commit to reducing energy consumption (wood heating, limited car use, insulation of houses, etc.). A Trust associates all the inhabitants who are the owners of the island, with local administration and with the Scottish Society for the Protection of Nature in a co-management scheme, where they work together to manage and plan for the area. Development projects are built in a cooperative way according to a business plan revised every 5 years.

**Apostolos Dimopoulos** (Sifnos Green Cooperative, Greece) President of the Green Cooperative, also talked about the ambitious project of islands with 100% renewable energy. This initiative is a typical example of a bottom-up approach where a group of motivated residents joined together as a cooperative. Decisions to build this energy-autonomous island are taken in a local assembly, which ensures dialogue with government authorities. The concept developed is based primarily on a wind system to produce electricity, which also operates pumps that fill seawater into a container located at high altitude. When there is no wind, the water in the container is released and operates turbines that in turn produce electricity. The estimated cost of the project is approximately 37.5 million euros, and the business model is built around mixed investments: (i) some 5.5 million euros have already been secured through the energy cooperatives network constituted within the European Union’s Rescoop.eu, (ii) EU grants and (iii) private investments.
The local organisation could resell part of the energy produced to the State, in order to be able to repay certain investments. The project is also moving forward from a legal standpoint by officially filing an energy production authorisation with the relevant authorities of the Greek State.

Vjeran Filippi (Croatia), President of the Local Action Group 5 (LAG5), shared his experience on the island of Korcula to highlight some of the challenges and opportunities of the sustainable development of Croatian islands. The State does not provide help for these islands even though a lot could be done in terms of energy, especially regarding solar production. On Korcula, agriculture, which is narrowed down to olive and wine production, is a sector of activity that can provide additional income for its stakeholders, but few can live only from its production. Beyond the financial aspect, LAG works mainly to strengthen social ties, through its measures for agricultural development. Indeed, LAG helps to maintain populations on rural insular territories, by targeting in particular young and qualified populations. Its measures also contribute to the development of tourism with higher added value, respectful of the environment and local traditions. Thus, significant efforts are invested to strengthen short distribution channels.

pour renforcer les circuits courts de distribution.

DOCUMENTATION

GOOD PRACTICES EIGG ISLAND
GOOD PRACTICES PORQUEROLLES
The key-players worked on defining a conceptual development model for island #3, which they located in the Caribbean and called ManGroove Island.

The main idea was to cut off the development of mass tourism on the island and to take this marine protected area's ecosystem protection back in hand.

First of all it was decided to organise new innovative governing, around an Island Committee bringing together the MPA services and all the public and private stakeholders involved, including the many associations that are still not very coordinated or even not at all coordinated. Island visitors and enthusiasts can join the «Friends of ManGroove» by paying an annual fee, and will be represented in the Island Committee. This structure will also include key-players from other administrative levels, located on the continent. The process should lead to a Management Plan, which will include land development planning and visitor limitation measures.

Human activities were the subject of animated debates, which initially focused around establishing a no take zone on the entire marine part of the MPA. Strengthened surveillance was planned to enforce this regulation. Then it was decided to cap the number of visitors to the island at 300 000/year. This number maintains a balance between actual capacity and sufficient revenue to maintain local economic momentum. With this annual limit there would be a daily limit of 750 visitors. Finally, to manage the influx, the Island Committee will launch its own ferry company which will be the only one able to reach the island.

For water management resources, two measures would be implemented: (i) daily water cuts during high season, scheduled concertedly; (ii) shower systems limiting the amount of water per shower would be imposed on all tourist hosts. Eco-lodges would have to equip themselves with rainwater tanks.

A circular economy policy should be applied for more sustainable solid waste management. A methane production plant would be installed to supply biogas to the island’s vehicles, whose fleet should be modified to become all-electric. Biogas will also provide the energy needed to heat homes in winter. Renewable energies will be very important, but their gradual implementation will be accompanied by the introduction of drastic energy conservation measures such as turning off public lighting at 8pm in summer and 6pm in winter. Plastic bags will also be banned on the island.

Biodiversity conservation efforts should be focused on the most sensitive and endangered coastal ecosystems, namely mangroves. An ecotourism program would allow visitors to participate in re-planting campaigns. This program would also aim to combat climate change issues (extreme events and rising sea levels). This work would also contribute to rehabilitating the island’s deteriorated natural landscapes. An agricultural reclamation program would be implemented to revive market gardening: shared gardens will be opened and green and blue plots will be included in the island’s development plan.

To ensure the implementation of these measures, financial mechanisms have been put forward:

- «Friends of ManGroove» membership. Each member will receive a reusable bottle produced on the island;
- Island visit tax and tourist tax for visitors and tourists;
- An ecotourism program will allow tourists to participate (personally and financially) in the mangrove restoration;
- Subsidy system for the purchase of electric vehicles;
- Ticket prices to reach the island.
This last proposal may have appeared uncompromising, and made participants question several points:

a) Establishing a no-take zone on the entire marine part of the MPA
It was clarified that this total ban would not apply to small-scale fishermen living on the island, and that this measure would first be put in place for 10 years with possibility of renewal. It would in fact be to limit the negative impacts of industrial fishing coming mainly from the mainland.

b) Limited number of tourists very low compared to current figures
Limiting the number of tourists to 300,000, which is 200,000 less, reflects the urgency to control this mass tourism that threatens not only the island’s ecosystems and resources but also the visitors’ experience. It is about setting up a green tourism strategy, with higher added value. The private stakeholders are at the heart of this process, especially eco-lodges, who will have to become leaders in protection and resource management efforts, to enhance the island and its more expensive accommodation.

c) Launch of a ferry company by the Island Committee to reach the island
The launch of a ferry company was the cause of much debate during the plenary meeting, but it seems, also seeing the example of the monks of Lérins, that this economic model seems viable, and goes hand in hand with the strategy of reducing the number of visitors. An online reservation system would have to be developed.

