



A REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANS IN THE COMOROS

Dr Kamal Thabiti

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E€OFISH INTEGRATED PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT UNIT

Blue Tower | 4th Floor | Rue de L'institut

Ebène 72201 | Mauritius | Tel: +230 402 6100

info@ecofish-programme.org

www.ecofish-programme.org



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A review of the National Fisheries Management Plans in the Comoros

Dr. Kamal Thabiti Soudjay

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List of abbreviation

ADSEI	Association de Développement Socio-Économique d'Itsamia
BDC	Banque Centrale des Comores
CNCSP	Centre Nationale de Contrôle et de Surveillance des Pêches
CNDRS	Centre Nationale de Documentation et des Recherche Scientifiques
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CoReCSUD	Co-management of Coastal Resources for Sustainable Livelihood
DGRH	Direction Générale des Ressources Halieutiques
DRP	Direction Régionale de la pêche
EU	European Union
EWE	Extreme Weather Event
FAD	Fishing Aggregating Devices
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDFR	General Directorate for Fisheries Resources
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HDI	Human Development Index
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IOFC	Indian Ocean Fishery Commission agreement
INSEED	Institut Nationale de la Statistique et des Études Économiques et Démographiques
INRAPE	Institut National de Recherche d'Agriculture, de la Pêche et de l'Environnement
IUU	Illegal Unreported and Unregulated
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MMP	Moheli Marine Park
MCS	Maritime Control and Surveillance
RENAP	Réseau Nationale d'Aire Marine Protégé
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCA2D	Stratégie de Croissance Accélérée pour le développement Durable
SEACAM	Secretariat for Eastern Africa Coastal Area Management

SIDS	Small Island Developing State
SWIO	Southwest Indian Ocean region
SWIOC	Southwest Indian Ocean Commission agreement
SWIOFC	Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
SWIOFISH	Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project
SWOT	Strength Weakness Opportunity and Threat
TOR	Term of Reference
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Country overview

The fisheries sub sector is small-scale and artisanal and contributes significantly not only to the socio-economy but also for improving the livelihood of disadvantaged family in the rural area. In terms of jobs creation, it contributes to direct jobs (8,500) and indirect jobs (24,000) for man and woman. It employs to approximately 6% of the active population.

The Comoros EEZ straddles the important tuna fishing grounds at the mouth of the Mozambique Channel. Pelagic fishing involves both domestic and foreign industrial fleets. The main species targeted by domestic artisanal fisheries are pelagic fish. Demersal fishing is mainly carried out by traditional and artisanal fleets (Breuil, 2018). The annual production is estimated at 18,000 tons of fish whilst the country's existing potential is 33,000 tones of tuna and tuna like species, and a global turnover estimated to 28 billion of the Comorian francs (DGRH, 2020).

1.2 Key objectives of the study and structure of the report

1.2.1 Objectives of the study

The objective of the study is to assess the existing fisheries management plans, additional priorities fisheries and related legal framework/policies in Comoros. The study form part of strategic action 1.2 of the ECOFISH programme. Ecofish is a programme implemented by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) secretariat and funded by the European Union (EU). The objective of the project is to enhance an equitable economic growth by promoting sustainable fisheries in the EA-SA-IO region.

1.2.2 Structure of the report

The report is divided into four main chapters, including the introduction and background.

Chapter 2 gives a brief description of the fisheries sector of Comoros. The third and the fourth chapters relates to the governance of the fisheries sector and the national fisheries management plans and others priority fisheries in Comoros conclusion is provided at the end of the report.

2. FISHERIES OF COMOROS

2.1 Fisheries sub-sector profiles and activities

➤ **Industrial fisheries**

The industrial fisheries are dominated by foreign tuna fleets under Spanish, French and Seychelles flags.

The entire harvested fish is exported to other fishing countries (almost 80% is processed in one of the following South-west Indian Ocean (SWIO) countries: Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Kenya) without being landed or transhipped in Comorian waters. This industrial fishery was stated a long time ago, probably from 1988, until 2017, when the agreement is ceased. Some private access agreements between Comoros and foreign private companies (non-EU foreign tuna fleets) are also and still operating in the Comorian waters.

➤ **Semi-industrial fisheries**

The semi-industrial fisheries were operated by a Comorian company named COMPECHE. However due to financial difficulties the company ceased its activities.

