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SOCPacific's transdisciplinary research protocol based on children's drawings

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With the contribution of Annette Breckwoldt, Gilbert David, Solène Delebecque, Juliette Kon Kam King, Ulamila Matairakula, Arno Pascht, Simonne Pauwels, Léa Riera, Mere Veitayaki.

Children are often marginalized in research on local perceptions and values of the environment, and even more of marine spaces and species. Yet, as users and future managers of fisheries, they are directly concerned by issues related to their sustainability. Moreover, they not only receive, but also contribute to produce, hybridize, and circulate fisheries-related knowledge.

As shown in several recent research projects and the growing scientific literature on the matter, drawings allow children to express their relationships with their environment in a playful and age-appropriate way, and are therefore a particularly relevant tool for exploring children's ecological knowledge.

As part of the research project *A Sea of Connections: Contextualizing Fisheries in the South Pacific Region* (SOCPacific, 2018-2022), we have designed a transdisciplinary protocol based on drawings made by children in order to provide innovative insights into the social values of fisheries-related places and resources.



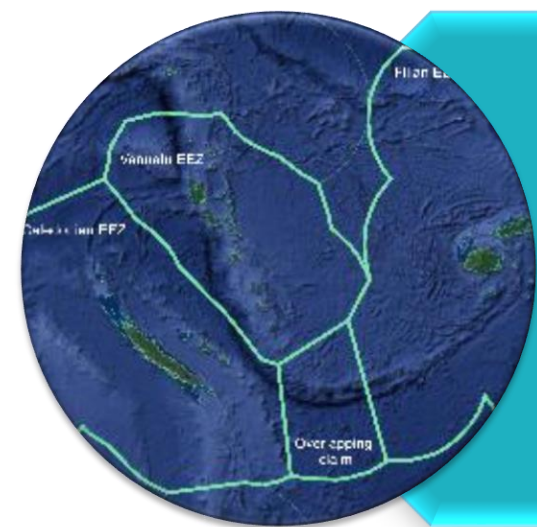
Brief description of SOPacific:



A Sea of Connections:
Contextualizing Fisheries in the South Pacific Region



Main objective:
Explore the large web of social, policy and geopolitical connections within which coastal and oceanic fishing practices occur



Three study areas in the South Pacific:
Fiji, New Caledonia, Vanuatu



Three thematic areas:
1- Social values of places and resources
2- Interwoven fishing and conservation issues
3- Fisheries and marine spatial planning



For more information:
<https://sopacific.net/>



Brief description of the research protocol:

Where? In schools of our three study areas: Fiji, New Caledonia, Vanuatu
When? September 2019 - March 2020
Who? Children between 9 and 14 years of age
Instruction? Draw the saltwater and what you and other people do in the saltwater (also translated into Fijian, French and Bislama languages)
Corpus ? About 450 drawings

Organization of drawing workshops in 9 different settings:

Fiji	New Caledonia	Vanuatu (forthcoming...)
Lami (58 children)	Nouméa (49 children)	Port-Vila (= 50 children)
Kadavu Island (52 children)	Hienghène (38 children)	Village(s) near a MPA (= 50 children)
Cicia Island (44 children)	Yaté (50 children)	Village(s) without MPA (= 50 children)

Organization of each drawing workshop:

- Introduction by the team + distribution of drawing material
- Drawings by children (1-2 hours)
- Short face-to-face interview with each child
- + Interview with teachers and/or principals of the school concerned

The research team:

- In Fiji: Elodie Fache, Simonne Pauwels, Annette Breckwoldt, Ulamila Matairakula, Mere Veitayaki
- In New Caledonia: Elodie Fache, Catherine Sabinot, Annette Breckwoldt, Gilbert David, Solène Delebecque, Juliette Kon Kam King, Léa Riera
- In Vanuatu: Elodie Fache, Catherine Sabinot, Arno Pascht, et al.

