



7th SAPPHIRE PSC Meeting

Project results

“Strengthening sectoral policy and co-management of natural resources for better conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems in the Union of the Comoros”.

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Presentation of the Union of the Comoros

- The Union of the Comoros is an archipelago of 4 islands (Grande Comore, Anjouan, Mohéli and Mayotte, located in the north of the Mozambique Channel between the African continent and Madagascar. The Union of the Comoros covers an area of 2,236 km² with a total population of 936,833 inhabitants in 2023.
- The country gained independence in 1975, while the sister island of Mayotte was administered by France and became the 101st overseas Department in accordance with article 1 of French law No. 2001-616 of July 11, 2001 relating to Mayotte



Grande Comore



O C É A N I N D I E N

Anjouan



Mohéli



A r c h i p e l
d e s

C o m o r e s

Mayotte (FRANCE)





SOMALIA

UGANDA

KENYA

DEM. REP.
OF CONGO

RWANDA

BURUNDI

TANZANIA

SEYCHELLES

LA

ZAMBIA

MALAWI

COMOROS

MOZAMBIQUE

ZIMBABWE

MADAGASCAR

MAURITIUS

BOTSWANA

SWAZILAND



Overview of the fisheries management system

- **Institutional framework:**
 - At the top of the state
 - 3 Autonomous Islands
 - A General Directorate of Fisheries Resources (DGRH)
[CNCSP/ONCQCPH/Fisheries Statistics/applied research service]
 - 3 Regional Fisheries Directorates
 - Fishing communities covering 153 coastal villages
 - Fishing NGOs/Associations/Cooperatives



Overview of the fisheries management system, (2)

- **Policy framework:**
- National strategy for the development of Comorian fisheries, from 2004 under the aegis of the FAO, evaluated in 2020 and then drafted in 2021 through this project
- 2013 demersal fisheries management plan, evaluated in 2018 and another drafted and validated in 2021
- Emerging Comoros Plan of 2019, which takes the fishing sector into its second base together with the issues of the Blue economy.
- National Plan of Actions to combat IUU fishing (NPOA-IUU) which could not be adopted during the implementation of our project. However, it is currently being updated and will necessarily be adopted in 2024.



Overview of the fisheries management system, (3)

- **Legal framework:**

- UNCLOS, in 1996
- PSMA, in 2023
- UNFSA, 2023
- Fisheries and Aquaculture Act (Code), 2007, revised in 2020 is also currently being revised to align the Fisheries Code with international instruments in the fight against IUU fishing
- Since 2015 to 2021, more than twenty regulatory texts have been adopted and are contained in a blue booklet.



Edition 2021
RECUEIL DES TEXTES LEGISLATIFS ET
REGLEMENTAIRES SUR LA PÊCHE EN
UNION DES COMORES

VOLUME 1

Key data from the fishing sector

Designation	Dimension
Rib length	427 km
Area of the continental shelf	900 km ²
Area Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)	160,000 km ²
Number of fishermen	8,500
Indirect jobs	24,000
Occupancy rate	6% of the active population
Sector participation in GDP	≈ 8%
Foreign exchange participation	≈ 5%
Number of boats	5,000 including 30% motorized
Production	16,200 including 80% tuna (tons)
Price (FC/kg)	1000
Turnover of boats	16.2 billion KMF
VA rate	60%
VA boats	9.72 billion KMF
Loss rate after capture	10%
Marketed volume	14,580 tonnes
Reseller margin	300 KMF/Kg
VA resellers	4.374 billion KMF
Total artisanal fishing value	14.094 billion KMF
Contribution from fishing agreements (2006-2010): Annual fishing potential under licenses, Total annual financial contribution	6000 tons 380 million KMF
State contribution under exemption	150 million KMF
Sector credit (AMIE and FADC via BDC in Million FC)	70
Consumption per capita (kg/year)	29



Context & justification of the project

- **The project is halfway to the following observation :**
- **Local management plans (LMP) for natural resources are developed and constitute** references to strengthen co-management. LMP areas feature both rich and vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems. These areas are notable for the presence of a discontinuous but relatively important reef zone. This presence of a reef expanse is a source of biological wealth and diversity.
- **However, these reef areas and this biodiversity are in the process of deterioration** due to (i) land erosion favored by the intensity of the rains, the rugged nature of the relief especially in Anjouan, deforestation, destructive agricultural practices of the environment and sources of land-based pollution, (ii) widespread extraction of sand from beaches and pebbles, (iii) fishing techniques using non-selective gear favoring the destruction of species and their natural habitats.
- **We realize that the areas of the 3 LMP cover 26 villages** for an estimated population of more **than 60,000 inhabitants**, more than 75% of whom carry out fishing activities. The strong human pressure on vulnerable natural capital is visible when it comes mainly to fishing activities in coastal areas.