➤ **Artisanal fisheries**

The Comorian fisheries sector is principally artisanal and dominated by domestic fleet (small boats)¹. It targets mainly the large pelagic and pelagic fisheries (Tuna and tuna like spp.) and has an autonomous limit of time at sea and can embark only two fishermen (maximum three fishermen). The total Products harvest are sold in the national and local market. Additionally, in 2004 the National Centre for



¹ Vessel made by fiberglass powered by outboard motors of 15 to 25 HP and 6m length.

Control and Surveillance of fishers (CNCSP) has estimated almost 5006 artisanal fishing boats. Each boat has one outboard engine of 15 HP.

Fishing techniques include simple hand lining. It consists of a line, a hook and an artificial bait. Depending on the resources targeted, reef fish, groundfish or large pelagic fish (tunas and some sharks), fishermen use different diameters of wire and different sizes of hooks. This fishing equipment are all imported.

➤ **Modern-artisanal fisheries**

The modern or advanced fisheries is commonly called “Lazarus Fisheries” is a new domestic fishery which utilize fishing vessel made of fiberglass with maximum of two (2) outboard engines of 40 HP. The vessels are equipped with ice- boxes and have a length of 9 m. They, generally target the demersal fisheries in the Lazarus bank. The entire catch is sold in the domestic market.

➤ **Traditional fisheries**

The traditional fisheries involve small wooden canoes without engine (motor) and operate generally in the costal fringe (less than 2 to 3 nautical miles). It targets mainly the demersal fisheries in coastal waters and sometimes they fish around the coastal Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD’s).

➤ **Fishing on foot**

Fishing on foot is operated on the coral reef zone during the lower tide. It is dominated by women and targets demersal resources, including the octopus and small demersal fishes. The destructive fishing methods are not recommended as the destruction of corals are rampant.



2.2 Catch volume and economic value

2.2.1 Number and distribution of fishers

Table 1: Describes the number and distribution of the fishers

Island	Number of fishers with artisanal vessel)	Number of fishers (fishing on foot)
Moheli	804	572
Anjouan	3 798	3 790
Grande-Comores	3 908	10 474
Total	8 510	14 836

Source: (DGRH, 2019)

2.2.2 Catch volume

The national production for the year 2019 is Given below:

Table 2: National fish production in 2019

Island	Year	Production (tons)
Moheli	2019	1 279
Anjouan	2019	10 794
Grande-Comores	2019	5 527
Total	2019	17 600

Source: (DGRH, 2020)

2.2.3 Economic value

The economic value of the fisheries sector for the last four years is given Table 3.

Table 3: Economic contribution of the national fleets

Economic value	Year	2017	2018	2019	2020
Economic value (000 kmf)		25,170,928	25,373,137	27,401,139	28,623,986

Source: (DGRH, 2018 and 2021)

2.2.4 Non-governmental key actors: Fisher communities, Private sector and Civil Society Organisations

The professional organizations (fishermen trade unions, cooperatives professional syndicate....) are largely involved in the management process. Table 4 presents the number of professional organizations in Comoros.

Most of the Comorian fishermen are now grouped together in professional organizations present at several levels: associations/cooperatives at village level, regional union at the level of the three islands, and national union at country level.

These organizations are nevertheless still poorly structured and ineffective overall and suffer from a certain lack of legitimacy due in part to the confusion between cooperatives, associations and unions which may have led to conflicts of interest.

Table 4: Distribution of the professional fishers' organizations

Island	Number of professional cooperatives/associations	Number of fishermen affiliated to those cooperatives/ associations
Moheli	21	600
Anjouan	45	3,000
Grande-Comores	55	4,000
Total	121	7,600

Source: (Breuil, 2018)

2.2.5 NGOs

- DAHARI: is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) based in Anjouan and Grande Comores with a slogan "The Comoros of today and tomorrow". Its intervenes in marine resource management, biodiversity conservation, natural resources management and Agricultural development.
- Association pour le Développement Socio-Économique d'Itsamia (ADSEI): is an Association based on the Environmental protection, especially marine species (Sea turtle: Kelomonia Mydas) and other species under the control of the Moheli Marine Park. With a heavy experience, the activities of the ADSEI are well known at the national and international level. It is based in Itsamia Moheli and has many collaborations with other associations within Moheli island, but also in whole of the country. Its activities are co-management-based and has collaboration with the GDFR.

