



1 ReefTEMPS: The Pacific Islands Coastal Temperature Network

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41 **Abstract.** While the rise in global ocean temperature continues its course, reaching $1.45 \pm 0.12^\circ\text{C}$ above pre-industrial level
42 according to the World Meteorological Organization in 2023, marine heat waves frequencies and intensities increase.
43 Consequently, coral reef ecosystems which are among the most vulnerable environments are strongly impacted with dystrophic
44 events and corals experiencing increasing frequencies of bleaching events. That has devastating consequences for the Pacific
45 Island Countries and Territories (PICTS) that strongly rely on these ecosystems. In-situ observation remains the best alternative
46 for providing accurate characterization of long-term trends and extremes in these shallow environments. This paper presents
47 the coastal temperature dataset of the ReefTEMPS monitoring network in which moored stations are implemented over a
48 number of PICTS over a wide region in the Western and Central South Pacific from New Caledonia to French Polynesia.
49 These in situ temperature time series are unique in several ways: in the length of some historical stations dating back to 1958
50 for the oldest, thus providing more than 65 years of daily data; in the number of countries sampled (16 PICTS) ; and in the
51 variety of coral ecosystems monitored (from atolls to high islands and from barrier reef's external slopes to shallow and narrow
52 lagoons). Measurement devices have evolved over the years to provide increasingly precise and frequent observations so that
53 the ReefTEMPS network was endorsed as a French National Observation Service in 2020, a label ensuring quality controlled
54 and open access data of long-term observations. All stations are publicly available in ASCII or formatted NetCDF files, either
55 on the ReefTEMPS dedicated Information System which also allows quick visualisation of time series, or in the SEANOE
56 marine data platform. All links and accesses to these temperature time series are provided herein. The quality control and
57 longevity of these temperature time series allows diagnosing long-term trends, highlighting the influence of multiple processes
58 on temperature dynamics (e.g., internal waves, cyclones, seasonal and climate modes) and documenting the time evolution of
59 extreme events. All files are made publicly available in dedicated SEANOE repositories (DOI provided herein).

60

61 **1 Introduction**

62 Sea temperature is a key variable in oceanic, atmospheric and coupled ocean-atmosphere studies. It is an essential variable to
63 be considered when characterising climate variability and climate change. In addition, it is also key for understanding marine
64 ecosystems responses to thermal variability because of its wide influence on marine biogeochemistry and diversity (Kurylyk
65 et Smith, 2023). It more particularly influences marine species spatial and temporal distributions (Pinsky et al., 2020; Righetti
66 et al., 2019) and their life cycles (Dahlke et al., 2020). Understanding the evolution of oceanic temperatures is crucial to infer
67 how global marine biodiversity and biomass will evolve as climate change is producing extremes that may not have been
68 experienced by marine life before (Smale et al., 2019).

69 Since the 1980s, the advent of satellites has provided a better knowledge on how surface oceanic temperatures evolve at scales
70 of $\sim 25\text{km}$ (Minnett et al., 2019). Products such as OISST offer a retrospective view back to 1982 at 0.25° resolution (Reynolds
71 et al., 2007). Lately, this synoptic capacity to observe surface temperature has strongly progressed into much higher spatial
72 resolution with international efforts producing blended daily products up to $\sim 1\text{km}$ resolution at global scale (e.g., MUR SST,
73 Chin et al., 2017). This new higher resolution surface products have been complemented, since 1999, by in situ observations



74 of the water column temperature, with the launch of the global array of autonomous free-drifting profiling floats mainly in the
75 open ocean (ARGO, Wong et al., 2020).
76 Yet, coastal and shallow water areas remain largely undersampled. First, Argo floats cannot drift in shallow waters, and at the
77 coastal scale, even the highest resolution global satellite products are plagued by many sources of artefacts that cause remotely-
78 borne temperature observations to strongly diverge from observed in situ estimates (Goebeler et al., 2022, Smit et al., 2013).
79 Coastal areas often display high complexity and variability in terms of bathymetry, coastlines or freshwater inputs that create
80 thermal micro-habitats that satellite data do not resolve properly. Resolution offered by satellites can also lead to a
81 misrepresentation of true thermal extremes experienced at the coastal zone (Schlegel et al., 2017; Van Wynsberge et al., 2017).
82 In addition, processes affecting infra-daily sea surface temperature variability (e.g diurnal heating signal, tidal signal or internal
83 waves, Colin and Johnston, 2020) are invisible to most remotely-sensed techniques that only provide daily estimation of
84 surface temperature. Some satellite measurements may provide these temporal scales (e.g Himawari, Kurihara, 2016) but over
85 short time periods. Satellite products generally provide estimates of the upper 10-m temperature based on their radiometer
86 measurements of the skin temperature and other parameters with inherent limitations to describe the water column or benthic
87 thermal variability experienced by sessile organisms (Minnett et al., 2019).
88 At present, the only way to obtain true continuous temperature measurements in shallow water environments comes from
89 moored observations. While those cannot assess the spatial scales that satellites cover, they provide ground truth temperature
90 measurements of the water column at very high frequency and over long-time periods if moored observing systems are
91 implemented in perennial manners. It is thus of crucial importance to maintain and enhance these arrays especially in small
92 islands surrounded by coral reef environments where ecosystems goods and services are fundamental for people's well-being
93 (Santavy et al., 2021).
94 Coastal observations are hence essential prerequisites to manage and mitigate risks, generate prediction of coastal
95 hydrodynamics including temperature dynamics and create a continuous observing network from terrestrial to oceanic
96 ecosystems (Malone et al., 2014). Knowledge about coastal sea water temperature variability is critical as it is part of the
97 backbone of core biogeochemical and physical observations needed to inform management bodies and scientists on coastal
98 events and processes (Bailey et al., 2019). In a warming world that exacerbates occurrence of extreme events such as marine
99 heatwaves (IPCC, 2023), long term coastal monitoring of high-temporal-resolution-temperature is of crucial importance for
00 making reliable assessment of these changes at all scales, from sub-diurnal to multidecadal (Goebeler et al., 2022; Salat et al.,
01 2019). Shorter-term observations of temperature are also proving crucial for understanding mechanisms driving short-term
02 temperature dynamics and for validating and setting up statistical or numerical modelling tools able to simulate thermal short-
03 term variability (McCabe et al., 2010; Van Wynsberge et al., 2017). Misrepresentation of such short-term coastal processes
04 may hamper our ability to perform long-term future projection for coastal ecosystems (Siedlecki et al., 2021)
05 Those general considerations on the need for in situ monitoring of temperature in coastal environments are particularly true
06 for coral ecosystems. In these ecosystems, concerns about temperature effects have arisen since the 1998 global bleaching
07 event. Although “localised” bleaching and dystrophic events have been reported since 1982 in the Pacific and Indian ocean as



08 well as in the Caribbean Sea (Goreau et al., 2000), the intensity and spatial extent of the 1998 event led to the awareness that
09 global coral ecosystems may be durably endangered by climate variability (Hughes et al., 2017). This also stressed the necessity
10 to better understand the complex relationships between coral bleaching and extreme ocean temperatures. In the tropical Pacific,
11 the health of coral reef ecosystems is a fundamental issue as it has a major impact on food security as well as sources of income
12 for Pacific islanders (Bell et al., 2017). As ocean warming and heatwaves are actually recognized as the most significant and
13 growing threats to coral reefs (IPCC, 2023), in situ temperature monitoring appears of fundamental importance to better assess
14 their fate in the future by being able to document lethal thresholds from in situ data and/or possibly find more heat-tolerant
15 coral reef populations (De Carlo et al., 2019; Rivera et al., 2022) for example.

16 Temperature variability within coral reef ecosystems (such as lagoons, outer reef slopes, reef flats or terraces) can be controlled
17 by a variety of physical drivers of both oceanic and atmospheric origins (Herdman et al., 2015; Grimaldi et al., 2023).
18 Moreover, interactions of physical processes (tides, wind, waves down to turbulence within coral canopy) with complex
19 bathymetry induced by coral reefs geomorphology can lead to thermal microclimates (Reid et al., 2020). The resulting local
20 thermal signatures can thus be observed only by the means of in situ monitoring and strongly supports field observations for
21 understanding coral bleaching (Safaie et al., 2018; Green et al., 2019) or coral cover spatial heterogeneity (Rogers et al., 2016).
22 Toward that end, several in situ coastal water temperature monitoring strategies have been launched since early 2000s in the
23 tropical Pacific, either at a regional scale (e.g Potemra et al., 2017 for the Pacific Island Ocean Observing System : PacIOOS),
24 or at country scales (e.g Palau – Coral Reef Research Foundation et Colin, 2018; Australia – Lynch et al., 2014; Federated
25 States of Micronesia, Pohnpei – Rowley et al., 2019; French Polynesia, Morea LTER Network – Leichter et al., 2013).

26 Along these lines, the ReefTEMPS initiative has been federating past and on-going coastal scale projects or temperature
27 datasets in the South-Central and South-West Pacific islands. One of the strengths of this network is to maintain long-time
28 observational efforts for quality measurements so that it gathers a number of in situ coastal temperature data dating back from
29 1958. The ReefTEMPS monitoring initiative is thus dedicated to documenting a range of temporal scales from long-term trends
30 of coastal ocean temperature associated with climate change and their impacts on coral reef systems to shorter time scale
31 processes shaping coastal thermal regimes within these ecosystems. In addition to honouring the observational effort, the
32 origins and scientific values of the past gathered datasets from different institutions, this paper aims to present the philosophy
33 and quality of this coastal reef monitoring current network and its future directions, in order to ensure the continuity of such
34 crucial observations. This paper is also a means by which to advocate future and more global collaborations on these
35 observations that will ensure the sustainability of the network regardless of the turmoils linked to funding uncertainties.

36 The paper is organised as follows. After a description of the history and current status of ReefTEMPS in section 2, section 3
37 provides details on sampling devices used since the beginning of observations. Section 4 sets out the overall strategy and
38 methods that ensure data quality while part 5 presents the philosophy of data management and dissemination. Finally, after a
39 brief presentation of some key applications of such temperature data in section 6, section 7 is dedicated to the perspectives and
40 future evolutions of ReefTEMPS.



41 **2 ReefTEMPS: Coastal temperature monitoring in Pacific Islands**

42 **2.1 History**

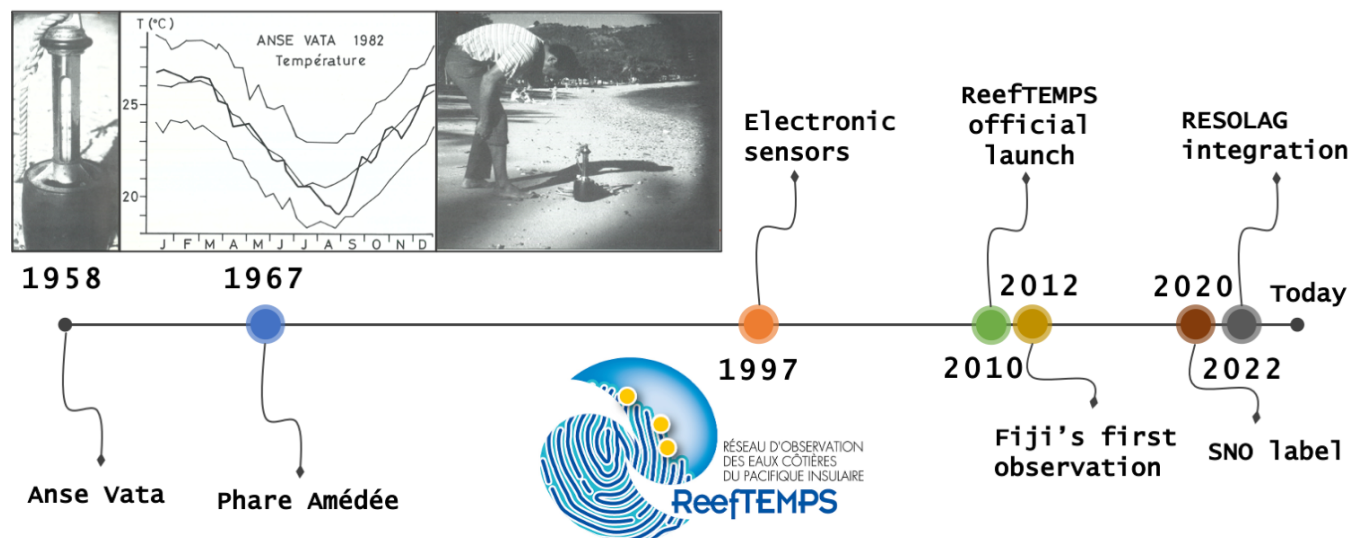
43 The ReefTEMPS (Pacific Islands Coastal Temperature Network) initiative, was officially launched in 2010 by the GOPS
44 (Grand Observatoire de l'environnement et de la biodiversité terrestre et marine du Pacifique Sud), by federating existing
45 coastal monitoring strategies and datasets and adding numerous sites of measurements in the South Pacific. In practice, the
46 adventure actually began much earlier. As early as 1958, in Nouméa (New Caledonia, NC), ORSTOM (Office de la Recherche
47 Scientifique et Technique Outre Mer, now IRD, Institute of Research for Sustainable Development)'s oceanographers were
48 convinced of the crucial value of repeated and prolonged measurements of sea parameters (temperature and salinity). Using
49 the material resources available at that time (oceanographic bucket), they worked hard to maintain daily observations of
50 temperature and salinity at the first long-term lagoon monitoring station of Anse Vata– Nouméa (Dandonneau, 1986, Fig. 1 -
51 Appendix C1). Ten years later, in 1967, a second historical station was set up, closer to the open ocean, on the islet of the
52 Amédée lighthouse (Fig. 1 - Appendix C1). The foundation of the ReefTEMPS network was born.