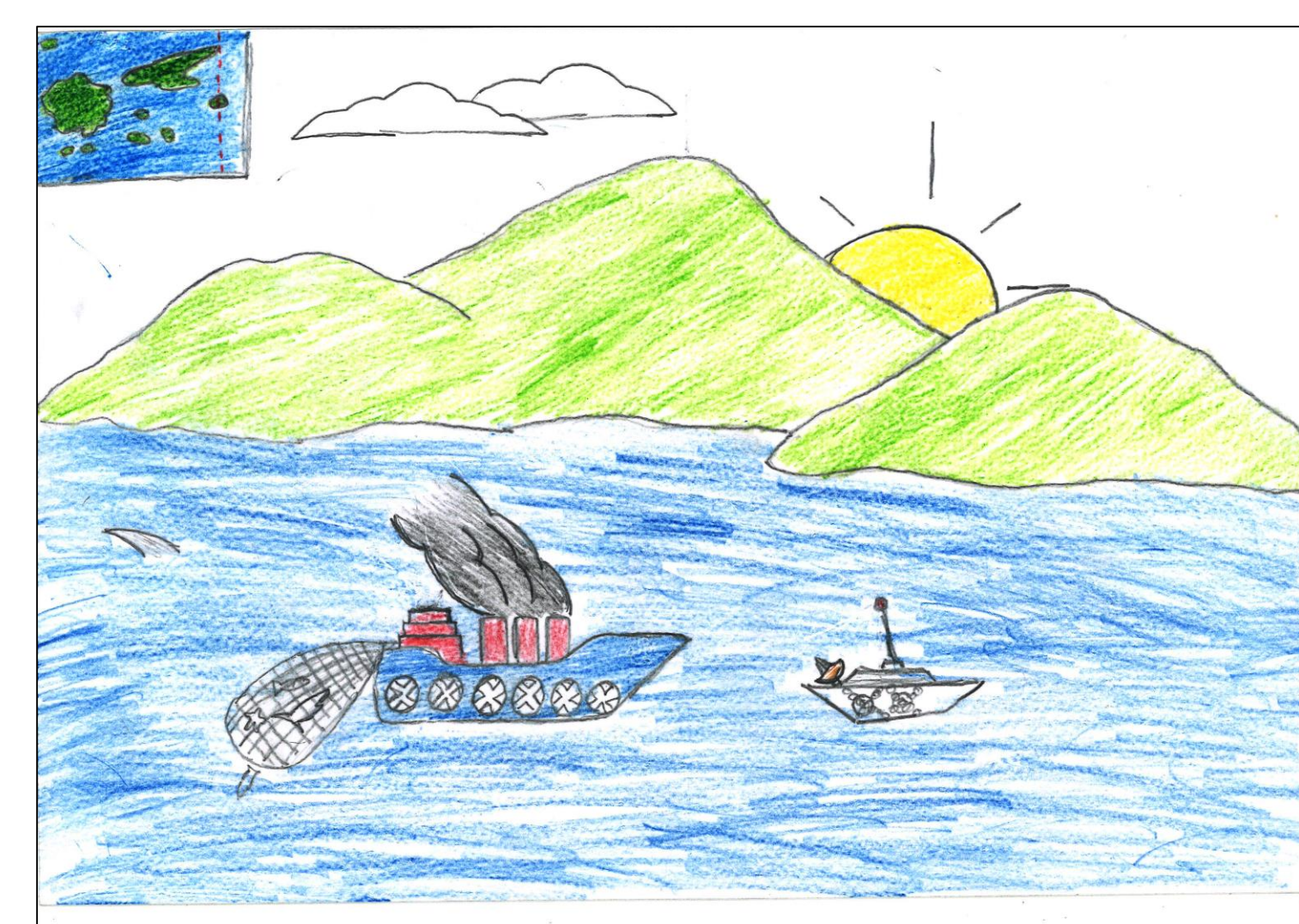
A few drawings made by children in Fiji (Sept.-Nov. 2019) and in New Caledonia (Nov. 2019):



Fiji, Kadavu (boy, 10 years old)



