



# Evaluation of the project "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"

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## Why an evaluation of the project?

The fragile coral reef ecosystems are under the threats of climate change, reef degradation, sand mining, and overfishing as well as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU). The Small Island Developing States (SIDS), but also the coastal "mainland" countries of the Indian Ocean are under pressure and nearby reefs are showing signs of heavy and even overexploitation. The Government of Japan has funded the project GCP/RAF/520/JPN implemented in the countries of the Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles with the aim of helping them mitigate the threats to coral reefs and protecting them, in collaboration with local fishermen. The project intends to contribute to rational and sustainable exploitation of coral reef areas in the targeted countries by establishing various marine protected areas (MPAs) and diversifying certain fisheries operations as to render fish and crustacean value chains more efficient. The overall aim of the project is to improve food security, reduce poverty and contribute to resilient fishing communities.

This project evaluation wants to trace the contribution of FAO's interventions to the abovementioned results and assess outcomes evident at national level. While offering evidence and insights from the activities implemented in the selected countries, the purpose of the evaluation is to provide valuable lessons and recommendations for future projects of a similar nature.

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## TENTATIVE EVALUATION CALENDAR

### Preparation:

March 2023-April 2023

- Desk review
- Drafting of terms of reference
- Recruitment of evaluation team members
- Scoping interviews

### Main evaluation phase:

April-May 2023

- In-depth studies
- Main data collection mission, including project sites visits
- Preliminary debriefing

### Report writing and dissemination:

June-July 2023

- Data analysis and drafting of report
- Stakeholder reviews of and workshop on draft report
- Final report
- Report dissemination and management response

*\*this timeframe is subject to confirmation from stakeholders and context conditions*

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## CONTACTS

[Sara.Holst@fao.org](mailto:Sara.Holst@fao.org)

[Giulia.Pollastri@fao.org](mailto:Giulia.Pollastri@fao.org)

All FAO evaluations and management responses are public documents and can be found at:

[www.fao.org/evaluation](http://www.fao.org/evaluation)

## What will this evaluation cover?

The project is structured around four outcomes:

- i. improved management of coral reef fisheries through Fish aggregating devices (FADs), both for restoration and protection as well as for income generation;
- ii. improved fishery value chains and access to markets for coral reef and FAD fisheries products;
- iii. IUU fishing reduced and maritime safety increased; and
- iv. enhanced and shared knowledge on the improved management of coral reef fisheries contributing to scaling up of the interventions.

The evaluation will cover and assess all activities implemented since the beginning of the project in November 2019 up to when the evaluation is conducted (April-May 2023).

The evaluation will follow the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria, including relevance of the program to the country's needs; coherence with FAO's other activities as well as those of other development partners; effectiveness in achieving results; efficiency in project delivery; and the sustainability of the outcomes achieved. Additionally, the evaluation will take into account important crosscutting issues such as gender, disability and youth.

## How will it be conducted and who will it involve?

The evaluation will take place between April 2023 and July 2023. It will be managed by the FAO Office of Evaluation (OED), and will adopt a consultative and transparent approach with internal and external stakeholders throughout the process.

The evaluation is conducted in three different stages: i) preparatory/scoping phase (March-April 2023); ii) data collection and assessment phase (May 2023), and iii) report writing and dissemination (June-July 2023).

Preliminary findings from the evaluation will be discussed with the FAO country offices and the Project Implementation Team. The evaluation team will then draft the report, including evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations, which will be presented to all stakeholders for their feedback.