53 From 1992 to 2009, management and continuity of the existing monitoring network in New Caledonia lagoons has been steered
54 by IRD with the support of the Zoneco program (<https://www.zoneco.nc/>) with the start of new observation stations around
55 the mainland of NC, on both the west and east coasts and both northern and southern lagoons. This geographical extension
56 began mainly in 1997 when electronic sensors replaced manual sampling. 2010 was the official birth year of the ReefTEMPS
57 framework driven by the GOPS. In addition to major improvements on data archiving and dissemination infrastructures
58 (Hocdé & Fiat, 2013), ReefTEMPS expanded to other PICTS during 2011-2015. In 2011, with financial support from the
59 Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), the Pacific Community (SPC) launched a project to help Pacific
60 Island countries in setting up pilot projects to monitor coastal fisheries and associated habitats. In this context, a dozen sensors
61 were deployed in Marshall Islands, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Micronesia, Tuvalu and Kiribati and were integrated in
62 ReefTEMPS. In 2012, through a collaborative initiative, management of the historic stations on Wallis and Futuna was
63 entrusted to the University of New Caledonia. The same year, the Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development
64 (PaCE-SD) at the University of South Pacific in Fiji joined the ReefTEMPS initiative and began observations in Fijian coastal
65 waters, thus developing a long-lasting collaboration with ReefTEMPS which endures to this day. Finally, in 2021, the Direction
66 des Ressources Marines de Polynésie Française (DRM) also integrated ReefTEMPS by including their historical data from the
67 French Polynesian lagoon network RESOLAG (Liao et al., 2023) to the ReefTEMPS dataset and has since become another
68 major partner of the network.

69 As an international observation network based in both the French Pacific territories and the Pacific Island states (Hocdé et al.,
70 2021), ReefTEMPS has been a key asset in the creation and design of France's multi-agency Research Infrastructure for coastal
71 ocean observation ILICO (Cocquemot et al., 2019). Since 2019, ReefTEMPS has been one of the nine National Observation
72 Services (SNO) integrated in ILICO. These networks are accredited through a peer-reviewed evaluation process overseen by
73 French national research agencies every 5 years. ReefTEMPS was labelled as SNO by the french governmental "Ocean-



74 Atmosphere” commission for the 2020-2024 period and for the three parameters: temperature, conductivity and pressure. As
75 a labelled network, ReefTEMPS is required to acquire and disseminate openly data of international quality standards.
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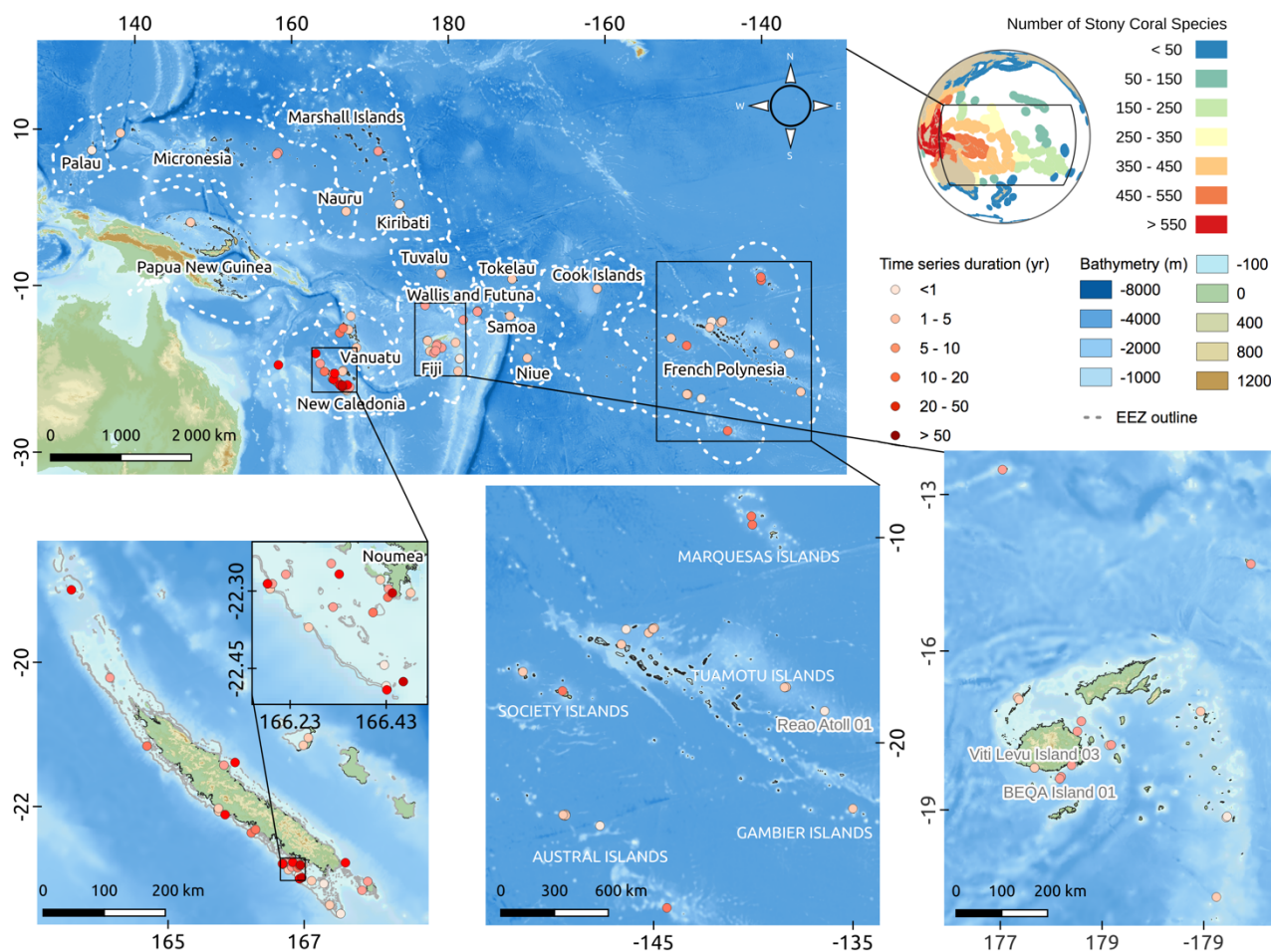
77
78 **Figure 1: Timeline of the main events of the ReefTEMPS Network. During the first period until 1997, bucket measurements were**
79 **done as depicted in the inserted photos from Dandonneau (1986). Left panel of the insert: zoom on an oceanographic bucket. Centre:**
80 **seawater temperature at Anse Vata station using bucket (bold line: 1982 time series, lights lines represent average, minimum and**
81 **maximum through the year from 1958 to 1982 observations). Right: scientist reading temperature value on an oceanographic bucket.**

82 2.2 The current ReefTEMPS Network

83 The tropical and subtropical Pacific is the area of the world oceans that supports the largest habitat for coral reefs and is home
84 to the greatest coral species richness (Maragos and Williams, 2011; Fig. 2 upper right panel). The ReefTEMPS temperature
85 monitoring network encompasses the three regions of Oceania (Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia), covering 16 PICTS
86 (see Fig. 2, Table A1) and extending roughly from 10 to 30°S and from 134°E (Palau) to 134°W (Gambier islands). Such huge
87 spatial coverage is a challenge to maintain over time and some stations have been discontinued due to fluctuating collaborations
88 and fundings. The duration of time series ranges from 6-8 months for the shortest series to more than 65 years for the longest
89 (Anse Vata station, New Caledonia). The study sites that have the higher numbers of monitoring stations and currently
90 contribute the most to the observations of coastal temperature are New Caledonia, Fiji and French Polynesia, which constitute
91 the secure and core observations of ReefTEMPS. New Caledonia (Fig. 2 - Bottom left), due to its history of coastal
92 observations, represents the “backbone” of this network with both the largest number of monitored sites (43) and the longest
93 time series. Most stations are located in its southwest lagoon but some long-term sites are also spread out further north and on
94 the east coast of the mainland (“Grande Terre”), as well as on remote reefs (e.g Entrecasteaux reefs, Chesterfield islands). Fiji
95 currently has 12 monitored sites around Viti Levu Island, Beqa Island, the Vatu-i-Ra Passage, the Lau Group and the



96 northernmost island of Rotuma. In French Polynesia ReefTEMPS covers the 5 main archipelagos, sampling both atolls and
97 high islands lagoons with a total of 24 stations.
98 Overall, the ReefTEMPS network currently comprises 115 monitoring temperature stations with mean duration of observations
99 above 2600 days. In terms of depth, sensors are distributed between 0.5m and 60m (36 % in the 0-5m, 55% in the 5-15m, and
00 9% > 15m) (see Appendix A - Table A1).



01
02 **Figure 2: Overview of geographical distribution and length of time series (in years) of ReefTEMPS monitoring stations. Detailed**
03 **zooms are provided for New Caledonia, Fiji and French Polynesia. The upper right panels depict the number of stony coral species**
04 **across the world (from The Atlas of Global Conservation, Hoekstra et al., 2010) illustrating the coral reef context in which**
05 **ReefTEMPS is set. Bathymetric data used come from GEBCO grid (GEBCO Compilation Group, 2022).**

06 3 Sampling devices

07 Due to the wide temporal range of the ReefTEMPS dataset, measurement methods have evolved over the years in line with
08 technological advances. Starting from simple observations with an oceanographic bucket deployed from the shore by a human



09 operator (see Fig. 1), the network has grown to include a variety of automatic sensors with increasing accuracy, frequency of
10 acquisition and capacity of storage. Most of the instruments used now are autonomous compact loggers containing internal
11 batteries and memories, deployed by scuba diving and fixed on the seabed (see Fig. 3). Moorings have been designed to be
12 adapted to the habitats and to withstand heavy agitation such as the ones induced by cyclones or storms. To prevent sensors
13 from biofouling, mechanical damage or wildlife, they are all deployed inside plastic cylinders with holes that allow water
14 circulation. A few sites (especially in French Polynesia, see buoys section) were also initially instrumented using buoys but
15 this sampling strategy is now replaced by moored sensors to be congruent with the whole network.

16 3.1 Oceanographic bucket

17 For the two long-term sites of New Caledonia, Anse Vata and the Amédée islet, data were first collected using the
18 oceanographic bucket (see Fig. 1). This device was as simple and robust as a water-taking bucket equipped with a thermometer
19 and deployed using a rope to collect water. It allowed temperature measurements to be taken with an accuracy close to 0.1°C
20 and had been used daily for nearly 47 years. That method was abandoned in 2005 to move to more automatic measurements.
21 In 1977, at the Amédée station, the construction in 1977 and extension in 1993 of a pontoon slightly shifted the sampling point
22 from the initial position from the beach, moving it away from the shoreline by 44m, then 64m. The nominal acquisition time
23 for both stations was 7am local time and the targeted depth using the bucket was ~0.5m. That changed to 4.5m with the arrival
24 of autonomous electronic loggers. In French Polynesia, two stations had also been sampled daily using buckets in Tahiti
25 (Society Islands, from 1979 to 1989) and in Ua Pou (Marquesas Islands, from 1986 to 1989).

26 3.2 Compact autonomous loggers

27 From 1997 to 2009, a few main initial sensor brands were used for monitoring coastal temperatures. The first set of electronic
28 and autonomous sensors deployed were HOBO®, for which various models were successively used (Stowaway :
29 <https://www.onsetcomp.com/resources/documentation/1513-stowaway-xti> ; Optic Stowaway :
30 <https://www.onsetcomp.com/resources/documentation/1086-k-man-optt> ; UTBI-001 TidBit :
31 <https://www.onsetcomp.com/products/data-loggers/utbi-001>; last access: 5 September 2024). Depending on the brand, the
32 accuracy ranged from 0.2 to 0.4°C, but these sensors provided a higher temporal resolution compared to the punctual
33 observation using a bucket. They provided infra-daily resolution, acquiring data continuously at frequencies between 10 and
34 30 min. Autonomous loggers from RBR Ltd, the RBR TD1060 were also initially deployed in New Caledonia. In addition to
35 temperature (accuracy 0.002°C, drift ~0.002°C/year; manufacturer's manual), they also provided observations of pressure.
36 Due to several logger failures or drifts, these RBR sensors were gradually abandoned. At last, the Uitoe station (external slope
37 of the barrier reef, west of New Caledonia) was equipped since 1992 with a Seacat SBE16 from SEA-BIRD Electronics Inc.,
38 which samples temperature (accuracy 0.01°C, resolution 0.001°C) but also conductivity.



39 With the birth of ReefTEMPS in 2010 and its associated requirements, as well as the technological developments that occurred
40 in oceanographic instrumentation, the compact loggers fleet has evolved towards models with longer autonomy and greater
41 accuracy while measuring additional parameters. The GOPS has led a major effort to rejuvenate and homogenize the
42 instrumental fleet. Depending on monitoring sites and scientific objectives (e.g additional observations of level and salinity),
43 the choice fell on a new generation of robust devices that allows long-term deployments (from 6 month up to 2 years) with
44 minimum battery costs while being strongly reliable. Since 2010, SBE56 temperature sensors were moored (SEA-BIRD
45 Electronics Inc.; <https://www.seabird.com/sbe-56-temperature-sensor/product?id=54627897760>, last access: 5 September
46 2024). These SBE56 loggers allow recording fast (1min sampling rate), highly accurate temperature measurements (accuracy
47 of 0.002°C, +- 0.002°C drift/year), and provide enough battery and storage autonomy to remain deployed underwater for up
48 to 2 years. For monitoring stations where water level dynamics is of interest, the sensors used in ReefTEMPS are now two
49 models from RBR Ltd. namely, RBRduo T.D and RBRduet T.D (<https://rbr-global.com/>, last access: 5 September 2024).
50 These RBR loggers are used to record not only temperature (initial accuracy of 0.002°C, +- 0.002°C drift/year) but also
51 pressure that provides information about sea-level dynamics. Finally, on stations impacted by massive freshwater inflows,
52 temperature is monitored using the Infinity-ACTW loggers from JFE Advantech Co., Ltd. ([https://www.jfe-
53 advantech.co.jp/eng/assets/img/products/ocean-infinity/INFINITY-CTW\(E\)_201704.pdf](https://www.jfe-advantech.co.jp/eng/assets/img/products/ocean-infinity/INFINITY-CTW(E)_201704.pdf), last access: 5 September 2024)
54 which reliably samples temperature (accuracy +- 0.01°C, resolution 0.001°C) and conductivity (salinity).