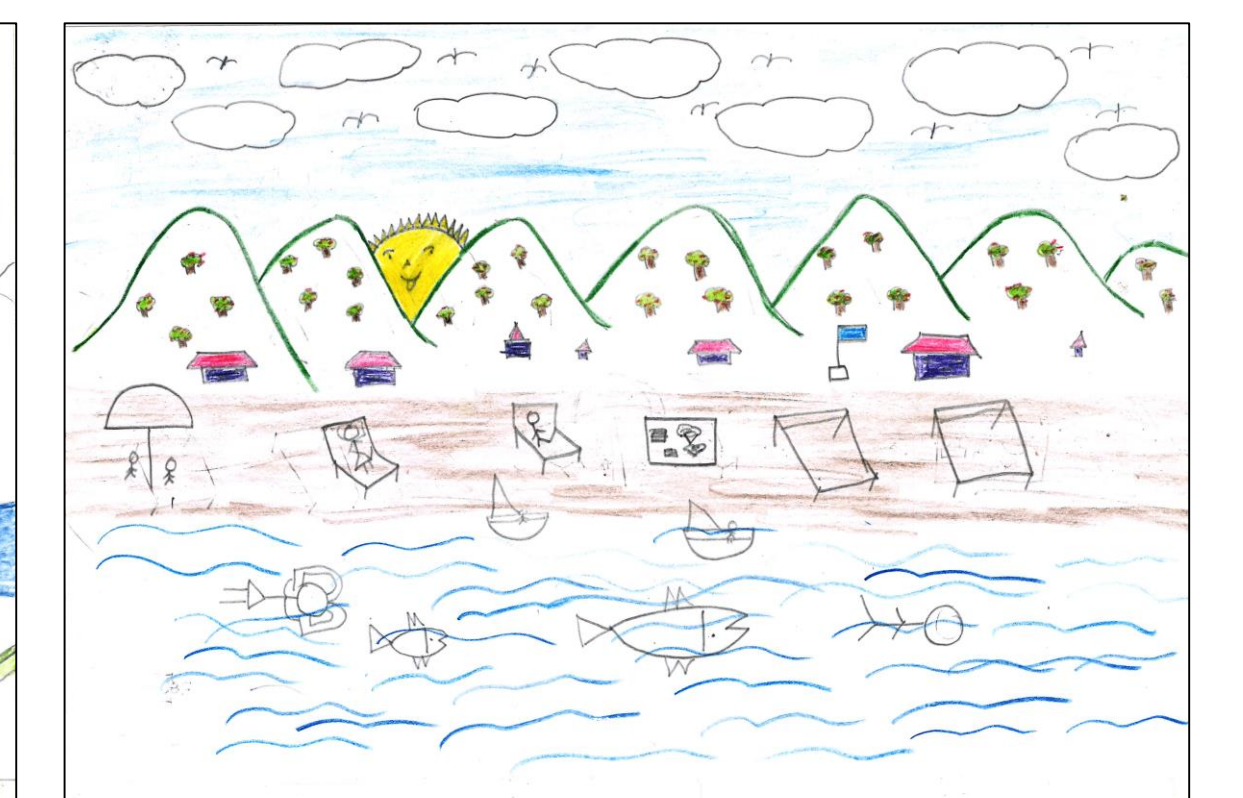
Fiji, Kadavu (girl, 12 years old)



