



BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH REHABILITATED WATERSHEDS, FORESTS AND ADAPTIVE LIVELIHOODS.

Objective:

- Support the Government of the Comoros to help people harvest and retain water by rehabilitating 3,500 hectares of watershed habitat.
- To plant 1.4 million trees over the course of four years across the country's three islands.
- To train local communities to manage and protect their land.
- Conserve globally significant species in the Comoros.

Contribution towards Sustainable Development Goals

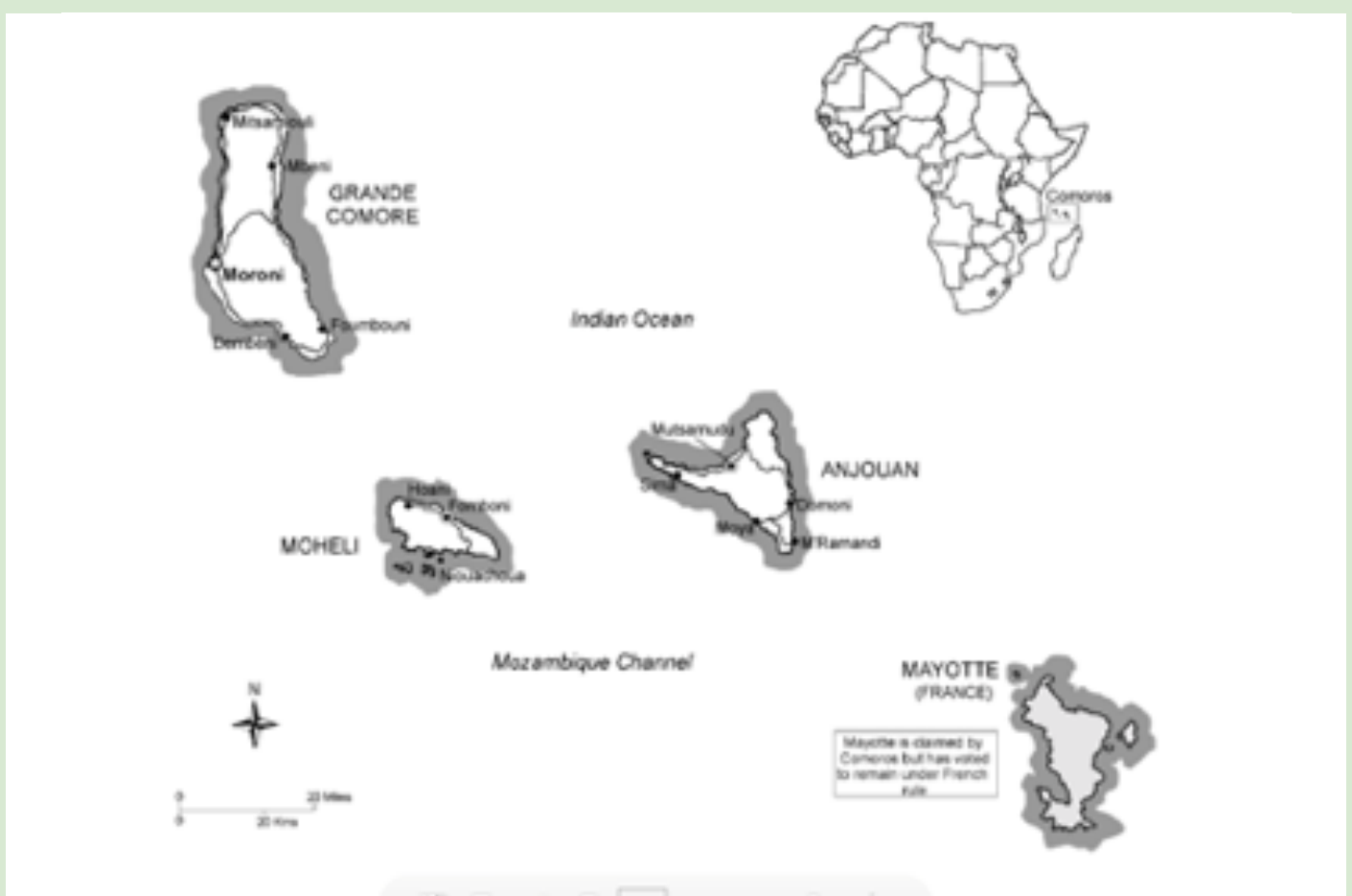
- SDG 15 (Targets 15.1 and 15.2) The Comoros Islands sit within the Western Indian Ocean. Due to the extremely high number of endemic species, the area is one of the world's five 'hottest hotspots'. By restoring 3,500 hectares of natural land, this project is conserving genetically important species and biodiversity.
- SDG 13 (Target 13.1) The project is building adaptation by training people to cultivate climate-proof cash crops. Extensive ecological restoration will mitigate the impacts of climate-induced events by increasing water availability in droughts and reducing erosion in floods. The project therefore contributes towards strengthening "resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters."
- SDG 1 (Targets 1.2 and 1.5) On average, households in project sites will increase their annual income spread by 20% for 4 years. This contributes to SDG Targets 1.2 and 1.5 by reducing the proportion of people living in poverty and by reducing their vulnerability to climate-related extreme events.
- SDG 2 (Target 2.3) The project contributes to Target 2.3 by increasing agroforestry productivity while also addressing phytosanitary constraints, including pests and parasites that decimate crops and livestock.
- SDG 5 (Target 5.1, 5.5, 5.7 and 5.9) 1,000 people, of which 500 are women, adopt ecosystem-based livelihoods, including agroforestry techniques. This contributes towards ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities.

Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets

- Target 5
The project is planting 1.4 million trees over the course of four years in the Comoros. At least 1,000 people will be benefitting from new and sustainable sources of livelihood, thus easing the pressure on surrounding forests.
- Target 7
Sustainable agriculture is being promoted by carrying out economic assessments on the feasibility of certain natural products to become cash crops. Five villages in each of the country's three islands (15 in total) are now carrying out a collaborative watershed rehabilitation plan.
- Target 14
The restoration activities will identify and grow species based on their resilience and multi-purpose properties, like woodfuel production and soil-health restoration. 50% of the project beneficiaries that are adopting sustainable ecosystem-based livelihoods are women.
- Target 15
The ecological restoration of over 3,500 hectares of natural land is increasing water supplies for local communities and decreasing their vulnerability to extreme weather events. This restoration will mitigate the impacts of extreme weather by increasing water supplies in droughts and reducing erosion in floods.

Project's results :

- 130 technical staff from the Vice-Presidency have been trained on Integrated Watershed Management
 - Environmental and climatic data have been gathered to produce a GIS platform on selected sites under future climate projections
 - Water needs assessments are underway for all three of the country's islands
 - A national expert in traditional knowledge has been appointed to analyze the opportunities for the development of economically-viable and climate-resilient income streams based on sustainable resource-use and natural pharmaco-cosmetic products.
- "I learnt that here we really didn't know how to protect our land – we were killing it. Now we know we can plant things to stop erosion and we can tell others about this and how trees protect and nourish the soil." – Faharddine Soumaila, 33, farmer at project site.



Links to websites for further information:

Video: Climate Action in the Comoros: <https://youtu.be/sK5VfDEWEew>

<http://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/where-there-used-be-so-much-there-so-little-challenge-climate-change-comoros>

<https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/climate-change/what-we-do/adaptation-and-resilience/ecosystem-based-adaptation>

<https://www.gouvernement.km/minist%C3%A8res/vice-pr%C3%A9sidence-en-charge-du-minist%C3%A8re-de-l%E2%80%99agriculture,-de-la-p%C3%A4che-109.htm>



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