55 3.3 Multi-parameter buoys

56 In French Polynesia, RESOLAG, a program dedicated to the long-term monitoring of pearl farming atolls, started in 2018
57 (Liao et al., 2023). The aims of the deployed sampling strategy were initially double: first to acquire multiple parameters
58 (temperature, salinity, fluorescence, turbidity, dissolved oxygen) to understand the link between environment variability and
59 performance of pearl farming activities (e.g spat collecting, pearl quality). The second objective was to provide pearl farmers
60 and stakeholders with a real-time view of the lagoon's state, particularly temperature data, to make their spat collection seasons
61 more efficient by improving their understanding of precise interseasonal periods. For this purpose two kinds of real-time multi-
62 parameters buoys by NKE (Smatch and Sambat models; <https://nke-instrumentation.com/>; last access: 16 May 2024) were
63 deployed in 7 different lagoons, sampling parameters around 3m at 1 hour frequency. Concerning the thermistors, the
64 manufacturer's manual for the thermistors indicates for both buoys an accuracy of 0.05°C and a maximal resolution of 0.003°C.
65 In 2023, due to some problems with live transmission and sensor maintenance, the RESOLAG strategy shifted to the use of
66 moored loggers and, to be consistent with the ReefTEMPS logger strategy, choice fell on SBE56 and RBR Duet instrument
67 (see section 3.2 above).



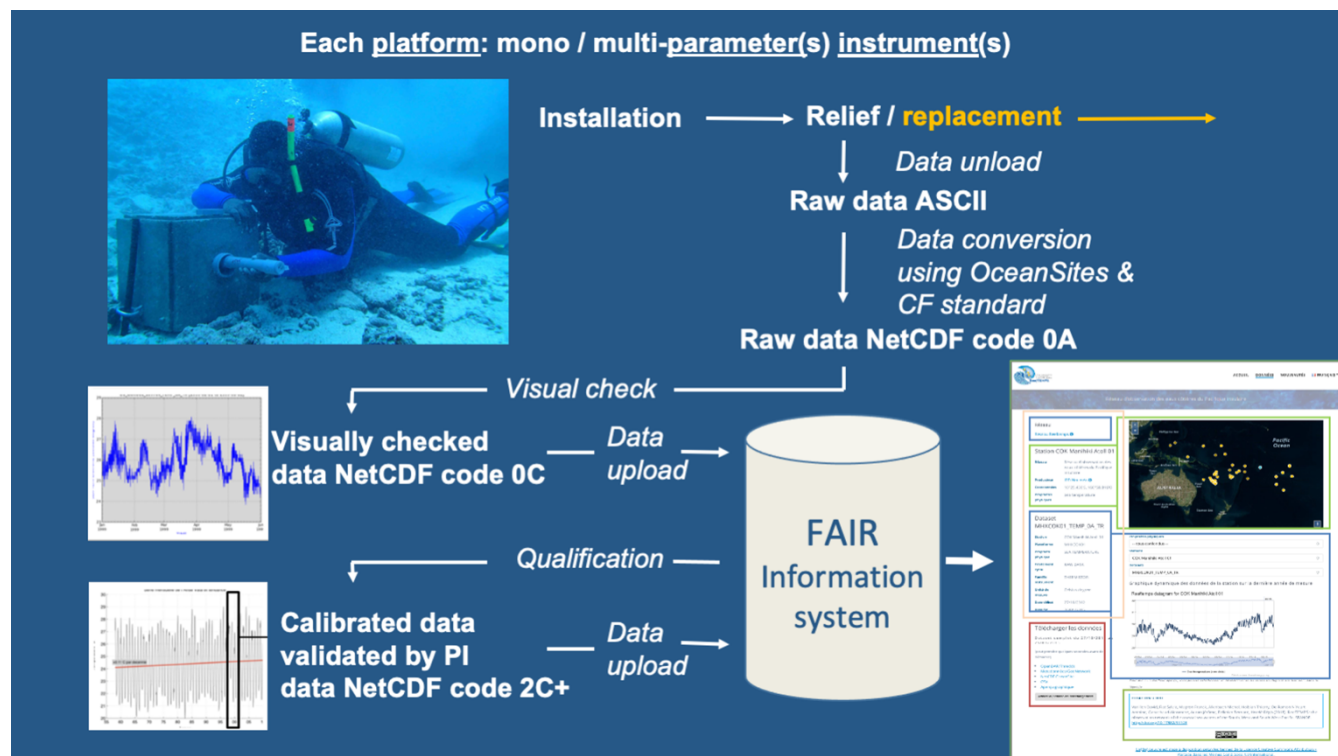
68 4. Processing and quality control

69 4.1 Overall strategy

70 Figure 3 presents the global data life cycle of the ReefTEMPS temperature time series. Data processing and quality control
71 have been conducted in a standardised manner since 2010 to ensure both consistency of observed time series and diffusion
72 using international oceanic data standards. Since 2010, maintenance and recalibration of instruments have been conducted at
73 recommended intervals by or in accordance with the manufacturers to ensure reliability and quality of values observed. Finally,
74 a dedicated nomenclature for files based on international standards (either raw or processed) was also implemented (see tables
75 A1, A2, A3 for information on stations, instrument types and quality codes and Fiat et al. 2024). Dataset file names read as
76 follows: ConventionFormat_CodeSite_Starttime_ParameterType_QualityCode_InstrumentType_Depth. For example,
77 filename ‘OS_POINDI01_199710_TEMP_0C_TR_125.nc’ indicates that this time series is formatted following OceanSites
78 conventions (OS), taken at Poindi01 monitoring station (Poindimié station on NC east coast), beginning in October 1997,
79 processed up to “Visually checked” (0C) qualification (See Appendix A Table 2) , with instruments belonging to Thermistor
80 class (See Appendix A Table 3), moored at a 12.5 meter-depth and provided in NetCDF (.nc). To avoid decimal numbers in
81 the filenames we have chosen to indicate depths in decimeters. The global data life cycle (including processing and quality
82 steps) are described hereafter and depicted in Figure 3 diagram:

- 83 1. Instruments are replaced (or moored if this is a first deployment for a new station) by scuba diving at frequencies that
84 depend on their characteristics (from 3 months up to 2 years in water). Each replacement is referred to in the database
85 as a “measurement cycle”.
- 86 2. Upon replacement raw files are retrieved using dedicated manufacturer’s software and first converted in ASCII format
87 and named following nomenclature rules. They are stored on secured drives.
- 88 3. Time series from each measurement cycle are then carefully visually inspected using specific softwares (ferret or
89 matlab routines) to ensure removal of obviously “bad data” (e.g out of water observations or outliers caused by a
90 malfunction or biofouling). This visual check enables affecting quality code 0C to these temperature time series (see
91 Appendix A2)
- 92 4. Datasets from each retrieval are then converted into NetCDF OceanSITES format
93 (<https://repository.oceanbestpractices.org/handle/11329/874.2>; last access: 5 September 2024), with metadata
94 following the Climate and Forecast metadata conventions (CF : <https://cfconventions.org/>; last access: 5 September
95 2024), and finally appended to existing time series for each station.
- 96 5. Fully processed NetCDF files are then imported into the ReefTEMPS Information System (IS) which allows
97 delivering datasets in different formats and/or using different web services based on specific and standardised
98 protocols (see 5.1).

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Figure 3: Data life cycle of ReefTEMPS temperature time series. Photo: Batiki island sensor installation (Credit: Partners in Community Development, Fiji).

04 4.2 Long-term monthly homogenised files

05 The instrument precision and targets of ReefTEMPS have evolved over time, starting with studies of daily-to-seasonal
06 variability, then moving to longer term variability. Observations acquired before 2010 using oceanographic bucket or Hobo
07 sensors suffered from a lack of precision or potential drifts. However, studies of the effects of climate change on coastal
08 temperature require access to long homogeneous time series with sufficient precision as temperature trends detected since
09 1950 globally do not exceed a few tenth of degrees/decade (Cavarero et al., 2012; IPCC, 2023). Hence to avoid
10 misinterpretation in long-term trends due to sensor turnover, displacement or change in the sensor environment, an
11 homogenization procedure was applied to the two historical time series at Anse Vata and Phare Amédée stations in New
12 Caledonia. That allowed providing daily homogenised time series for the longest records with which to look at climate trends.
13 The procedure applied for building homogenised monthly long-term time series is described in depth in Guyennon (2010).
14 During the first decades of observations (1958-1997), measurements using buckets targeted a sampling at 7 a.m. local time
15 every day although some measurements were taken between 5 and 10 a.m. Depending on the month of the year, this sampling
16 time difference can lead to temperature differences of up to 0.4°C. Thus, the first part of the procedure was devoted to readjust
17 these data to be consistent. For that purpose, the HOBO sensor period (1998-2010) was used for each station to compute
18 average daily temperature variations for each month and then perform adjustment of bucket data to represent only the 7 a.m.



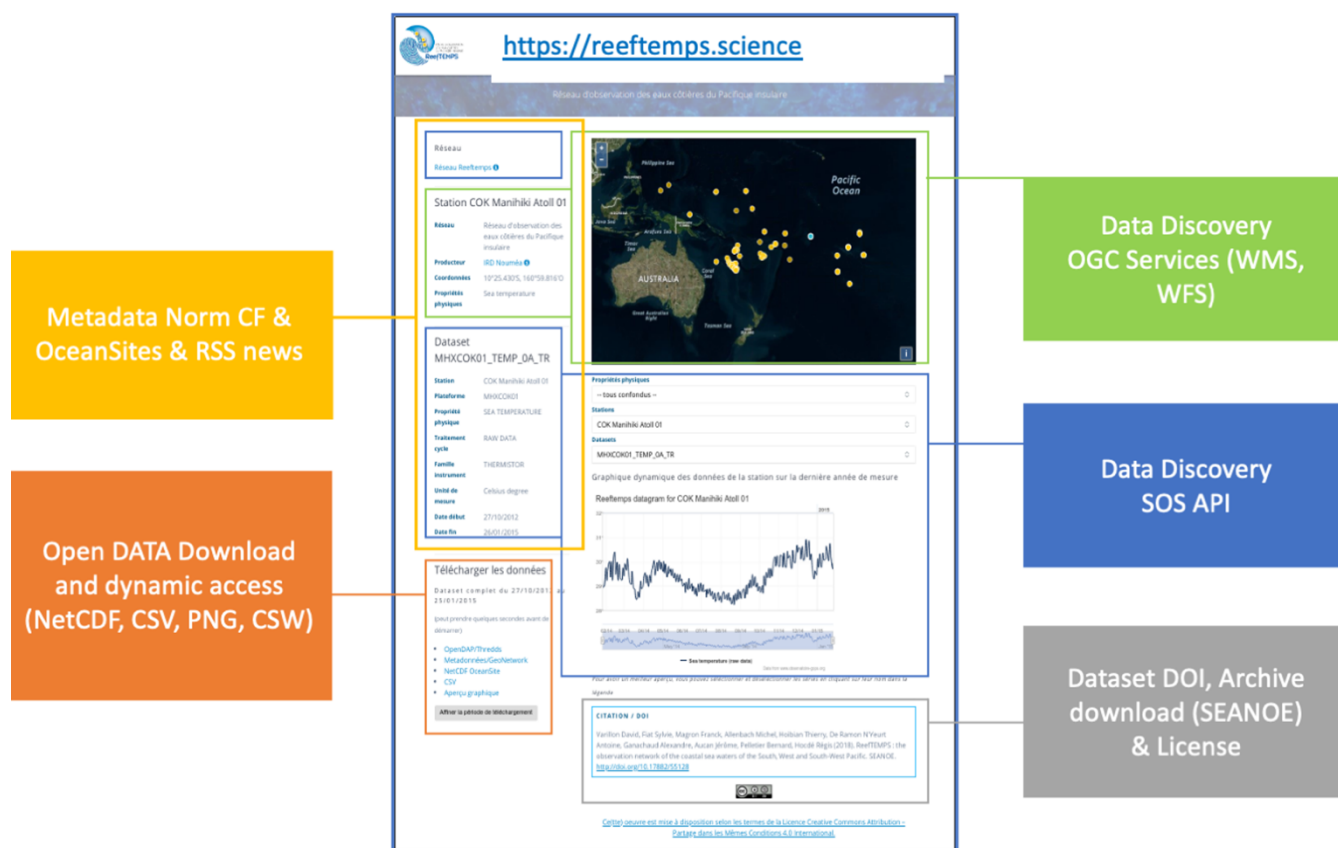
19 temperature regardless of sampling time. The second step of the homogenization procedure aimed to correct bucket data to be
20 representative of the daily mean for each day. Common measurement periods between sensors and buckets (80 months for
21 Anse Vata and approx 30 months for Phare Amédée) were used to quantify, for each month, the differences between bucket
22 values and daily sensor averages. These differences were then applied to the bucket period to provide data series representative
23 of the daily mean temperatures. Monthly mean temperature time series were computed for each station. Finally, detection and
24 correction of artificial shifts were performed using the PRODIGE software from Météo-France (theoretical basis presented in
25 Caussinus et Mestre, 2004) for the 1958-2010 period. After 2010, SBE56 sensor data (deemed much more accurate) were
26 averaged monthly and concatenated to finally obtain two monthly long-term series for Anse Vata (1958 - 2023) and Phare
27 Amédée (1967-2023). Homogeneity assessment tests were carried out using RHTest V4 (Wang et al, 2010) and revealed no
28 significant breakpoints.