2.2.6 Regional Institution Linkages

Comoros have signed a number of treaties, conventions and agreement with other countries or organisations.

2.3 Policy and legal frameworks governing the fisheries sector

2.3.1 Strategies development of the fisheries sector

Historically since independence in 1975, fisheries were considered as a subsistence sector i.e to meet the needs of the population. In 1994, the Agricultural strategy development (including both the agriculture and fisheries sector's) was set up to cater for development. However, the fisheries sector was left behind until 2004, when the FAO provided for the development of the sector through the fisheries policy and development strategy (FAO funded).

2.3.2 Accelerated Growth Strategy and Sustainable Development (SCA2D:2015-2019)

The Accelerated Growth Strategy and Sustainable Development (commonly known in French as SCA2D 2015-2019) highlighted fisheries as a key sector to promote economic growth in Comoros. The first pillar of the document described the acceleration, the diversification and the sustainable growth. The main points relate to increase in the fisheries production and harvest to combat the food security issues and improve the economic growth and wellbeing of the population, especially local fisherman (SCA2D, 2014).

2.3.3 Doha Conference

The Doha conference in March 2010 did not yield the expected output, despite important investment in infrastructures and equipment by the mix-fisheries company (Société Nationale des Peches and the Comorian government (including some private sector investors) and the Qatar government. The new long-term vision and planning (Plan Comores Emergeant) is defined as a long-term strategy for reinforcement of the sustainable growth of the maritime sectors and is designed for achieving an emerging country by 2030. The plan considers the Blue Economy as the second pillar for promoting structural transformation to revive the economy. Two categories of interventions are targeted:

- The establishment of an integrated maritime policy through the improvement of the knowledge and access to marine information, effective management and sustainable marine activities.

- Specific targeted activities approach, such as: Aquaculture, Coastal tourism, marine biotechnologies, marine energy and seabed mining, while protecting the marine environment.

2.4 Regulatory frameworks with regards to Fisheries management plans

The latest formulation of the fishing and aquaculture code under the the "DECRET N° 20-051 PR: Portant promulgation de la loi N° 19-05/AU portant révision du Code des Pêches et de L'Aquaculture, Loi N°07-011/AU du 29 aout 2007". The fisheries regulations define the sustainable management of the fisheries resources and management measures (Heading 4 (chapiter 1, 2, 3 and 4)) (<http://www.comorespeche.org/images/images/documents/cadre/REVISION-CODE-DE-LA-PECHE-2020.pdf>).

3. NATIONAL COUNTRY'S FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANS

3.1 Moheli Marine Park

For protecting the biodiversity and promote biodiversity conservation stewardship while achieving ecological sustainability development via the enhancement of economic activities, the Moheli Marine Park (MMP) is created on April 19, 2001, by the decree n° 01053/CE and was the first Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Comoros. It is placed under the supervision of the minister in charge of environment and covers a total area of 404 km² (10 villages & 5.5% of the parc area) and the coastal line is approximately 100km.

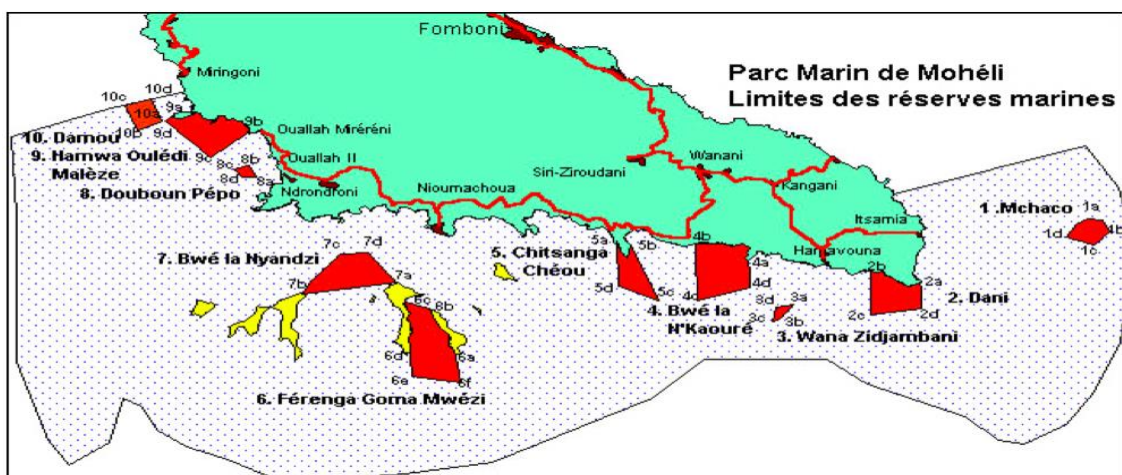


Figure 6: Moheli Marine Park. The black line indicates the boundary of the marine reserve.