Project implementation

- **Objective of the project:**
- Strengthening co-management for the sustainable preservation of marine and coastal ecosystems by implementing 3 pilot Local Management Plans (LMP) which cover 26 villages spread across the 3 islands
- **Project development objective:**
- Ensuring sustainable management of fisheries resources through good artisanal fishing governance through co-management and preservation of coastal and marine ecosystems
- **3 results** : (i) sustainable exploitation of resources, (ii) preservation of ecosystems and reduction of the impacts of human activity on the environment, (iii) improvement of the living and working conditions of fishermen
- **Co-financed project, 130, 000 USD (including USD 120,000 for SAPPHIRE)**
- Project duration is 2 years until December 2021. with an extension until December 2022.

Category	Nairobi Convention Support	Co-financing (in kind)	Total
Personnel	1,400.00	2,800.00	4,200.00
Equipment	00.00	4,300.00	4,300.00
Operating costs	10,800.00	1,750.00	12,550.00
Contract Services	105,800.00	00.00	105,800.00
Travel	2,000.00	1,750.00	3,750.00
Sum in USD	120000.00	10,600.00	130,600.00



The main progress recorded

- The sectoral fisheries policy was evaluated and then drafted
- Texts on fishing, particularly on the regulation of fishing gear, have been written
- 150 fishermen have benefited from training (sustainable fishing around FADs, fight against IUU fishing, management of micro-projects, etc.), awareness-raising and income-generating activities.
- The development of the national plan of action to combat IUU fishing (NPOA-IUU)
- Advocacy for the ratification of international legal instruments binding on the fight against IUU fishing (PSMA, UNFSA, etc.)
- More than 3 ha have been cleaned each year (especially with the support of the municipalities)
- Co-management agreement of natural resources has been consolidated.



Lessons learned (1)

- **Lessons learned and challenges:**
- The project was too ambitious with a very limited budget. The project has set, for example, a number of 150 to 300 fishermen to benefit from IGAs, with very reduced sums to embark on micro-projects, particularly in the poultry sector. Since the Union of the Comoros is an archipelago, each island has distinct cultural and economic characteristics. At this level, it is the island of Anjouan which has benefited greatly from IGAs because of the poverty rate compared to the other islands.
- Among the challenges, the drafted texts and governance documents have not been adopted (legal texts, NPOA-IUU). Once again it was necessary to take the experience of the SWIOFish1 project which set an objective of 21 legal texts to be adopted for 5 years which was not achieved, we can ask ourselves the question how in 2 years our project will be able to adopt more than 10 texts?
- Coordination of the project was difficult to execute, the Coordinator also played the role of financial manager. This responsibility should be taken care of by the Comorian side, but since there were no costs, the responsibility fell to the Coordinator



Lessons learned (2)

- The island particularity of our country meant that the Coordinator would have a substantial budget to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the project, even though the budget was very limited. He has to travel from one island to another for better implementation of the project. The budget existed but it was minimized.
- The disbursement approach was cumbersome to execute. All expenses must be validated by the Administrative and Financial Director and the Director General of Fisheries. this validation can take a long time and hamper the completion of the planned activity
- The Coordinator was not well motivated in terms of compensation to carry out work which is beyond his own activities if not beyond his terms of reference
- The amount of 120,000 USD would have been more beneficial if it was intended for a single island but to avoid frustration on the other islands, it was necessary to extend the project to the 3 islands even though the budget was not substantial to achieve more. of activities

Training on fishing techniques around FADs



Coastal clean-up Day at Mitsamiouli



Coastal clean-up Day at Mitsamiouli (2)





The recommendations

- **The SAPPHIRE program must facilitate the recruitment of, in addition to a Coordinator, at least one financial manager who will be paid by the project to facilitate good implementation.**
- **The program must facilitate the opening of an account dedicated to the project whose authorizing officers will be the Coordinator and the Financial Manager of the project**
- **Being a small island country, the SAPPHIRE program must take into account the island particularity of the Union of the Comoros for the execution of a project to make the planned activities visible and coherent throughout the archipelago.**
- **Certainly there is a national focal point for the Nairobi Convention, but it must give another consideration to the fishing sector in terms of communication and sharing of information so that the fishing sector can benefit from projects and participation in the major meetings of the Convention**



Obrigado
Merci
Thanks
Asante
Msotra
Marahaba