29 **5. Data management and dissemination - Open access**

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31 Prior to ReefTEMPS, the data was centralised on a database referred to as “DB-Oceano” (PostgreSQL database management
32 system), which was developed by IRD in the early 2000s for managing data from marine sensors. The database framework
33 was inspired by the one initially built by the multi-partners Coriolis Project (<https://www.coriolis.eu.org/>). The first version of
34 the ReefTEMPS Information System (IS) was then put into production in 2011-2012 (Hocdé & Fiat, 2013). Then, several
35 updates of the information system took into account technological changes and offered new functionalities to both data
36 managers and users (Brissebrat et al., 2017). Now the ReefTEMPS IS uses DB-Oceano with a workflow manager (Apache
37 Airflow, implemented in 2023) around which web servers are deployed to distribute/share data. The infrastructure is designed
38 around the concept of micro-services and is fully containerized using docker technology, ensuring good system portability and
39 the possibility of upgrading to distributed servers for better load balancing. The workflow manager automates the integration
40 of new data by establishing a set of management rules according to the results of previous tasks (Appendix B Fig B.1).
41 Overall, the architecture of the ReefTEMPS IS is designed to ensure data longevity, optimise accessibility, enable widespread
42 dissemination and ensure interoperability with other systems (Fiat, 2015, Fiat et al., 2021). These concepts are in line with the
43 FAIR principles: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (Wilkinson et al., 2016). The ReefTEMPS database is
44 provided as an open resource under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International license (CC BY-SA). The
45 core of the datasets diffusion engine used on the website (<https://www.reeftemps.science/>) consists of interactive map showing
46 the location of monitoring stations via Web Map Service (WMS-OGC) and Web Feature Service (WFS-OGC) geographic
47 services (Appendix B Fig B1). Once a station has been selected by the user, datasets can be downloaded in multiple formats
48 (NetCDF using OceanSites format, Ascii file, or Comma Separated Value files) via different sharing protocols/servers
49 (Thredds server and OpenDAP protocol, Sensor Observation Service (SOS-OGC)). A dedicated visualisation service is also
50 available to explore time series on the website, using ad hoc python web routines. Finally, the whole ReefTEMPS data archive



51 is also accessible through Digital Object Identifiers (Varillon et al., 2024: DOI:10.17882/55128 and Liao et al., 2024:
52 DOI:10.17882/82291) and is updated every six months on the Seanoë data repository. Each release of the semestrial whole
53 dataset is identified by a specific and additional key (i.e https://doi.org/10.17882/55128#107183 for the 2024-01 release,
54 https://doi.org/10.17882/55128#103428 for the 2023-07 release, etc). Nevertheless, the ReefTEMPS archive DOI is unique
55 and common to all archive releases, which allows it to better track data usage statistics. The ReefTEMPS Data Management
56 Plan describes the life cycle of ReefTEMPS data from their acquisition to their dissemination, including the steps of processing,
57 archiving, etc. (Ilico, 2023). Figure 4 presents an overview of the data portal page and the associated services.



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59 **Figure 4: Data access portal page and associated services**

60 **6. Some examples of key applications**

61 **6.1 Capture and document extreme events**

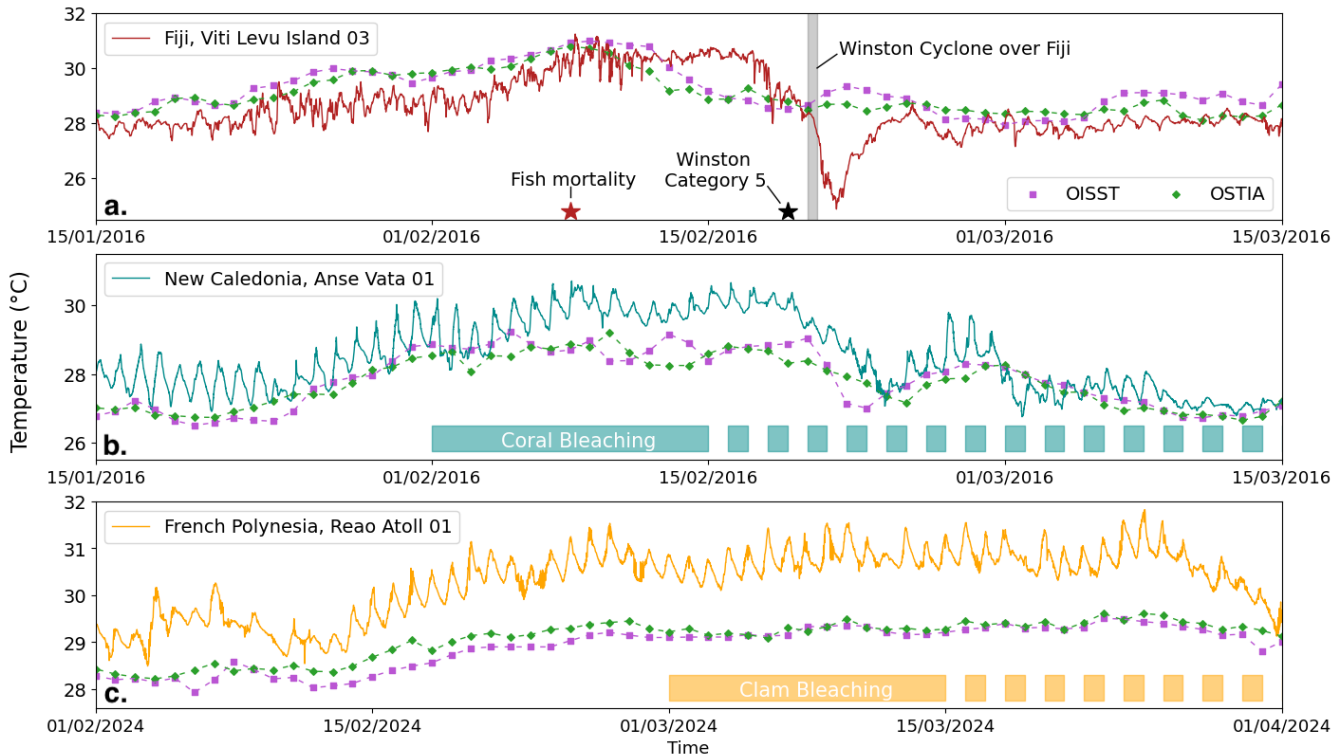
62
63 With the increasing frequency, intensity and duration of Marine Heatwaves (Oliver et al., 2018), in situ temperature
64 observations are crucial for understanding the impact of true thermal variability on coral ecosystems. Figure 5 shows extracts



65 from 3 chosen time series during austral summers 2016 (for Fiji and New Caledonia) and 2024 (for French Polynesia) where
66 elevated temperature played a key role on the health of ecosystems and wildlife (Holbrook et al., 2022; Dutheil et al., 2024).
67 For the sake of illustrating the benefits of in situ observations, widely used daily L4 SST products are also displayed on each
68 subplots for the nearest points to the ReefTEMPS stations. The two selected products are respectively OISST V2
69 (<https://psl.noaa.gov/data/gridded/data.noaa.oisst.v2.highres.html> ; last access: 5 September 2024) depicting SST at 1/4° and
70 OSTIA SST (https://data.marine.copernicus.eu/product/SST_GLO_SST_L4_REP_OBSERVATIONS_010_011/description ;
71 last access: 5 September 2024) at 0.05° resolution. First, Viti Levu 03 station in Fiji, moored at 12m depth on the oceanic side
72 of the Votua lagoon, showed a sharp increase in temperature from January 15, peaking at nearly 31.25 °C on Monday 8th
73 February 2016. On the same day, thousands of dead fish and invertebrates were found on the beaches near the village of Votua
74 (Holbrook et al., 2022). Then category 5 tropical cyclone WINSTON re-entering the area on February 20th, induced a strong
75 cooling by more than 5°C, participating in the demise of that massive marine heat wave (Dutheil et al., 2024). At the same
76 time the Anse Vata station in New Caledonia, located more than 1250 km from Viti Levu and moored inside the south-west
77 lagoon at 2m depth, showed the same tendencies of rising temperature prior to March 2016. There, temperatures began to rise
78 rapidly from mid-January onwards and also peaked at 30.7 °C on Monday 8th February 2016. Daily maximum temperatures
79 exceeded 30°C for about twenty days with strong consequences on corals: the first documented massive coral bleaching event
80 in New Caledonia's lagoons occurred during that February 2016, while that lagoon had been relatively unscathed until then
81 (Payri et al., 2018). The third major event illustrated here occurred in 2024 in Reao atoll lagoon (orange line) in French
82 Polynesia where the important population of giant clams (*Tridacna maxima*) provides significant incomes and food to
83 inhabitants through fishing and aquaculture practices (IUCN, 2021). In 2024, daily maximum temperatures frequently reached
84 or exceeded 31.5°C for about a month from the end of February onwards (even reaching max values of 31.8°C at the end of
85 March), and always remained above 29.9°C during 40 consecutive days. The consequences of these prolonged high
86 temperatures highly affected giant clams, with 57% of exploitable giant clams totally bleached, and 43% partially bleached,
87 as estimated on April 1st 2024 in the area around the location of this thermistor.

88 These three iconic examples associated with heat waves demonstrate the crucial importance of such in situ observations for a
89 better understanding of thermal tolerance, physiological damages and resilience of tropical marine organisms towards heat
90 stress. Indeed, while satellites tend to capture roughly the same low frequency temperature dynamics, large biases (more than
91 2°C) are present and may prevent the study of ecosystem vulnerability. Moreover, these time series (Fiji versus New Caledonia)
92 also illustrate the potential of such a geographically extensive network for studying spatial variability of coastal temperatures
93 across regions which can be very useful to study the regional heterogeneity of coastal thermal responses to climatic modes
94 such as ENSO. Finally, at local scales, a high density of sensors inside the same lagoon for example can also provide valuable
95 information for understanding smaller scale spatial variability which are not captured by state-of-art current satellite
96 measurements such as MUR (Van Wynsberge et al., 2020).

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Figure 5 – a. Temperature time series during austral summer 2016 at Viti Levu Island 03 station (Fiji, 12m, red line) **b.** Temperature time series during austral summer 2016 at Anse Vata station (New Caledonia, depth 2m, dark cyan line) **c.** Temperature time series at Reao 01 station (Reao atoll lagoon, French Polynesia, depth 1m, orange line). Daily Sea Surface Temperature from Satellite products are plotted in purple for OISST V2 and green for OSTIA. Dates of the triggered ecosystem impacts are displayed on each subplot (red star for fish mortality in Fiji, dark cyan bar for coral bleaching in New Caledonia and orange bar for clam bleaching in French Polynesia). Dotted lines indicate that impacts on coral and clams have continued over time (with no precise end date to give).

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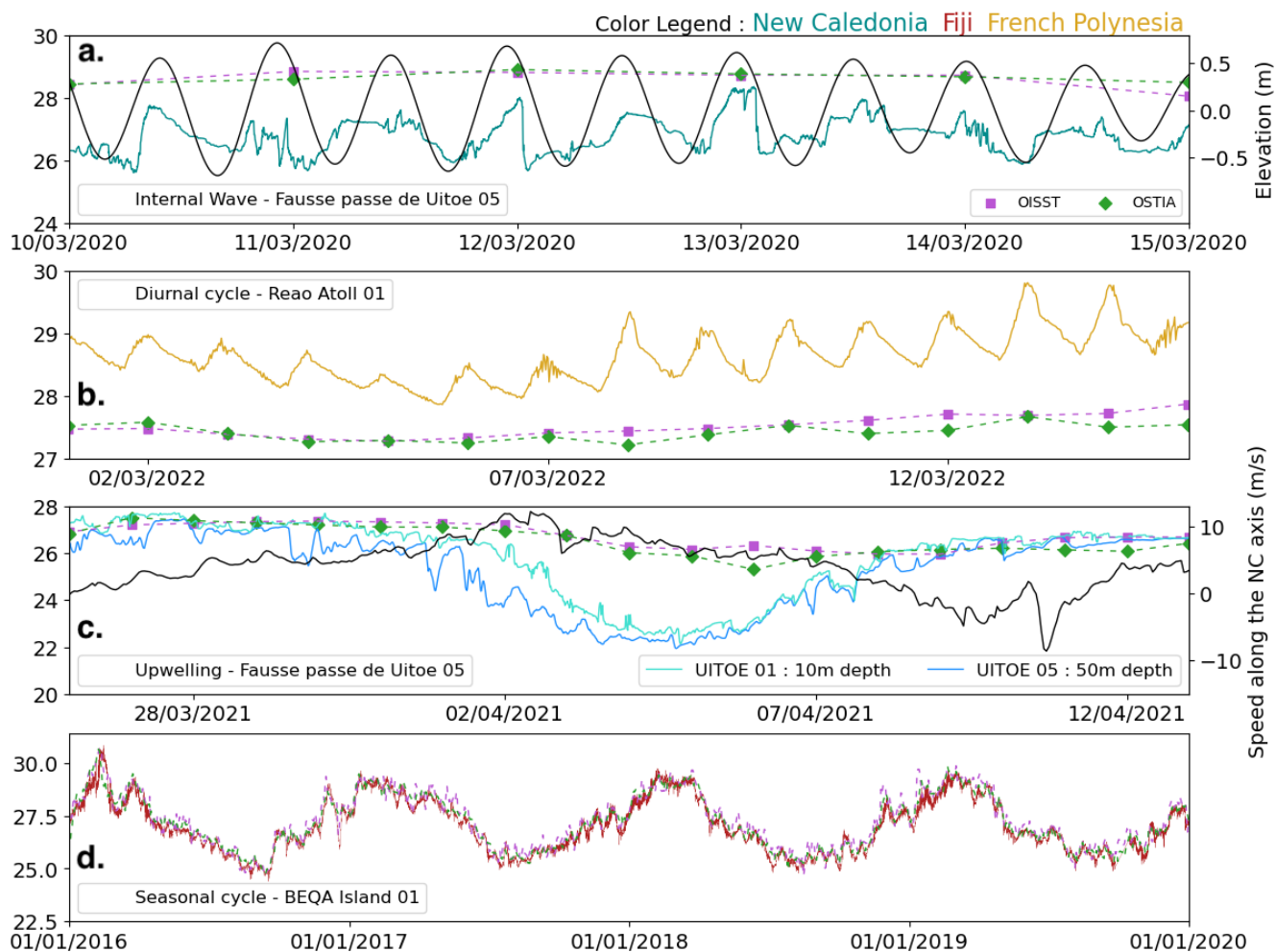
6.2 Characterise physical processes at various timescales