The MMP is designed based on a co-management approach, and many activities² are forbidden, including fishing activities, e.g. The destructive fishing methods and practices concentrated in the Moheli Marine Park.

This includes dynamite fishing, fishing with plant poison (theptosia), clams fishing with a crowbar, diving with harpoon, coastal net fishing, bottom and drift gillnet fishing, octopus fishing with a crowbar, speargun fishing, etc.

So far, no agreements have been signed between the MMP managers and the fisher association.

3.2 Regional Plan for Control and Surveillance of Fisheries (PRSP)

Since 2007, Comoros has adhered to the PRSP regional initiative.

The general objective of this regional plan³ is to cooperate to tackle the issue of IUU fishing in the region.

This regional cooperation has been beneficial to Comoros, in building capacity for fisheries inspectors, the setting up of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and active participation in sea and air patrol in the EEZ of Comoros and /or other IOC countries.

3.3 Co-management

The co-management approach is not new to the Comorian fisheries sector, but the real co-management activities was initiated by a project entitled "Co-Management of Coastal Resources for Sustainable Livelihoods (CoReCSUD), financed by the World Bank. The co-management project covered 10 coastal fishing sites (10 villages) located between the reef and the tidal zone. The success of the project encouraged the fisheries managers to continue the co-management activities.

From 2015, the SWIOFISH 1 project implemented over six-year period and the co-management are among the key features of the project. Six (6) villages signed the co-management agreement and started concrete co-management activities. The agreement has been signed between the fisheries managers, the representative of the mayor, and the representatives of the fisher associations.

From 2015, the SWIOFISH 1 project has been implementing a project on co-management, overfishing, net fishing, dynamite fishing etc.

Table 6: Fisheries management plans, year and implemented status in Comoros

² Only the ecotourism and research activities are allowed.

³ <https://www.commissionoceanindien.org/portfolio-items/programme-regional-de-surveillance-des-peches/>

No.	Fisheries Management Plan and year developed	Plan approved and implemented	year implemented
1	Small nets, cast net, anchovies & sardinellas, 2013	Yes	2017
2	Small nets, beach seine, fish, 2013	Yes	2017
3	Diving, speargun, fish, 2016	Yes	2016
4	Hook & line, trolling, fish, 2013	Yes	2017
5	Small nets, drift nets, fish, 2013	Yes	2017
6	Hook & line, vertical lines, fish, 2013	Yes	2017
TOTAL	6	6	6

Table 7: SWOT analysis of the co-management plans

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small scale fisheries operating in the coastal zone, using new fishing techniques and methods and involves only national fleets. - The 2004 fisheries policy and strategies development has strongly supported this fishery. - Many Associations and professional cooperative are being created. 	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring, and evaluation are poor. Performance indicators needs to be reviewed. - need for a sustainable autonomous financial mechanism to finance the co-management plan budget. - Research and data collection are poor - Ecological risk assessment & stock assessment poor. - Scientific research prior to the formulation of the co-management plan lacking or poor.
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The implementation of the co-management approach presents a huge opportunity for addressing overfishing and destructive fishing practices and methods/ tackle the issue of Open Access/ modernise the sector. 	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate change (sea level rise/ ocean acidification) is threat for all fisheries. - Lack of funding

3.3.1 Implementation – Success – Gaps

Small-scale fishing provides a vital safety net for the disadvantaged groups in the Comoros, as it is a source of self-employment for many poor people (Breuil et al., 2014).

SSF are predominantly open-access - common property rights without adequate community-based management norms and standards and an informal economy. Thus, the health/productivity of these fisheries resources and habitats is compromised due to overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices which are exacerbated by demographic growth, land-based and maritime pollutions and environmental stressors such as climate change and Extreme Weather Events (EWE). Having a standard management plan (co-management) would be desirable to prevent the negative impacts. Comoros has implemented 6 management plans. It is almost 3 years, since the implementation (2017) and so far, no assessment has been done. From the lessons learned, it is obvious that capacity gaps need to be tackled urgently.