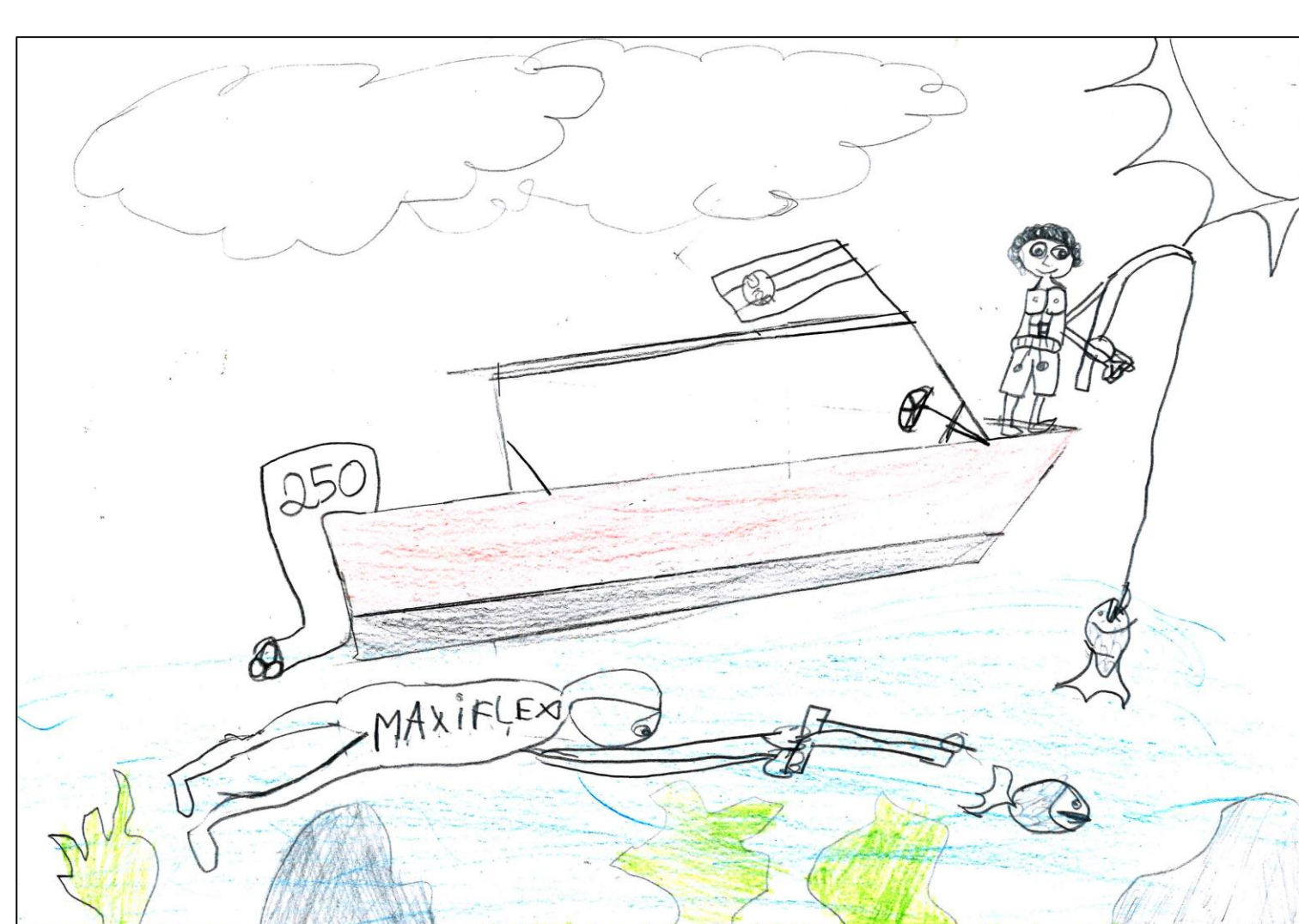
Fiji, Lami (boy, 12 years old)



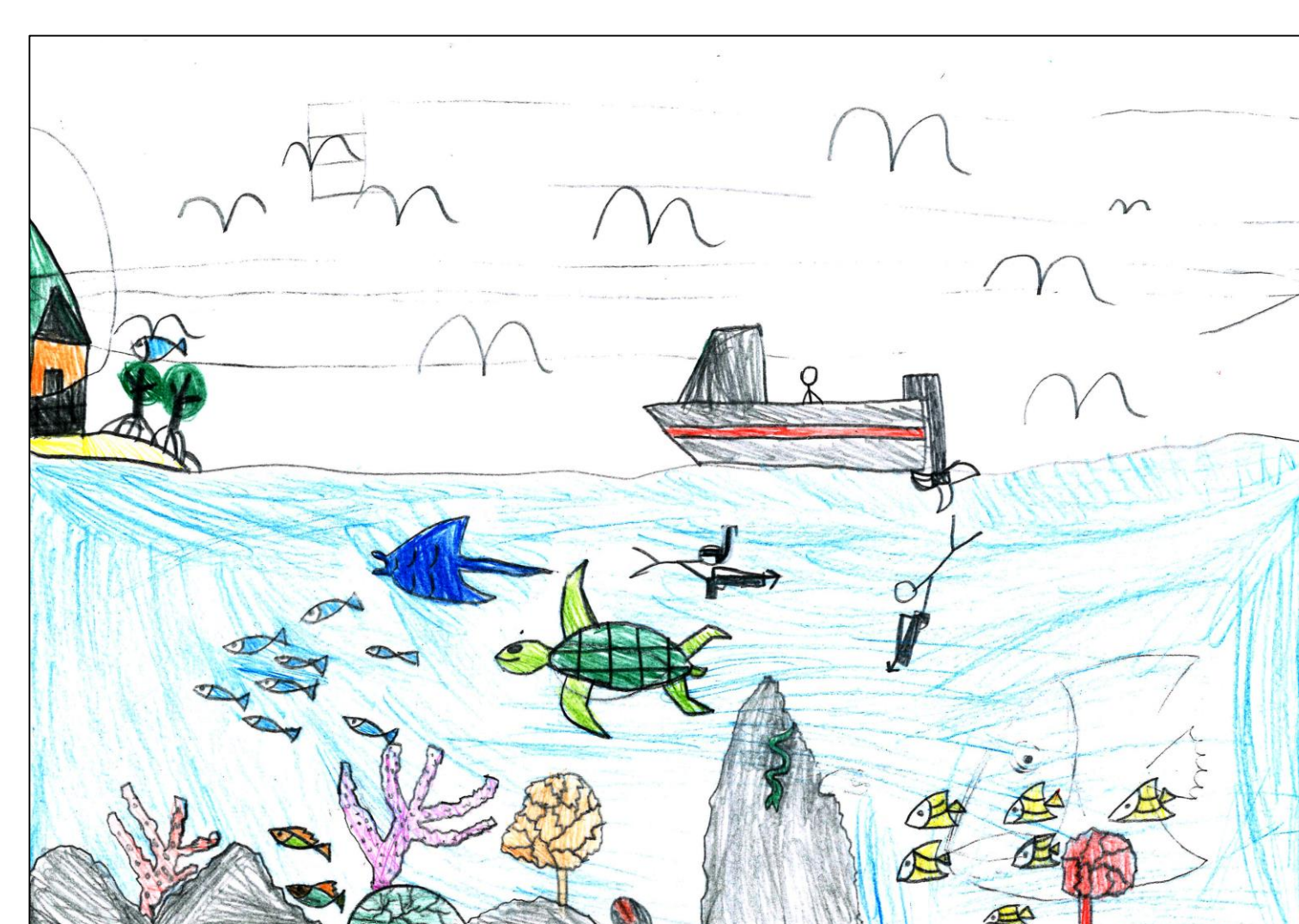
Fiji, Cicia (girl, 12 years old)