Figure 6 shows examples of physical processes affecting temperature at different timescales as captured by the ReefTEMPS network. Here again, to highlight the crucial importance of in situ observation for temperature dynamics understanding, SST from OISST V2 and OSTIA satellites products are plotted on each time series. Fig. 6a shows a five-day temperature subset at Uitoe05 station (green curve), moored at 50m depth on the external slope of the South West lagoon barrier reef in New Caledonia, and the tidal elevation on the same period recomposed from FES2012 global tide solution (black curve). Temperature drops (by sometimes more than 2°C) are regularly observed at the M2 tidal wave frequency which suggests the influence of internal tides of high amplitude around New Caledonia (Bendinger et al., 2023). As expected, the in situ data shows that the satellite data at low and high resolution are neither able to capture the amplitude observed nor the time scale linked to internal waves illustrating the strong asset of the in situ observations. At a similar frequency, the ReefTEMPS time series can also be used to characterise the diurnal temperature cycle, as depicted in Fig. 6b that displays a two-week temperature



19 series using data from a sensor moored in the Reao atoll lagoon in 2022. With an offset of more than 1.5°C, the satellite data
20 are not able to capture the level observed in the in-situ signal. In addition to their primary interest in understanding the physical
21 processes controlling daily and infra-daily temperature variability, documenting this range of variations may prove useful for
22 benthic species such as coral reefs which can benefit of some relief during stressing thermal conditions (Wyatt et al., 2020 ;
23 Oliver and Palumbi, 2011). Naturally, daily satellite products are not able to inform about infra-daily variability but Fig. 6a
24 and 6b also illustrate mean biases introduced when using such SST products at the coastal scale in coral reef lagoons especially
25 when calculating coral vulnerability indices such as bleaching indices (Van Wynsberge et al., 2017).

26 Another key process that can induce significant cooling on the outer slopes of barrier reefs is upwelling. One example is
27 provided in Fig. 6d where prolonged strong southeasterly trade winds flowing parallel to the coast triggered a wind-driven
28 coastal upwelling episode in 2021 at station Fausse Passe de Uitoe 05 in New Caledonia, leading to an approx. 4°C decrease
29 in a few days. This important upwelling feature off the south-west lagoon of New Caledonia can strongly shape biogeochemical
30 properties of the ocean in the direct vicinity of the lagoon (Alory et al., 2006; Ganachaud et al., 2010). Here again, in situ
31 observation proves to be essential as satellite SST products fail to reflect the drops of temperature. Finally, Fig. 6d, which
32 represents a 5-year subset of the temperature time series observed in Fiji (Beqa Island 01 station), highlights the usefulness of
33 long-term data for understanding seasonal to interannual variability.



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35 **Figure 6: Illustrations of several typical thermal signatures characterised in situ and using L4 daily satellite products (OISST V2**
 36 **and OSTIA, resp. purple and green points). a. temperature drops due to internal tides at the false passage of Uitoe 05 in New**
 37 **Caledonia (dark cyan curve) and tidal elevation (black curve) recomposed from FES2012 tidal solution at the same station. b.**
 38 **Diurnal cycle at Reao Atoll 01 (yellow curve) in French Polynesia c. upwelling episode at Fausse passe de Uitoe 01 and Uitoe 05**
 39 **stations (resp. 10m and 50m depth). ERA5 wind speed projected along the northeast-southwest main axis of New Caledonia (Figure**
 40 **2) is plotted in a plain curve to illustrate the upwelling event as the wind accelerates on 02/04/2021. d. seasonal and interannual**
 41 **variability of temperature at Beqa island 01 station in Fiji.**

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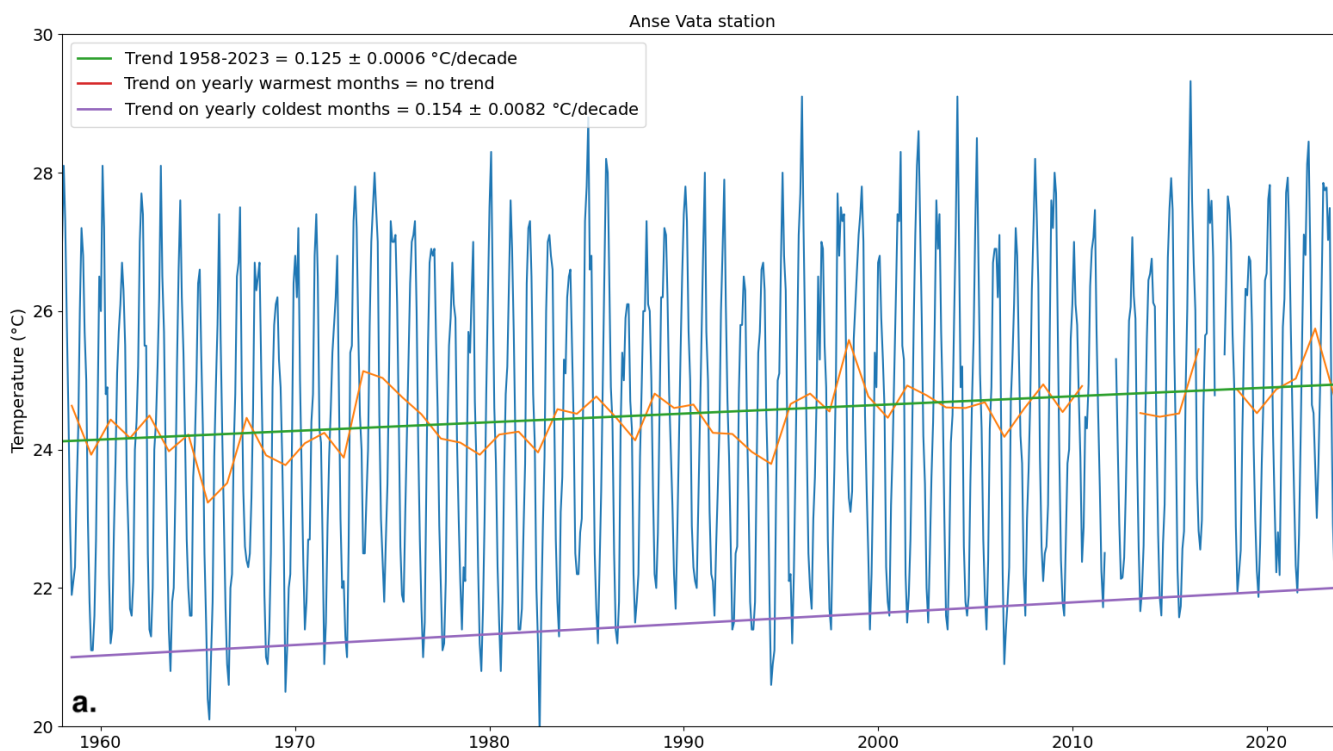
43 6.3 Long-term trends

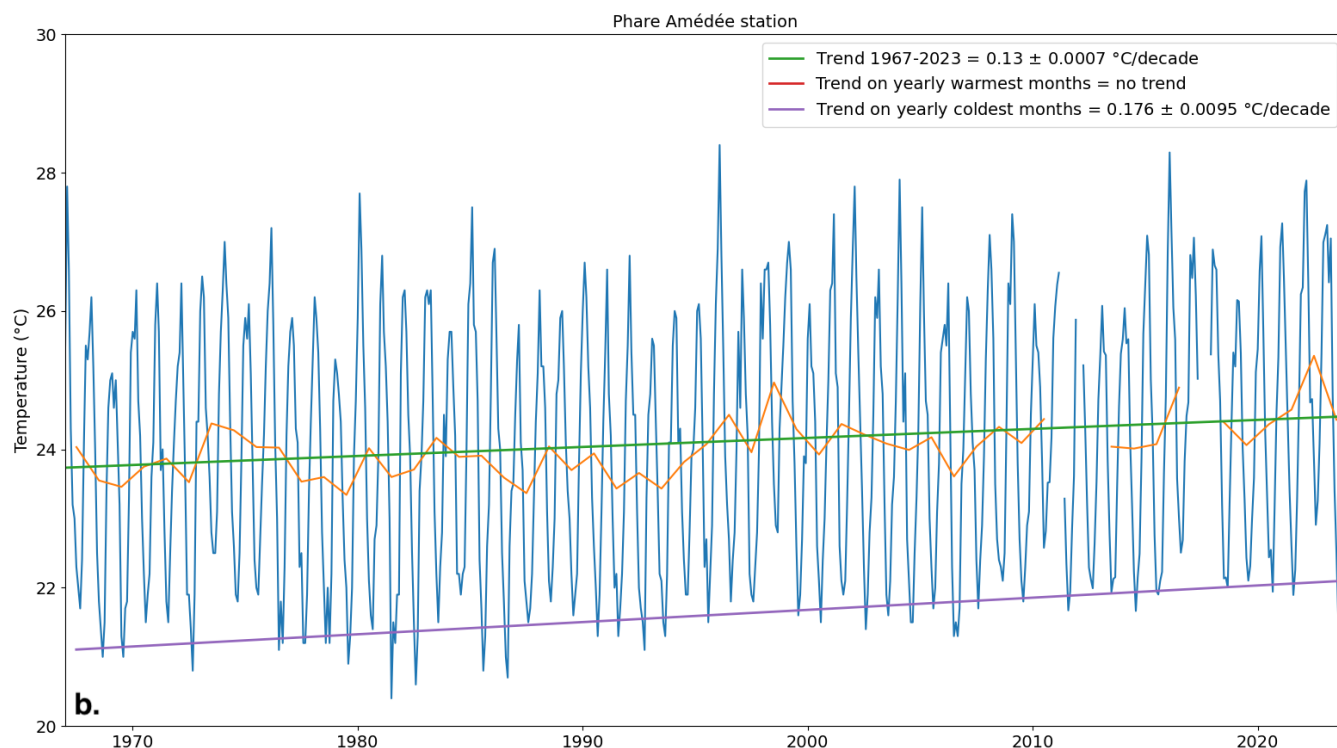
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45 Some of the historical stations from the ReefTEMPS network date back several decades. These are invaluable observations to
 46 assess the warming trends. Two of these long-term monthly homogenised time series (see 4.2) and associated trends are
 47 presented in Figure 7a and 7b respectively. Both stations, at Anse Vata and Phare Amédée, are located inside the New
 48 Caledonia South-west lagoon but Anse Vata station is very close to the shore whereas Phare Amédée is next to the ocean (see
 49 2.1). Decadal trend computations were performed using Mann-Kendall tests combined with Theil-Sen estimate of linear trend



50 with the pyMannKendall Python package (Hussain and Mahmud, 2019). The original Mann-Kendall test was used to compute
51 trends on coldest months and warmer months and the Seasonal Mann-Kendall test on the monthly time series. Considering the
52 entire observation periods, both stations exhibit increasing trends of $0.125^{\circ}\text{C} / \text{decade}$ and $0.13^{\circ}\text{C} / \text{decade}$ for Anse Vata and
53 Phare Amédée respectively ($p < 10e-10$ for both tests). Trends calculated using the warmest month of each year do not show
54 any significant trend for any of the two stations. Conversely, trends on coldest months highlight a significant warming over
55 the periods with a warming slightly higher next to the ocean (Phare Amédée: $0.176^{\circ}\text{C} / \text{decade}$) than close to the coast (Anse
56 Vata : $0.154^{\circ}\text{C} / \text{decade}$). Finally, it is important to point out that Seager et al. (2022) found, over 5 datasets of global open-
57 ocean SSTs analysed over 1958-2018, a mean SST trend of $\sim 0.1^{\circ}/\text{decade}$ around New Caledonia (see their Figure 2), which
58 is weaker than our in-situ trends at Anse Vata and Phare Amédée.
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Figure 7 – Monthly temperature time series and trends at a. Anse Vata station (1958-2023) b. Phare Amédée station (1967-2023). Orange lines are the annual mean time series, green lines trends computed over the whole period, purple lines the trend computed on the yearly coldest months over the whole period.

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7. Ongoing developments and perspectives

Technical developments. As technologies and scientific needs are constantly evolving, the ReefTEMPS consortium develops new functionalities and methods to ensure data robustness, longevity of historical monitoring stations, improved way of disseminating information as well as establishment of new stations.

Concerning the IS and web portal, major evolutions have been underway since 2023 (see section 5) but new developments are still in progress. The next one will concern the data exchange process for which the deployment of OGC SensorThings API will replace the Sensor Observation Service former protocol (see Appendix B). Concerning the workflow manager decision have been made to shift to a workflow manager based on Apache Airflow open-source solution. Using a flow manager has the advantage of being able to adapt easily to the integration of new types of data such as real-time data.