Of course, the suggested development model could seem extreme or even unrealistic in some respects, but defining these measures allowed participants to share their experiences. Therefore, links were found between certain topics and some ideas were put forward as to the feasibility of the measures, and possible redundancies and synergies were highlighted.
The expectations of the SMILO network partners implicitly appeared through these three days of conference, further proof of the motivation and interest in this very young international initiative.

While the beginnings of this project started in 2015, particularly with the organisation of an event on Porquerolles Island in February, the SMILO community met in Gorée in 2017 to accelerate the development phase. A collective construction, which now involves about thirty small islands from seas all around the world. Islands that are now curious, enthusiastic and for some, formally committed.

The Gorée meetings made it possible to converge, from the various geographical areas involved, a number of requests coming from islands committed to SMILO. It was primarily a way to update information. The islands involved in the SMILO program, spread all over the world, all had the opportunity to access the same level of knowledge regarding the operation and organisation of the program and its supporting structure.

A crucial step, which shows the importance of getting together to understand and exchange. There was a kind of handing over from the original «core» of SMILO initiators to the islands themselves: therefore, it is now all the partners who hold the keys of understanding of the philosophy, the objectives and the operating of this new international collaborative venture. It was also a good opportunity to communicate around the NGO’s news, which is plentiful in this very first year of existence!

After this essential step, we got to the active heart of the subject, SMILO’s main objective: strengthening concrete cooperation between the islands of the world. A variety of opportunities were offered to participants to showcase their islands, their good practices, their projects, but also their difficulties and problems. Areas that are by definition unique and singular, confronted to historical, social, economic and environmental contexts as numerous as they are different. And yet, these multiple identities have a common denominator: insularity. Through plenary sessions, round tables, technical workshops, but also informal moments around a table or on the paths of Gorée Island, participants discovered the richness of the multiplicity which surrounds the program, the diversity of the stakeholders. Finally, everyone was able to discuss common issues.

A place for everyone to communicate, which is always too short, because of the amount of exchanges and meetings, but a feeling of «work in progress», which is the guarantee of a strengthening of ties beyond meetings! Exchanges will continue on innovative, replicable and realistic initiatives, starting from the devices that are at the heart of the SMILO program and that this form of meetings aims to extend and promote.
This event also had the aim of collectively structuring the NGO. A very first General Assembly where the SMILLO NGO collected its first external memberships, providing members for each of its 5 colleges. Starting from the core of its first «initiators», the representativeness within the Administration Council was expanded by the vote of these colleges, the Council now being composed of 12 members, with balanced governance in regards to the stakeholders now involved. Two vice-president positions were created, broadly expanding the geographic representation of the Council, and improving gender equity.

The dynamics of the exchanges were particularly tangible during the «Building a sustainable island» technical workshops – In a fun and positive atmosphere participants once again had the opportunity to present good practices concretely applied to their islands. Now that the foundations of the SMILLO program are set and consolidated, this type of workshop will be a priority and hold an important part in future meetings. Communication tools will be formalised in the coming months to help fully understanding the program and the labelling process. They will be written in several languages, a major communication challenge for the NGO which brings together partners from all around the world. These tools will be useful to SMILLO’s direct partners, but also to spread its message to a wider audience, to donors, institutions and new stakeholders likely to join our initiative.

Finally, the Gorée meeting helped to raise many legitimate aspirations. As mentioned, emphasis can now be placed on a greater proportion of time being allocated to working in subgroups, and the NGO’s top priority is to work on setting up the Assessment Committee. After a year of working on defining the project and a year of formal administrative structuring, SMILLO has reached a sensitive phase of development where its bases are firmly established, while some perspectives remain to be precisely defined. The NGO has some key weeks of work coming up, and can count on the motivation of its partners and a renewed confidence.

This trust was expressed by the project’s close partners, whom we sincerely thank, first and foremost the Conservatoire du Littoral, an institution that guided SMILLO’s first steps out of its cradle and provides its experience in international cooperation. Warm thanks also go to the FFEM French Facility for Global Environment, with whom SMILLO pursues jointly developed objectives and which allowed to organise the Gorée event. Finally, we would like to thank the Commune of Gorée for their exceptional welcome, and hope to welcome them very soon at the same level, on another small island in the world…
DOCUMENTATION
To consult all documents of the meeting (PowerPoint presentations, program, reports, good practices etc)

Click ici

PHOTOGRAPHIES
To recover photographs of the event and your presentations, contact SMILØ secretariat by email address
secretariat@smilo-program.org