



IMPROVING MANAGEMENT OF CORAL REEF AND FISHERIES IN COMOROS, KENYA, MADAGASCAR, MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS), but also the coastal mainland countries in the region of Africa, are endowed with extensive coral reefs. These fragile ecosystems have been under the threats of climate change, reef degradation, sand mining, and overfishing, as well as IUU fishing. This is undermining fishery resources preservation, leading to a loss of catches and subsequent revenues for many fishing communities depending on them. As such, this project sought to assist in strengthening the management and conservation of coral reefs and its fisheries as key to enhancing the status of resources in the target countries, stopping the downward trend in production and ensuring long-term sustainable fisheries and resilient communities.



Amina, octopus fishing woman, community agent, Malé, Comores.

WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project assisted Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles in mitigating the threats to and conservation of coral reefs, in collaboration with local fishers. It supported the establishment of an overarching and comprehensive coordinating mechanism to ensure sustainable marine resources, in collaboration with national maritime safety and security institutions, contributed to the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, to the improvement of safety at sea and to providing solutions to improve the livelihood of fisher communities who access coral reefs by increasing fisheries production in a sustainable manner. Furthermore, the project contributed to reducing IUU fishing and enhancing maritime safety in the region, while securing viable fishing grounds for sustainable exploitation.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget

USD 4 417 906

Duration

November 2019-June 2023

Resource Partner

Government of Japan

Partner

Comoros: Direction Générale des Ressources Halieutiques; Kenya: State Department for Fisheries, Aquaculture and The Blue Economy; Madagascar: Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Économie Bleue; Mauritius: Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping; Seychelles: Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy/Seychelles Fishing Authority

Beneficiaries

Fishing communities dependent on coral reef fisheries in project sites targeted in Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles

IMPACT

The project contributed to strengthening the resilience of the fishers communities dependent on coral reef fisheries in eight Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and four locally co-managed areas in the project countries by enhancing the conservation of coral reefs thus increasing fish catches and reducing post-harvest losses, including by enhancing the value chain and implementing sustainable fishing practices.

ACTIVITIES

- 8 MPAs and four locally co-managed areas reviewed and strengthened or established, and 54 Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and 25 sets of buoys installed.
- 613 items of fishing gear provided to fishery communities to replace illegal fishing nets and provide longlines and fishing materials to replace old fishing gear.
- Technical solutions to fish around FADs and 576 fishers trained in relation to this.
- 21 units of energy-efficient/solar-powered cold chains (10 ice machines and 11 solar powered freezers) and 16 ovens installed to improve market access of fishery products, including export markets, and 366 people (including 134 women and youth) trained on fish processing and conservation to reduce fish catches losses and improve benefits.
- 5 motorized civil surveillance boats for community surveillance of MPAs provided to national authorities, and 45 agents trained to recognize and prevent IUU fishing.
- 98 surveillance exercises conducted in Comoros and Madagascar, while other surveillance exercises were done in Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles.
- 180 smartphones for data collection on fish landing sites and during fishing activities, as well as 20 for electronic licensing delivered to support innovative data collection and analysis with electronic devices to eradicate IUU fishing.
- 187 people trained on electronic data collection.
- 97 trainers, mainly authority agents and community agents, trained as trainers on safety at sea aspects, who then delivered trainings to 1 736 fishers in five countries.

Project Title

Project for Enhancing Livelihoods, Food Security and Maritime Safety through Increased Resilience of Fishing Communities Dependent on Coral Reef Fisheries in the African Coastal Countries of the Indian Ocean

Project Code

FAO: GCP/RAF/520/JPN

Contact

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Partnerships and Outreach
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Sensitization of fishers before FADs installation, Kenya.



Installation of artisanal FADs, Madagascar..



Ahmed Maoulida, fisherman, Malé, Comoros..



Ahmed Maoulida and Amina, fishermen, Malé, Comoros.



Mohamed Assani, President of fishers association, Malé, Grande Comoros. .