With the increasing threats posed by marine heatwaves on coral reefs, efforts are being put into implementing access to real-time SST observation, which allows informing decision makers on the risks of incoming marine heatwaves. Such systems have already been implemented at Ilot Maître station (see Appendix C). For the first station deployed in New Caledonia at Maitre Island, it consists of an RBR Duet fixed underwater to a pile of one of the bungalows of the Hilton hotel and connected by an electronic cable to a Raspberry-type nanocomputer equipped with a LoRa transmission antenna. The measurements are



82 recorded on a memory card on the Raspberry and sent in packets every 15 minutes by LoraWan transmission. A Lora receiver
83 within radio range of the station recovers the data and transmits it over the internet. It is then recovered by the ReefTEMPS
84 information system and processed into the database. Two strategies are envisioned for the future deployment of such real-time
85 array:

86 1- A low-cost strategy whenever possible using Internet of Things (IoT) communication technology (Mattern and
87 Floerkemeier, 2010): a new station with such technology will be implemented at Phare Amédée during 2024.

88 2- A regular strategy with 4G or Iridium transmission for stations where IOT cannot be implemented.

89 Figure 8 presents the beta version of live data at Ilot Maitre available on the ReefTEMPS data portal web page. New
90 developments are underway to display visualisation of real-time indicators such as Degree Heating Week index (DHW) used
91 in many instances to indicate a risk for coral bleaching (ref) or Marine Heatwave real-time information. These potential
92 applications of real-time SST data can be crucial for public bodies and researchers to access information crucial for lagoon
93 ecosystems vulnerability in terms of preparedness and management.

94



Physical parameters

Sea temperature

Stations

NCL Maitre 02

Datasets

Sea temperature | Raw data

Last value measured on
2024-09-15 at 04:29:41+11:00 :
22.58 Celsius degree

Download data (json): [MAITRE02_TEMP_2024-09-14.json](#)

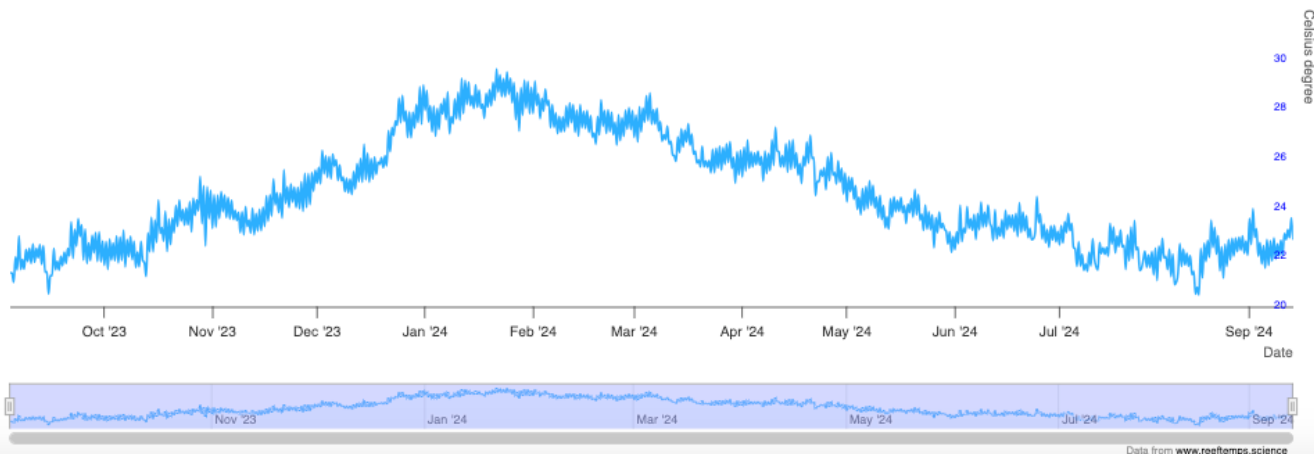


Live Data (Noumea time - auto. refresh 3000sec)

ReefTEMPS datagram for NCL Maitre 02 - Sea temperature - Raw data

Zoom 1m 3m 6m YTD 1y All

4 Sep 2023 → 15 Sep 2024



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Figure 8 – Beta version of the live data webpage available on the ReefTEMPS. The temperature time series is plotted at the blue point (Ilot Maitre live station) on the map (<https://www.reeftemps.science/en/live/>).

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Quality perspectives. To ensure more rapid and robust controls of accuracy of observations given the remote locations of the Pacific Countries to the instrument manufacturers, two new strategies have been introduced. First, a local SBE56 intercomparison protocol has been developed recently (Detandt and Varillon, 2024). The principle is that all SBE56 sensors are inter-compared in a temperature-controlled tank (from 20 to 32°C) with a reference sensor that has recently returned from calibration at the manufacturer (Seabird). The measured differences to the reference sensor must not exceed +/- 0.005°C from the calibrated sensor or that sensor is sent to the manufacturer for calibration. For stations in front of Nouméa, a second strategy that will enable a robust data quality control as well as a characterisation of the water column is a monthly visit of several stations to perform profiles over the water column with a calibrated SBE19PlusV2 CTD. Concerning long-term time series, a



07 work has recently begun to convert raw data into daily (so far monthly) homogenised data to ensure a perfect reliability for
08 computing trends and climate induced warming.

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10 **Future strategies for site selection.** In all monitored PICTs, future strategy will first focus on maintaining historical long-
11 term stations to provide a spatial view of the warming trends. In New Caledonia, the choice of new station locations will be
12 guided to deeper investigate the signal deformation between open ocean temperature and lagoon temperature. In Fiji, efforts
13 will be made to maintain unbroken time-series for the longest-established sites, such as Suva Reef and Rotuma, while
14 expanding to new sites in the Lau Group and Vanua Levu. A major challenge has been the closing of some sites such as Batiki,
15 Coral Coast and Yasawa, due to the loss of local partners. Another issue is the damage or loss of monitoring platforms (Beqa,
16 Batiki) due to seasonal tropical cyclones. Furthermore, the ReefTEMPS working group also plans to deploy more vertical
17 arrays on the external barrier reefs slopes for a more thorough understanding of the processes leading to cooling (e.g internal
18 waves, upwelling). Future observation sites in French Polynesia will mainly be dedicated to important pearl farming atolls. In
19 Fiji, such a pilot vertical array to 200m depth had already been deployed on a mooring off the Coral Coast of Viti Levu Island,
20 as part of the VERTEMP Project under the IRD JEAI COPRA between May to November 2018, and January 2019 to January
21 2020, sampling at 30 second intervals with an array of ten SBE56 sensors (N'Yeurt et al., in prep.). Finally, the coastal
22 monitoring sites on Wallis and Futuna will also be re-instrumented in the near future.

23
24 **Diversifying observations and ocean in ReefTEMPS.**

25 At present, ReefTEMPS is mostly based on an array of temperature sensors but the increasing challenge of long-term coastal
26 observations is to couple these measurements with other key measurements such as salinity, pressure sensors for coastal
27 vulnerability issues and biogeochemistry (e.g pH, fluorescence, turbidity, nutrients phytoplankton pigments, etc...) to monitor
28 water quality and ecosystems. In our studies of the coral reef environment and bleaching surveillance, we perform regular in
29 situ campaigns crossing ReefTEMPS stations with suites of physical and biological punctual measurements. The long-term
30 plan for our coastal observing system is to systematically add to the automated temperature array, other automated sensors to
31 provide a more complete monitoring of the environment facing climate change. Along these lines, a long-term, reliable funding
32 system has to be secured, a key challenge that will require strong involvement of the government agencies for which these
33 measurements are performed and that are lacking at present. Nevertheless, even if this paper targeted temperature observations,
34 ReefTEMPS is also labelled by SNO (see 2.1) for other observables such conductivity and pressure. Therefore, in addition to
35 temperature, conductivity and pressure time series are also available on many stations through the ReefTEMPS open database.
36 Some other key in situ time series have also started in New Caledonia: pH continuous observations using in situ sensors for
37 example at Fausse Passe de Uitoé or waves using spotter buoys. In Fiji, an experimental autonomous spectrophotometry-based
38 pH sensor had been deployed on several occasions at the VELEVU02 site near Suva in collaboration with the National
39 Oceanography Centre (NOC) of the United Kingdom, and preliminary datasets uploaded on the IOC-UNESCO SDG 14.3.1
40 data portal (<https://oa.iode.org/>, last access: 5 September 2024). It is hoped to continue such observations of in situ pH at this



41 and other ReefTEMPS sites in Fiji. Finally, ReefTEMPS environment, quality observation and practices are now extended to
42 the Indian Ocean in La Réunion Island as a first step with the will to continue that collaborative effort with other Indian Ocean
43 Countries.

44 45 **8. Data availability**

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47 All station time series are available individually on the ReefTEMPS web portal: <https://www.reeftemps.science/>. The whole
48 ReefTEMPS dataset is freely available on the dedicated SEANOE repository (Varillon et al., 2024:
49 <https://doi.org/10.17882/55128>) and updated every semester.

50 51 **9. Conclusion**

52
53 The ReefTEMPS network presented in this paper represents a unique source of knowledge for understanding coastal
54 temperature, salinity and pressure dynamics in the South Pacific Ocean and for monitoring coral reef ecosystem thermal
55 variability. The most striking feature that makes this network unique and extremely valuable is undoubtedly its geographical
56 coverage (16 PICTS covered, 115 stations monitored) of temperature sensors and the duration of observations for some of its
57 oldest monitoring stations (since 1958 for Anse Vata in New Caledonia). The network ensures open access and quality
58 controlled in situ data that can be visualised and downloaded through the internet in ASCII and NetCDF formats according to
59 the FAIR principles. Usefulness of these data is considerable as they can be used to investigate coastal and lagoon processes
60 on different time scales such as waves dynamics, upwelling, extreme marine heatwave events, tropical cyclone impacts, long
61 term interannual to decadal variabilities and climate warming trends. This in situ network is a key asset for validating the
62 development of remotely-sensed observations, which, at present, cannot represent the fine-scale, high temporal resolution
63 depicted by the ReefTEMPS network and these data can be used for ocean model tuning and evaluations. In addition to
64 highlighting the scientific value of the ReefTEMPS dataset, this paper aimed at bringing the ReefTEMPS network to the
65 attention of as many researchers as possible and inviting interested partners from the Pacific Island Countries and Territories
66 to join the initiative.

67 **Author contributions**

68 RLG, ALS, CM, SC, SF and RH prepared the paper and designed the figures with contributions from all co-authors. All the
69 co-authors have been strongly involved in the ReefTEMPS network at some points in its life (in situ operations, web portal,
70 organisation, processing and checking of data) or helped to raise funds to support it.

71 72 **Competing interests**

73 The contact author has declared that none of the authors has any competing interests.



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79

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81

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85 (the ZONECO project of the New Caledonian Government, Ministère de l'Outre-Mer Français, the GOPS (Grand
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Appendix A

Table A1. ReefTEMPS stations informations: Names, positions, depths, start and end dates, total duration (days)

nom_station	code_station	longitude	latitude	Latest type_sensor	depth	active	nombre_cycle	start	end	durati on
COK Manihiki Atoll 01	MHXCOK01	-160.9969	-10.4238	THERMISTOR	5.0	False	5	2012-10-27 01:00:00	2015-01-25 22:00:00	820
COK Manihiki Atoll 02	MHXCOK02	-160.9969	-10.4238	THERMISTOR	20.0	False	5	2012-10-27 01:00:00	2015-01-25 22:00:00	820
COK Manihiki Atoll 03	MHXCOK03	-160.9969	-10.4238	MG	15.0	False	4	2012-10-29 22:00:00	2013-12-21 20:00:00	417
NCL Anse Vata 01	ANSEVA01	166.4433	-22.3038	THERMISTOR	2	True	47	1958-01-01 00:00:00	2024-01-11 00:14:59	24116
NCL Baie des citrons 01	LEMONB01	166.4353	-22.2958	TSG	3.0	True	13	2016-02-26 00:15:00	2024-01-11 00:10:00	2876
NCL Belep 01	BELEP01	163.645	-19.7156	SEAU	0.5	False	1	1978-06-09 20:00:00	1986-05-30 19:50:00	2912
NCL Canard 01	CANARD01	166.4339	-22.3122	THERMISTOR	5	True	22	2011-01-19 21:35:00	2024-01-03 21:44:59	4732
NCL Chesterfield 01	CHESTE01	158.3076	-19.8747	THERMISTOR	17	True	11	1997-09-24 23:20:00	2023-10-25 22:53:59	9527
NCL Fausse passe de Uitoe 01	UITOE01	166.1832	-22.2859	TSG	10.0	True	44	1992-05-22 00:00:00	2024-01-10 22:40:00	11155
NCL Fausse passe de Uitoe 02	UITOE02	166.1832	-22.2859	THERMISTOR	30.0	False	16	2001-07-23 00:00:00	2010-06-20 22:45:00	3254
NCL Fausse passe de Uitoe 03	UITOE03	166.1832	-22.2859	THERMISTOR	60.0	False	32	2001-07-23 00:00:00	2021-10-29 20:15:00	7403