Fiji, Lami (girl, 13 years old)



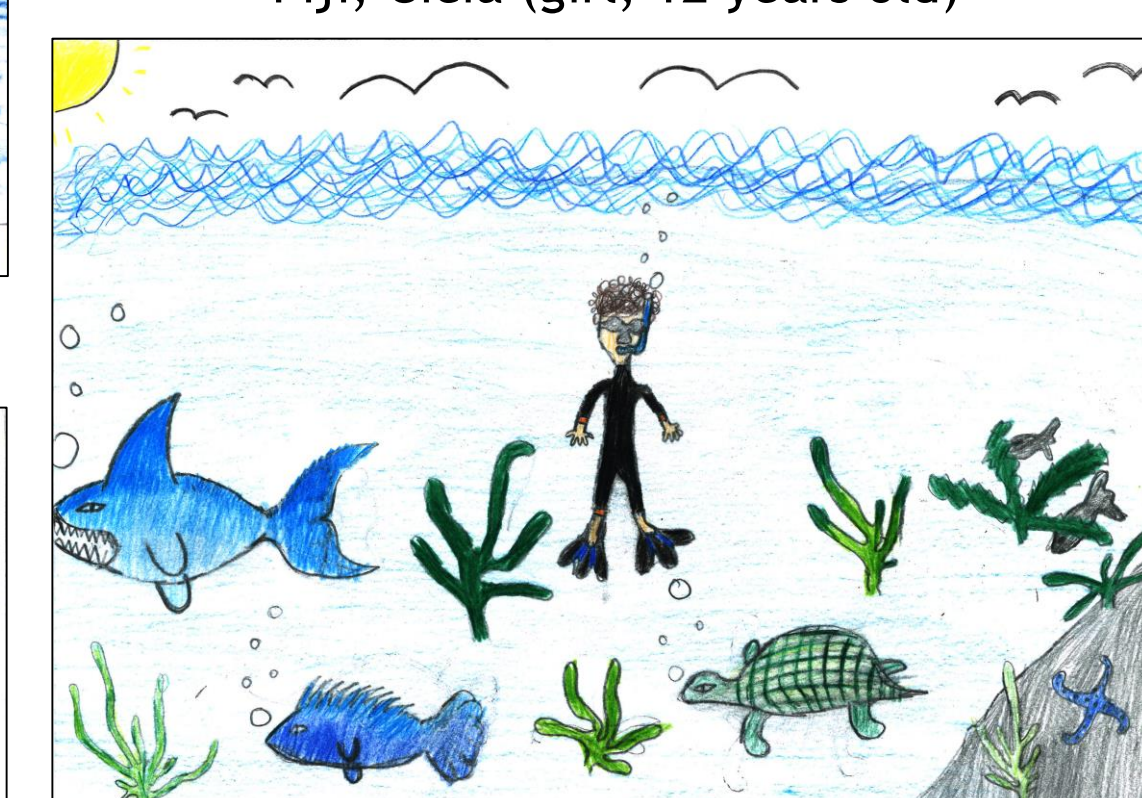
New Caledonia, Yaté (boy, 12 years old)