Table 8: illustration of the capacity gaps and ways to tackle.

Capacity gaps	Ways to tackle
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poor communication including the media on co-management activities such as conferences, debates, reports, etc., ▪ Ignorance of the social responsibility within the fisheries value chain. ▪ Covid-19 has seriously impacted the co-management activities in field work. ▪ Conflicts between villages (example between Wallah 1 and Ndrondroni). - lack/poor training for the fisheries communities and the fisherman. - Any sustainable financial mechanism in the long-term ways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication improvement ▪ Taking social aspect very import in whole the vale chain. ▪ Extend the co-management and avoid villages with historical conflicts. ▪ Package of capacity building for the communities, fishers and fisheries associations. ▪ Development of a sustainable financial mechanism.

3.4 Other priority fisheries not currently under management plans

It is to be noted that co-management plan is a new approach to management and has just started since 2017. Basically, most of the small-scale fisheries (pelagic and small demersal) are still on open access. Thus, extending co-management would be helpful for the fisheries management. New species such as lobster fisheries may be a good candidate for co-management.

Therefore, a prior study is needed, namely on the socioeconomics of the species and also conduct a stock assessment would be desirable. The present species under co-management will have to continue under the present regime.

3.5 Budget allocated

- The budget of the fisheries sector in Comoros depends on strictly the fisheries agreement, either private or from the European Union. There is no or limited funding from the government through the national budget.
- Before the denunciation of the agreement, Comoros was earning USD 1.3 million every year as licences fees from foreign fishing vessels. In 2017, the license fees represented some 0.7% of the country's total national revenues.

Key challenges to the implementation of management plans.

➤ Financial issue

All of the fisheries co-management plans that exist are supported financially and technically by project/s. Thus, at the end of the project the activities are automatically stopped. Hence the sustainability of the activities is not considered. It is therefore urgent that a sustainable financial mechanism be developed as soon as possible.

➤ Human resources

There is a serious lack of higher-level fisheries experts at the GDFR level and also at the IRDFR. Most of the formulated co-management plans was coupled with some capacity building. It is therefore important that any co-management plans should be followed with capacity building package at different levels: fisheries managers, fishermen and fisheries communities.

3.6 Key opportunities of the implementation of the management plans and other priority fisheries

There are a lot of key opportunities for the implementation of the management plan and other priority fisheries, such as:

- Improve the fisheries management structures (ecosystem management strategies, harvest strategies and control, fisheries management structure, stock assessment, fisheries monitoring and assessment, compliance and monitoring, fisheries performance and evaluation, etc...).
- Contribute to the sustainability of the fisheries resources,
- Guide the fisheries communities and reduce the human pressures on the resources and habitat and promote multi-stakeholder consultation and dialogue (government, fishery communities, NGOs, regional Fishery Organisations, scientific institutions, and donor agencies).
- Promote biological sustainability.

3.7 Future planning

3.7.1 Importance of the blue economy

Comoros is an archipelago located in a tuna-rich area at the mouth of the Mozambique Channel. Furthermore, the land areas including the agricultural land is estimated at 1,861 Km² and the EEZ is estimated to 160,000 Km². The government considers the development of the sea and marine activities as a priority to boost the economy of the country. The Fisheries sector can definitely contribute to the long-term goals of Comoros as an "emerging country by 2030". And the Blue Economy approach is presently under consideration as a unique and a new approach that could help fulfil the dreams and the political objective of the population and government of the Comoros.

3.7.2 Extension of the co-management

Lobster fisheries presents a real potential for development and maybe socio-economically important. It has many advantages and can be considered for the co-management approach in Comoros. However, some studies such as stock and ecological risk assessment, an analysis of the value chain, and a socioeconomic study of the Lobster fisheries should be carried out prior to considering the Lobster fisheries for co-management extension.

3.7.3 Recommendations

- Promote biologically sustainable and financially viable integrated fisheries as a growth engine for shared prosperity at the local and national levels. Since external funding might be challenging in the future, partner countries should think of mobilising domestic resources through a wealth management approach, including the financing of fisheries management through a reasonable economic rent taxed on all consumers of fisheries products. The government being thus accountable for the effective use of that money (for fisheries management and development).