NCL Fausse Passe de Uitoe 04	UITOE04	166.193	-22.2859	MG	20	True	12	2016-06-23 23:00:00	2024-01-10 22:00:00	2757
NCL Fausse passe de Uitoe 05	UITOE05	166.1832	-22.2859	THERMISTOR	50	True	4	2019-07-25 00:00:00	2024-01-29 21:34:59	1649
NCL Goro 01	GORO01	167.1072	-22.2725	THERMISTOR	11	True	37	1997-04-03 06:15:00	2023-06-18 23:14:59	9572
NCL Hienghene 01	HIENGE01	164.9839	-20.6449	TSG	3	True	7	2022-01-01 00:00:00	2023-06-08 23:50:00	523
NCL Ile des pins 01	IDPINS01	167.4352	-22.5287	THERMISTOR	14	True	3	2015-09-30 04:15:00	2023-06-15 00:24:59	2815
NCL Ile des pins 02	IDPINS02	167.3509	-22.649	THERMISTOR	13	True	3	2015-10-05 04:00:00	2023-06-14 23:19:59	2809
NCL Ilot Laregnere 01	LAREGN01	166.3198	-22.3311	MG	8	True	11	2016-06-23 01:00:00	2024-01-25 20:00:00	2772
NCL Ilot Mbe-Kouen 01	MBEKOU01	166.2213	-22.2677	MG	6.5	True	11	2016-06-22 13:00:00	2024-01-25 20:00:00	2772
NCL Ilot NDA 01	ILONDA01	166.8764	-22.8497	MG	11	False	1	2019-09-21 00:30:00	2020-12-04 22:30:00	440
NCL Ilot Redika 01	REDIKA01	166.6104	-22.5191	MG	11.5	True	3	2018-10-05 17:30:00	2023-03-09 12:30:00	1616
NCL Koumac 01	KOUMAC01	164.1901	-20.6636	THERMISTOR	14	True	17	2008-07-22 04:15:00	2023-06-14 23:34:59	5440
NCL Le Cap Goulvain 01	LECAP01	165.2378	-21.5529	THERMISTOR	10.0	False	3	1997-03-09 22:25:00	1999-05-28 00:00:00	809
NCL Le Cap Goulvain 02	LECAP02	165.2461	-21.5668	THERMISTOR	20.5	False	3	2012-08-16 00:20:00	2015-08-06 00:45:00	1085
NCL Le Cap Goulvain 03	LECAP03	165.2397	-21.5359	THERMISTOR	18	False	3	2012-08-15 05:05:00	2015-08-05 23:55:00	1085



NCL Le Cap Goulvain 04	LECAP04	165.2413	-21.525	THERMISTOR	1.8	False	3	2012-08-15 06:08:00	2015-08-05 23:30:00	1085
NCL Maitre 01	MAITRE01	166.403	-22.3417	TSG	3.5	True	24	2012-04-26 22:00:00	2023-12-03 01:20:00	4237
NCL Mato 01	MATO01	166.7896	-22.5597	THERMISTOR	10	False	1	2004-12-09 20:15:00	2005-12-08 20:05:00	363
NCL Nouville 01	NOUVIL01	166.4182	-22.2782	THERMISTOR	11	False	6	1996-01-12 00:00:00	1999-09-20 02:00:00	1347
NCL Ouano 01	CHAMBE01	165.7861	-21.817	THERMISTOR	9	True	15	2011-11-30 03:10:00	2024-01-09 21:59:59	4423
NCL Ouano 02	UARAI01	165.7238	-21.8616	THERMISTOR	12	True	15	2011-11-30 00:15:00	2024-01-09 22:39:59	4423
NCL Ouvéa 01	OUVEA01	166.561	-20.5489	MG	2	False	4	2013-09-23 07:00:00	2015-08-19 15:10:00	695
NCL Ouvéa 02	OUVEA02	166.4882	-20.6533	MG	8	False	2	2013-09-23 06:00:00	2018-08-28 06:00:00	1800
NCL Passe Boulari 01	BOULAR01	166.4317	-22.4917	THERMISTOR	14	False	8	1996-01-11 00:00:00	2024-01-15 21:59:59	10231
NCL Passe Boulari 02	BOULAR02	166.4304	-22.4842	THERMISTOR	3	True	1	2022-02-01 00:50:00	2024-01-21 22:34:59	719
NCL Passe Boulari 03	BOULAR03	166.432	-22.4907	THERMISTOR	6.5	True	1	2022-01-31 23:20:00	2024-01-15 22:29:59	714
NCL Passe de Dumbea 01	DUMBEA01	166.1887	-22.2957	THERMISTOR	9	False	7	1996-01-10 02:00:00	1999-09-19 23:45:00	1348
NCL Passe de Dumbea 02	DUMBEA02	166.2688	-22.3705	THERMISTOR	11	False	8	1996-01-10 00:45:00	1999-09-19 23:10:00	1348
NCL Phare Amedee 01	PHARAM01	166.466	-22.4757	THERMISTOR	4.5	True	46	1967-01-01 12:00:00	2024-01-15 23:59:59	20833



NCL Poe Beach 01	BOURAI01	165.3388	-21.6123	THERMISTOR	4	True	28	1999-08-12 21:45:00	2024-02-25 22:29:59	8963
NCL Poindimié 01	POINDI01	165.485	-20.8918	MG	12.5	True	40	1996-12-09 05:00:00	2024-03-04 18:00:00	9947
NCL Poindimié 02	POINDI02	165.322	-20.9288	MG	1.7	True	12	2013-09-17 13:00:00	2024-03-03 06:00:00	3820
NCL Récif de Basse Kauï 01	BAKAUI01	166.3159	-22.2466	THERMISTOR	8	True	55	2013-08-13 22:30:00	2024-01-10 23:29:59	3802
NCL Récif du Prony 01	RECPRO01	166.3325	-22.2673	THERMISTOR	10.5	True	48	1996-01-12 00:00:00	2024-01-10 23:44:59	10225
NCL Récif Ngedembi 01	NGEDEM01	167.0373	-22.9688	THERMISTOR	14	False	1	2004-12-10 04:00:00	2005-12-07 00:15:00	361
NCL Recif Snark 01	SNARK01	166.4263	-22.4437	THERMISTOR	3	True	1	2022-01-31 22:00:00	2024-01-22 00:14:59	721
NCL Saint Vincent 01	STVINC01	166.0814	-21.9271	TSG	0.5	True	17	2021-12-21 01:00:00	2023-11-17 00:10:00	696
NCL Sainte Marie 01	SMARIE01	166.4813	-22.3037	THERMISTOR	4.4	False	1	2012-02-03 05:30:00	2013-04-22 21:15:00	444
NCL Surprises 01	SURPRI01	163.0781	-18.4853	THERMISTOR	14	True	17	1997-09-28 23:15:00	2024-03-17 02:03:59	9667
PYF Hapou 01	HAPOU01	-140.0468	-9.3571	BUCKET	0.5	False	1	1986-01-31 21:30:00	1989-06-14 21:00:00	1230
PYF Marquises 01	NUKUI01	-140.0944	-8.9342	THERMISTOR	10	False	13	1997-09-19 01:15:00	2010-11-21 01:30:00	4811
PYF Rapa 01	RAPA01	-144.3323	-27.618	BUCKET	0.5	False	1	1986-05-09 21:40:00	1989-01-29 20:10:00	996
PYF Tahiti 01	TAHITI01	-149.5679	-17.5213	BUCKET	0.5	False	2	1979-01-04 21:05:00	2000-01-01 00:00:00	7667



PYF Takaraoa Atoll 01	TAKARO01	-145.0161	-14.5026	THERMISTOR	4	False	2	2012-11-29 00:00:00	2016-03-20 01:50:00	1207
PYF Takaraoa Atoll 02	TAKARO02	-145.0295	-14.474	MG	4	False	1	2012-11-29 00:00:00	2013-09-28 09:24:20	303
PYF Takaraoa Atoll 03	TAKARO03	-145.0524	-14.5076	THERMISTOR	2	False	2	2012-11-29 00:00:00	2016-01-27 01:56:00	1154
PYF Tatakoto Atoll 01	TATAKO01	-138.4353	-17.3488	THERMISTOR	1	False	5	2012-11-07 00:12:00	2015-06-14 23:18:00	949
PYF Tatakoto Atoll 02	TATAKO02	-138.3513	-17.3334	THERMISTOR	2.2	False	5	2012-11-09 18:38:00	2015-06-15 01:30:00	947
PYF Tatakoto Atoll 03	TATAKO03	-138.4099	-17.3508	MG	1.9	False	4	2012-11-13 18:20:00	2014-10-24 01:38:00	709
PYF Tatakoto Atoll 04	TATAKO04	-138.3493	-17.3344	MG	4	False	1	2013-07-15 21:35:00	2013-10-11 20:00:00	87
PYF Tubuai Island 01	TUBUAI01	-149.5389	-23.3798	MG	1.5	False	3	2013-04-24 23:00:00	2014-12-02 00:01:00	586
PYF Tubuai Island 02	TUBUAI02	-149.4195	-23.354	MG	1.5	False	3	2013-04-25 23:00:00	2014-06-09 00:01:00	409
PYF Tubuai Island 03	TUBUAI03	-149.4141	-23.4044	MG	1.5	False	3	2013-04-26 00:06:00	2014-12-03 00:01:00	585
PYF Tubuai Island 04	TUBUAI04	-149.4536	-23.43	MG	1.5	False	3	2013-04-26 23:50:00	2014-12-02 00:00:00	584
PYF Tubuai Island 05	TUBUAI05	-149.5261	-23.4036	MG	1.5	False	3	2013-04-27 02:05:00	2014-12-01 00:01:00	582
VUT Efate Island 01	EFATE01	168.2632	-17.7696	THERMISTOR	8	False	2	2012-06-20 02:50:00	2015-08-20 23:15:00	1156
VUT Sabine 01	SABINE01	166.1362	-15.9467	MG	11	False	16	1999-11-18 05:15:00	2010-05-26 22:00:00	3842



VUT Santo Island 01	SANTO01	167.2798	-15.548	THERMISTOR	8	False	1	2012-06-25 00:45:00	2016-05-15 01:50:00	1420
VUT Vanua Lava Island 01	VANULA01	167.5648	-13.8673	THERMISTOR	5	False	1	2012-06-27 04:45:00	2013-07-11 03:15:00	378
VUT Wusi 01	WUSI01	166.5681	-15.3702	MG	11	False	12	1999-11-19 03:00:00	2010-05-29 04:15:00	3844
VUT Wusi 02	WUSI02	166.6602	-15.355	MG	11	False	2	2007-10-14 04:15:00	2010-05-30 03:15:00	958
WLF Alofi island 01	ALOFI01	-178.074	-14.3371	THERMISTOR	11	True	6	2012-10-18 22:30:00	2020-06-30 23:08:00	2812
WLF Wallis 01	WALLIS01	-176.2516	-13.2222	THERMISTOR	11	False	8	1998-08-21 00:00:00	2005-09-14 01:00:00	2581
WLF Wallis 02	WALLIS02	-176.2767	-13.3091	THERMISTOR	10	False	11	2006-10-17 20:15:00	2015-08-27 02:30:00	3235
PYF Raivavae Island 01	RAIVAV01	-147.6889	-23.8825	MULTIPARAMETER	4	False	1	2020-03-11 00:00:12	2020-10-04 11:26:34	207
PYF AHE Atoll 01	AHE01	-146.3791	-14.5263	MULTIPARAMETER	2	True	1	2022-03-23 21:00:00	2022-09-18 05:00:00	178
PYF Arutua Atoll 01	ARUTUA01	-146.6167	-15.2646	MULTIPARAMETER	3.5	True	6	2018-06-15 01:00:00	2022-10-03 17:55:00	1571
PYF Mangareva Atoll 01	MANGAR01	-135.0048	-23.0902	MULTIPARAMETER	3.5	True	5	2018-05-24 06:00:00	2022-08-31 17:15:00	1560
PYF Reao Atoll 01	REAO01	-136.4248	-18.483	THERMISTOR	1	True	1	2021-06-21 00:30:00	2022-04-29 02:30:00	312
PYF Tahaa Atoll 01	TAHAA01	-151.5562	-16.5954	MULTIPARAMETER	3.5	True	3	2018-10-17 02:00:00	2022-07-21 19:50:00	1373
PYF Takapoto Atoll 01	TAKAPO01	-145.2456	-14.7037	MULTIPARAMETER	3	True	5	2020-02-06 22:00:12	2022-11-30 20:10:00	1027



PYF Takarua Atoll 04	TAKARO04	-144.9595	-14.4597	MULTIPARAMETER	4	True	2	2019-01-30 04:00:01	2021-02-24 14:03:10	756
FSM Pohnpei 01	POHNPE01	158.2969	7.0093	THERMISTOR	13	False	5	2010-10-01 01:00:00	2018-09-28 23:02:00	2919
FSM Pohnpei 02	POHNPE02	158.1119	6.8001	THERMISTOR	13	False	5	2010-10-01 01:00:00	2018-10-15 23:50:00	2936
FSM YAP 01	YAP01	138.1411	9.503	THERMISTOR	9	False	1	2012-12-14 13:00:00	2014-09-21 20:00:00	646
KIR Abemama 01	ABEMAM01	173.8346	0.3764	THERMISTOR	9	False	1	2011-11-01 01:00:00	2012-04-03 08:10:00	154
KIR Abemama 02	ABEMAM02	173.7539	0.3922	THERMISTOR	9	False	1	2011-11-01 01:00:00	2012-07-07 06:10:00	249
MHL Majuro 01	MAJURO01	171.0543	7.1925	THERMISTOR	4	False	1	2011-05-31 13:00:00	2011-10-20 18:00:00	142
MHL Majuro 02	MAJURO02	171.0451	7.1986	THERMISTOR	20	False	1	2011-05-31 13:00:00	2011-10-31 13:00:00	153
MHL Majuro 03	MAJURO03	171.0542	7.1924	THERMISTOR	9	False	2	2012-08-25 13:00:00	2018-07-31 22:52:00	2166
NIU Niue Island 01	NIUE01	-169.9192	-19.0449	THERMISTOR	15	False	2	2016-09-29 13:00:00	2019-08-22 23:30:00	1057
NRU Nauru 01	NAURU01	166.9537	-0.53	THERMISTOR	9.5	False	1	2012-06-18 13:00:00	2013-06-23 13:00:00	370
PLW Palau 01	PALAU01	134.4944	7.3261	THERMISTOR	10	False	1	2012-03-23 13:00:00	2012-11-27 01:00:00	248
PLW Palau 02	PALAU02	134.4826	7.2965	THERMISTOR	10	False	1	2012-03-23 13:00:00	2012-11-27 01:00:00	248
PNG Manus 01	MANUS01	147.0965	-1.945	THERMISTOR	10	False	2	2011-07-31 13:00:00	2014-05-07 13:00:00	1011



