



Human-Environment Observatory (OHM)

Caribbean coast

Guadeloupe, France



CREATION

January 2016

SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Development of a city-port complex in the island setting of the Lesser Antilles.

DISRUPTING EVENT

From 2010 onwards, the gathering pace of urban-port dynamics in a perspective of sustainable development of the territory of Guadeloupe.

KEY TOPICS

- Evolution of the city-port socio-ecosystem
- Circulation and representation of maritime knowledge
- Collective management of biodiversity
- Resilience of emblematic ecosystems
- Modelling of socio-ecosystems



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TERRITORY

Guadeloupe is an archipelago made up of two main islands separated by a narrow inlet associated with several neighbouring islands, Marie-Galante, the archipelago of Les Saintes and La Désirade. This European Outermost Region (OR) is part of one of the world's biodiversity hotspots with a high rate of endemism, and rich and varied ecosystems (coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass meadows) that are particularly sensitive to anthropogenic pressures. This Caribbean territory, with its incredibly rich culture, history and heritage, is also a major tourist attraction.



SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL ISSUES

Within an island territory, the evolution of port infrastructures and their functions opens avenues for reflection on city-port interactions and the relationship between highly differentiated anthropized spaces. The OHM seeks to analyse the ways in which biodiversity is integrated into the urban-port system, the maintenance or transformation of local knowledge and practices and the dynamics generated by the requalification of Guadeloupe's territories and the evolution of their uses. The reconfiguration of coastal practices and activities and the management of space are central issues. The perception of changes in the seaboard and the involvement of local populations are also two huge social issues for OHM. Moreover, the OHM aims to observe and analyse, in the long term, landscape transformations, the challenges of socio-economic innovations and the changes in relationships between stakeholders and users of the coast.

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