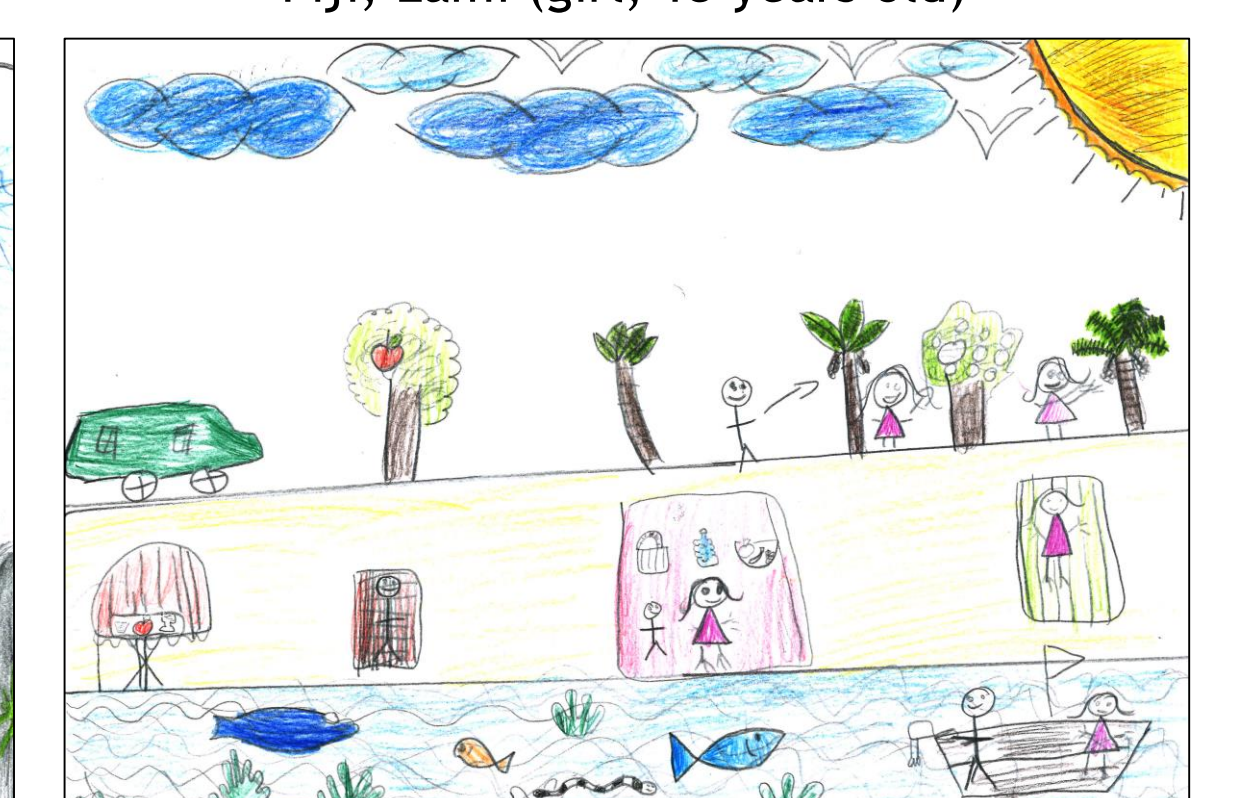
New Caledonia, Yaté (boy, 10 years old)