PNG Manus 02	MANUS02	147.0964	-1.9318	THERMISTOR	12	False	2	2011-07-31 13:00:00	2014-05-11 13:00:00	1015
TKL Nukunonu 01	NUKUNN01	-171.8522	-9.2007	THERMISTOR	8	False	1	2012-05-04 13:00:00	2014-05-22 12:50:00	747
TKL Nukunonu 02	NUKUNN02	-171.8475	-9.2007	THERMISTOR	12	False	1	2012-05-05 13:00:00	2013-07-09 12:50:00	429
TUV Funafuti 01	FUNAFU01	179.0601	-8.485	THERMISTOR	11	False	2	2011-08-01 10:00:00	2013-04-19 13:00:00	627
TUV Funafuti 02	FUNAFU02	179.1328	-8.5638	THERMISTOR	4	False	2	2011-08-15 08:00:00	2013-04-24 13:00:00	618
WSM Upolu 01	UPOLU01	-172.1281	-13.8455	THERMISTOR	10	False	1	2012-08-31 13:00:00	2015-03-30 17:00:00	941
FJI Batiki Island 01	BATIKI01	179.1799	-17.7775	THERMISTOR	10	True	4	2012-11-28 00:49:59	2019-01-25 12:59:59	2249
FJI Batiki Island 02	BATIKI02	179.139	-17.7855	THERMISTOR	10	False	5	2012-11-29 00:49:59	2017-03-16 18:49:59	1568
FJI BEQA Island 01	BEQA01	178.1675	-18.4137	THERMISTOR	10	True	4	2014-05-28 13:00:00	2020-11-06 22:59:59	2354
FJI BEQA Island 02	BEQA02	178.1956	-18.3769	THERMISTOR	12	True	3	2014-05-28 13:00:00	2019-09-26 12:59:59	1947
FJI ONO-I-LAU Island 01	ONOILO01	-178.75125	-20.6220167	THERMISTOR	12	True	1	2021-12-06 21:00:14	2023-02-22 22:59:14	443
FJI Rotuma Island 01	ROTUMA01	177.0432	-12.5199	THERMISTOR	12	True	5	2014-09-18 01:09:59	2022-10-15 05:27:20	2949
FJI Tawewa Island 01	TAWEWA01	177.3675	-16.9221	THERMISTOR	10	False	3	2012-12-08 13:00:00	2016-05-15 00:59:59	1254
FJI Tawewa Island 02	TAWEWA02	177.3379	-16.8806	THERMISTOR	16.2	False	3	2012-12-08 22:40:00	2016-02-09 21:19:59	1158



FJI Vatu-i-Ra Passage 01	VATUIR01	178.593	-17.3315	THERMISTOR	9.5	True	3	2016-12-04 21:19:59	2024-02-20 11:59:58	2634
FJI Viti Levu Island 01	VELEVU01	178.514	-17.522	THERMISTOR	12	True	5	2012-11-30 13:00:00	2023-12-13 00:14:59	4030
FJI Viti Levu Island 02	VELEVU02	178.3999	-18.1597	THERMISTOR	12	True	8	2012-12-21 13:00:00	2023-11-17 23:59:50	3983
FJI Viti Levu Island 03	VELEVU03	177.6732	-18.21	THERMISTOR	11.9	False	4	2013-04-05 13:00:00	2017-09-23 12:49:59	1632
FJI Vulaga Island 01	VULAGA01	-178.5568667	-19.1395667	THERMISTOR	8.2	True	1	2022-08-20 04:01:38	2023-08-17 00:29:38	362
FJI Vulaga Island 02	VULAGA02	-178.5400167	-19.12135	THERMISTOR	12.4	True	1	2022-08-20 19:00:00	2022-12-20 21:00:00	122

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Table A2. Processing states (Fiat et al. 2024) derived from NERC Vocabulary Server (NVS) R06 (<https://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/R06/current/>)

75

code	libelle
0A	RAW DATA
0B	AUTOMATIC QUALITY CONTROL
0C	VISUAL CHECK
1A	CLIMATOLOGY CONTROL
1B	APPLICATION OF QUALITY CODE AFTER VISUAL INSPECTION
1C	VALIDED BY PI
2A	NOT RECOMMEND
2B	NOT RECOMMEND
2B+	CALIBRATED DATA
2C	NOT RECOMMEND
2C+	CALIBRATED DATA VALIDATED BY PI
3B	CALIBRATED REDUCED DATA
3C	GRIDDED REDUCED DATA
3A	AUTOMATIC REDUCED DATA



0C	VISUAL CHECK
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Table A3. Instrument types (Fiat et al. 2024) derived from NERC L05 (<https://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/L05/current/>)

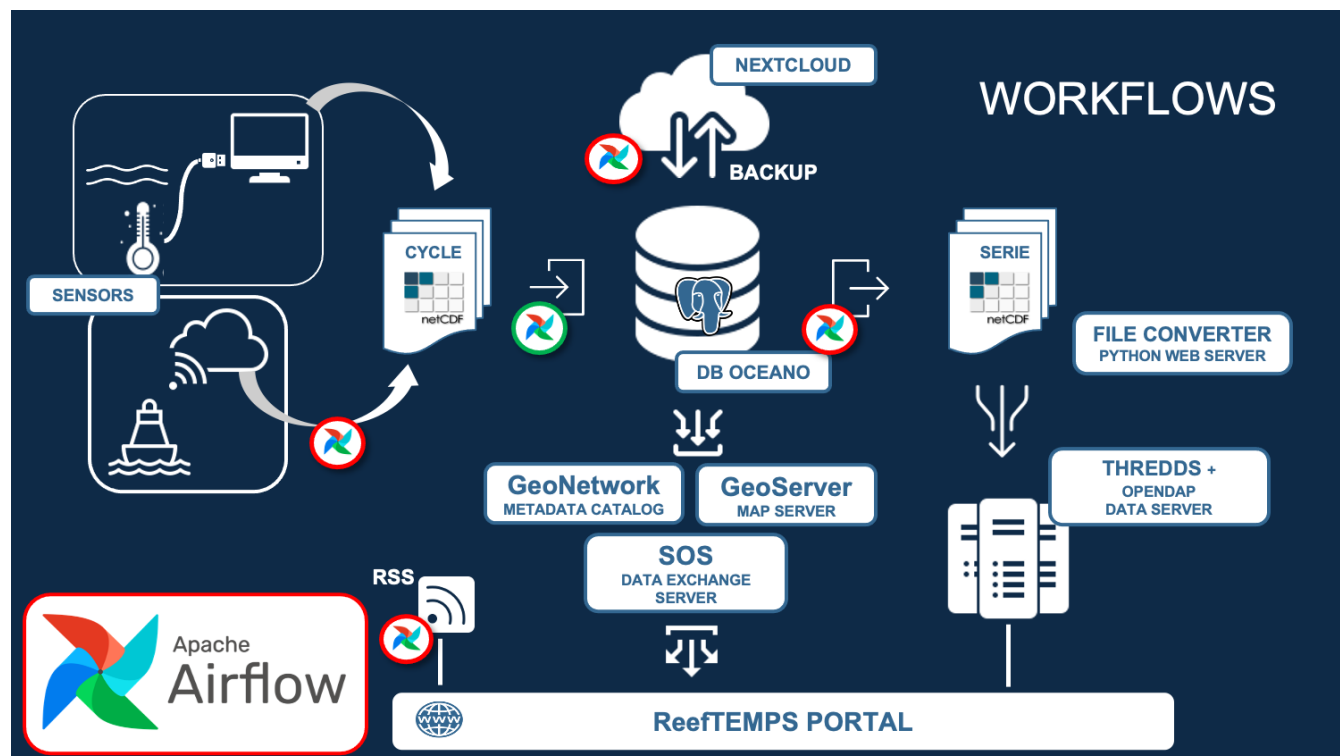
libelle	descriptif
BATHY	BATHY
BATFISH	BATFISH, OBLIQUE CTD TOWS CONVERTED TO VERTICAL TOWS
BOTTLE	BOTTLE
BATOS	METEO BATOS
DRIFTER	DRIFTER
BUOY	MOORED BUOY
ALACE	PROFILING ALACE FLOAT
TRACKOB	THERMOSALINOGRAPH IN REAL TIME
THERMISTOR	THERMISTOR CHAIN (DELAYED MODE)
ADCP	ADCP PROFIL
CM	CURRENT METER
CTD DOWN	CONDUCTIVITY TEMPERATURE DEPTH (CTD) DOWN CAST
CTD UP	CONDUCTIVITY TEMPERATURE DEPTH (CTD) UP CAST
CTD	CONDUCTIVITY TEMPERATURE DEPTH (CTD) UP OR DOWN CAST
MBT	MECHANICAL BATHYTHERMOGRAPH
TESAC	CONDUCTIVITY TEMPERATURE DEPTH (CTD) IN REAL TIME
TSG	THERMOSALINOGRAPH (DELAYED MODE)
XBT	EXPENDABLE BATHYTHERMOGRAPH
MG	TIDEGAUGE
XX	UNKNOWN



BUCKET	METEOROLOGICAL BUCKET
MULTIPARAMETER PROBE	MULTIPARAMETER PROBE
PHMETER	PH METER

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81
82

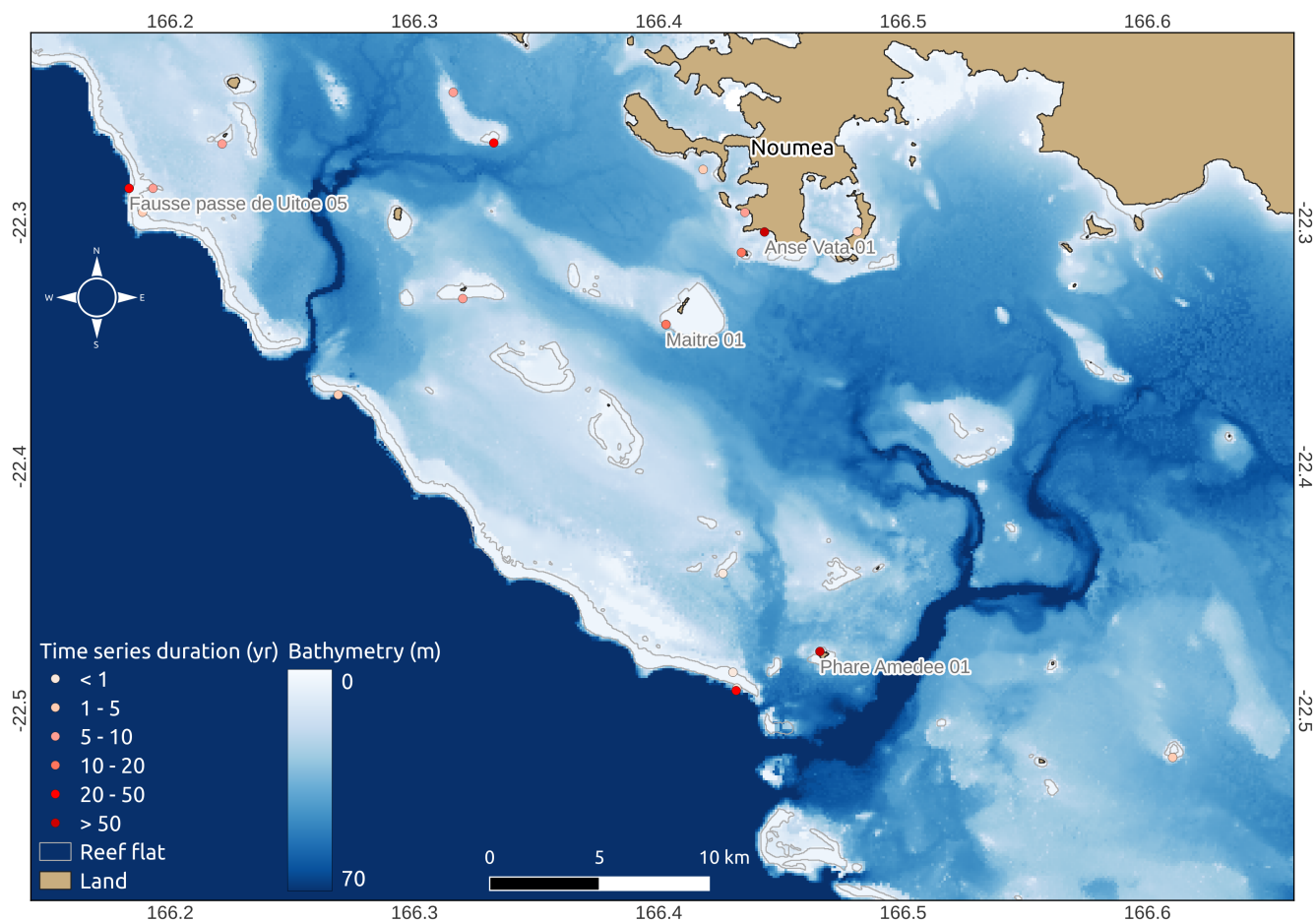
Appendix B



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Figure B1. ReefTEMPS data workflow

Appendix C



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Figure C1. ReefTEMPS stations in the South-West lagoon of New Caledonia