- Promote effective collaboration and cooperation in the fisheries sector.
- Promote multi stakeholder consultation and dialogue (government, fishery communities, NGOs, regional Fishery Organisations, scientific institutions, and donor agencies) as part of a co-management approach.
- Unleash the development of potential of the sector whilst integrating Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) components, fisheries management tool and Marine Spatial Planning in a Blue Economy perspective. Sustainable Development Reference System (SDRS) may be considered to improve fisheries and create growth in fisheries and its sub-sectors.
- Complement the FMP studies with a separate Monitoring, Control and Surveillance study (through Ecofish), to address the open-access issue with proper access rights regulation.
- Blend biological research with the socio-economic aspects to develop an operationalisation matrix.
- Reconnect the national and regional policies.
- Modernisation of the Small-Scale Fisheries sector, improving value chain, tackling post-harvest losses, capacity building, and innovative rights-based/ ecosystem-based approach to management in fisheries

4. CONCLUSION

The Comorian fisheries is a very important sector for this country. It creates jobs for men and women, provides for food security, especially for the disadvantaged families, and brings in the much-needed foreign exchange. The open access of the fisheries sector may pose a problem the longer term. So far, only six fisheries (6) are co-managed and have concrete co-management activities. Despite the efforts for the co-management formulation, the level of enforcement of the few regulations in place is very low and catch control and inputs control as management measures are limited. Harvest strategy, and rules, including monitoring, review and evaluation of the harvest strategy are very poor and insufficient. In terms of fisheries research, there has been very little done. Very few stock assessments have been done before the formulation of the management plans. On the other hand, the Lobster fisheries presents a socio-economic advantage for co-management extension and could be considered following scientific research and analysis.

The Covid-19 have impacted seriously on the co-management activities in Comoros, especially for the field work. The Fisheries sector is pretty resilient and can rebound if the right conditions are provided.

