Toward a co-management of the lagoon and coastal resources in New Caledonia?
An applied research program aiming at

- identifying management stakes for local actors
- building and implementing social and ecological monitoring
- identifying and discussing different management strategies
- analyzing the legal implications of identified strategies

■ An institutional and political transition
■ A « strategic » area facing dramatic changes
■ The governance issue
Quantitative approximations of local fishery pressure

- Active fleet: 312 boats
- 8000 fishing days per year
- Total production: 170 tons a year
Fishing spatial organization

- fishing areas linked to residential areas
- heterogeneous practices and uses

A sample of monitoring issues to be used for public decision
Co-management stakes:
Local actors perceptions

Efficient management rules

- localized territorial appropriations
- informal rules at different scales, shared normative and cognitive patterns
- informal but shared watching rules and sanctions

Management stake: anticipating the arrival of new populations

- a stronger fishing pressure
- new environmental treats
- impacts on marine products commodity chains
- a wider and uncontrolled lagoon access

A major issue:
The weakening of historically-built management arrangements
A political perspective for natural resources governance

- Local powers and governance
  - focusing on (expected) demographic changes, not on the resource
  - lagoon access and commercial circuits control as a local power issue
  - the risks of a strict conservationist approach

- What conditions for implementing natural resource ‘good governance’?
  - adjusting local participation to demographic trends and theirs impacts
  - taking account of local power relations and normative rules
  - linking ecological monitoring to different time frames

Bringing the political context back in: New Caledonia is a decolonization hotspot as well...
Four (applied) research tracks

- Pursuing the ecological monitoring
- An anthropological approach of local arenas and of the local appropriation, access and control over coastal resources
- A study on co-management legal translation
- Participatory workshops on local management and governance issues

Deepening the political approach of the natural resource local governance