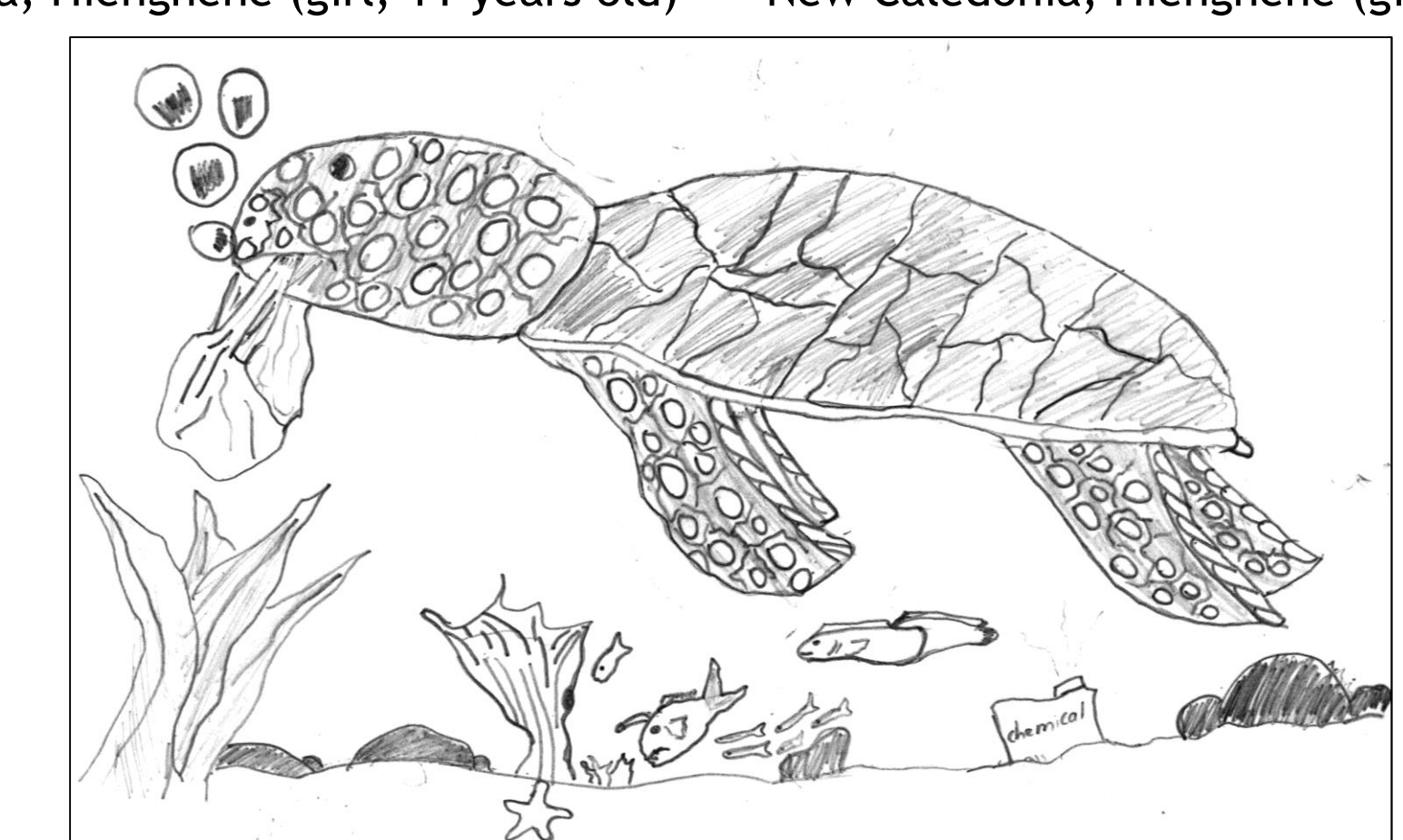
New Caledonia, Yaté (boy, 10 years old)



New Caledonia, Hienghène (girl, 11 years old)



New Caledonia, Hienghène (girl, 10 years old)



Fiji, Lami (boy, 13 years old)

This protocol mainly aims to:

- explore children's perceptions and values of the sea and the resources therein in the South Pacific region;
- analyze whether and how these children express (dis)connections between fishing practices and the social and environmental contexts in which they occur;
- establish comparative perspectives (between children's and adults' perceptions and values, between urban and rural settings, between SOPacific's three study areas, possibly between the South Pacific and other regions of the world);
- facilitate dialogue pathways between the academic world and the various stakeholders of fisheries and their management.