ANNEX 1: Some National statistics

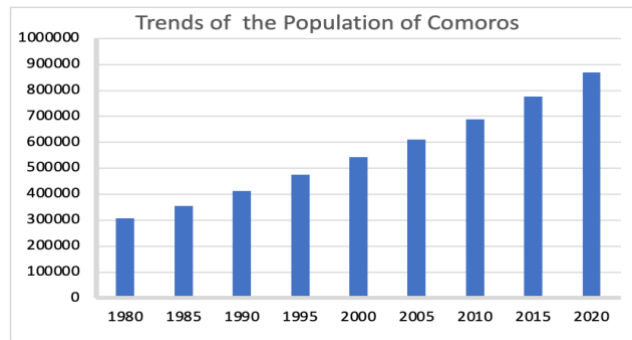


Figure 7: Population of Comoros

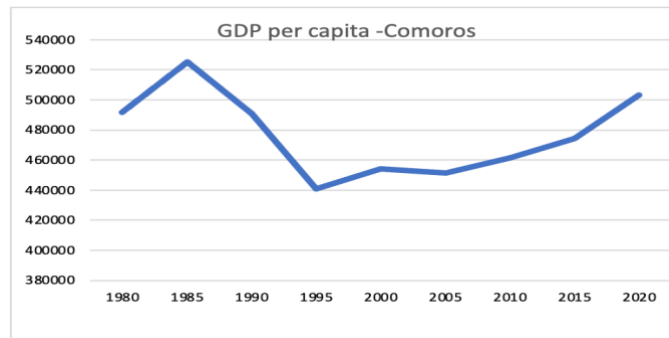


Figure 8: GDP per capita

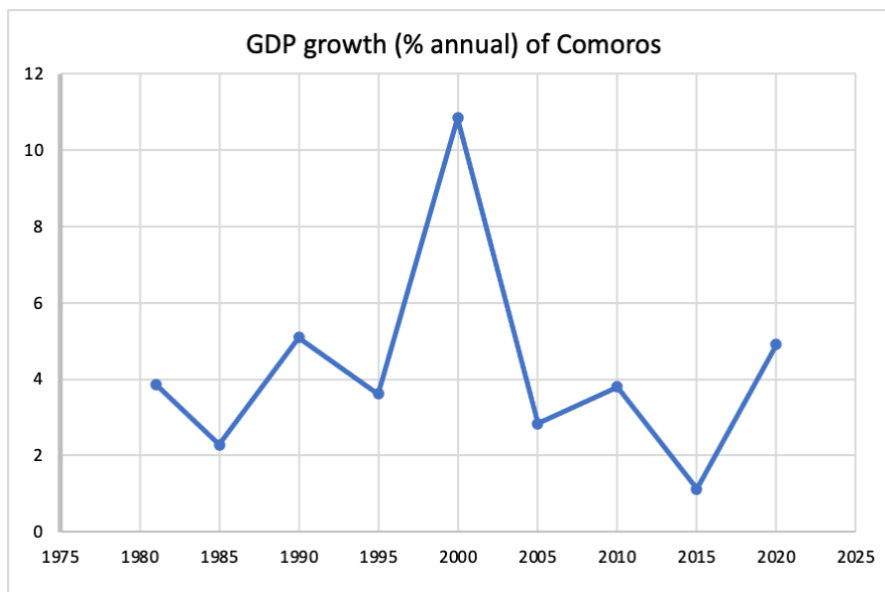


Figure 9: GDP growth of Comoros

ANNEX 2: List of key National Country Stakeholders and person met during the study

Name and family name	Fonction/Institutions	Mobile (+269)	E-mail
Youssouf Ali Mohamed	Deputy Director/ Directorate General for Fisheries Resources/ Coordinator-SWIOFish1	336 69 11	Youssoufmed69@yahoo.fr
Houdoir Soilihi	Assist-Coordinator/ SWIOFish1	333 28 89	houdhoir@yahoo.fr
Ibrahim Mohamed Tohir	Former CoReCSUD coordiantor/ Responsable for the co-mangement activities-SWIOFISH1/Assit. Tech. DGRH	325 76 25	toihyr@gmail.com
Abdilllah Zoubeiri Mgomdri	Director/CNCSP	333 62 50	Hazouzaiwa20@gmail.com
Housoiyine Houssene	Responsible in safeguard/ National Park of Shissiwani/DGEF	328 59 80	h.housoyni@yahoo.fr
Fahadi Hamdani	Regional Director for Fisheries/ Direction for Fisheries Resources of Moheli	339 53 63	fahaddrpmoili@mail.com
Said Abdoulbak Attoumane Bacar	Insular coordinator/ SWIOFISH-Moheli	320 31 75	attoumanebacar@yahoo.fr
Nidhoimi Attoumane	Animateur/SWIOFISH1	343 80 98	
Mouchtadi Bamdou	Responsible in charge of marine and coastal study/Moheli Marine Park	321 12 69	mouchtadimadi@yahoo.fr
Ben Antoiya	Executive Director /Moheli Marine Park	340 80 18	benanthoy@yahoo.fr
Halifa Zoubdou	General Secretary/ADSEI-Association	323 07 24	hzouboudou@yahoo.fr
Attoumane Ahmada	President/Fisher Association of Wallah 1	342 61 72	
Badroudine Ahamada	President of the National Fish s Association	325 23 65	
Amil Affane Nounou	Regional Director for Fisheries/ Direction for Fisheries Resources of Anjouan	324 26 01	amil842001@yahoo.fr
Misbahou Mohamed	Directeur/DAHARI-NGO	334 72 10	misbahou.mohamed@daharicomores.org

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ANNEX 4: Fisheries Sector

Governance

Institutional structure/ Administration in charge of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Blue Economy/ General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture

The fisheries resource management in Comoros is done by the Ministry of Fisheries through the General Directorate for Fisheries Resources (GDFR) and the Island Regional Directorate for Fisheries Resources (DRP). The GDFR is in charge of fisheries policy design, fisheries strategies development, planning and collaboration and cooperation with the DRP for the implementation.

General Directorate of Blue Economy

The blue economy approach is still a slogan, and few concrete activities are done, such as the nomination of the National Focal Point (NFP) and the setting up of the national blue economy committee. The NFP is from the Foreign Affairs Ministry and only one person is representing the GDFR at the blue economy committee. Currently the DGRH is working on opening an operational Economy Observatory for the blue economy.

Other related Governmental institutions

Some other governmental institutions are implicated either directly or indirectly with the GDFR for different fisheries management and research activities.

➤ **Moheli Marine Park**

Moheli Marine Park is the first MPA in Comoros. It is designed following a co-management approach and is linked directly to the fishery's co-management process. Many management measures have been put in place.

- National Network for Marine Protected Areas (NNMPA or RENAP in French) is a new autonomous institution created under the umbrella of the General Directorate for Environment and Forest (GDEF or DGEF in French). It is linked directly to the GDFR and has some cooperation activities for implementation fisheries of co-management measures.
- National Center for Document and Scientific Research (NCDSR or CNDRS in French) is an autonomous institution for document archive and scientific research. It is linked indirectly in the fishery's co-management process. But still has collaboration with the GDFR for conducting research and applied research.

- National Institute for Environmental, Agricultural and Fisheries Research (NIEAFR or INRAPE in French) is an institute and among its main objective is conducting fisheries stock assessments. It is directly linked with the GDFR in different research activities, such as the octopus fisheries assessment.

- Coast Garde: is directly working with the DGRH. And it has some pilot activities with the National Center for Control and Surveillance of Fisheries (CNCSP) designed for implementation some co-management measures and secure of the fisherman.

ANNEX 5: Donors and Related Programmes

Some historical fisheries projects and programmes

Project and programme names	General and specifics targets	Period	Donors and amount in Euros
Cooperation Programme with Japan (JICA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve production means and techniques - Capacity building of stakeholders - Sea rescue 	1981-1986	JICA (2,5 million)
Artisanal Fisheries Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure conservation for development (cold rooms) - Manufacture of boats - Facilitate the transport of goods on the islands - Facilitate access to credit 	1982-1985	African Development Bank (2,3 million whereof only 611 000 have been used)
FAO Technical Cooperation Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administrative assistance of the fisheries services and department - Strengthening of the fisheries policy and regulatory framework 	1986-1987 (TCP/COI/4504) 1989-1990 (TCP/COI/8851) 2002-2004 TCP/COI/2902)	FAO (403 000)
Comorian artisanal fisheries development programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manufacture of motorized boats - Improve fishing techniques - Mechanical capacity building, preservation - Facilitate access to credit. 	1987-1993	European Development Funds (3,2 million)
The development project of Tuna fisheries in the Indian Ocean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of new fishing techniques - Increase tuna production - Fishermen training - Management and monitoring of tuna resources - Introduction to industrial fishing on a regional level 	1990-1996	European Development Funds (5 million whereof 600 000 for specific Comorian support)
Regional project on Tuna tagging in the Indian Ocean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation of the regional tuna resources 	2005-2009	European Development Funds (14 million)
Regional pilot project for the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen the capacity of resource evaluation and monitoring 	2005-2008	European Development Funds

Monitoring, Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elimination of illegal fishing 		(3,5 million) whereof 150 000 for specific Comorian support
Regional Plan of Surveillance of Fisheries (PRSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional level cooperation against the INN fishing - carrying out targeted and dissuasive controls based on the analysis of fleet activities data relevant to the scale of each -fishery. - Pooling the existing resources of the coastal States of the region, in order to consolidate and perpetuate their operational intergovernmental mechanism for regional fisheries control and surveillance. 	2007-2014	European Development Funds (12 million)
Smart fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote the economic and social development of the countries of East Africa and Southern and Indian Ocean (ESA-OI). - Deepen regional integration, through the sustainable exploitation of fishery and aquaculture resources. 		European Development Funds (21 million)
SWIOFISH1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening regional collaboration. - Improved governance of priority fisheries. - Increased economic benefits from priority fisheries. 	2015-2021	World Bank Group (11,199,656 million)
Project GCP/RAF/520/JPN (Strengthen livelihoods, food security and maritime security by improving the resilience of fishing communities dependent on coral reef fishing).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvement of the management of coral reef and FAD fisheries, both for restoration and protection and for income generation (through the diversification of fishing). - Improvement of fishing value chains and market access for coral reef and FAD fishery products. - reduction of IUU fishing and strengthening of maritime safety. - Improvement and sharing of knowledge on improving the management of coral reef fisheries. 		Japon (3,790,652)

Ecofish Beneficiary country	- Enhance an equitable economic growth by promoting sustainable fisheries in the East South African and the Indian Ocean region.	2019-2024	European Development Funds (24 million)
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ECOFISH INTEGRATED PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT UNIT

BLUE TOWER | 4th FLOOR | RUE DE L'INSTITUT | EBÈNE 72201 | MAURITIUS | TEL: +230 402 6100

info@ecofish-programme.org

www.ecofish-programme.org