

JOURNAL NGOUVA



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Community Centred Conservation—C3-Comores

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MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE LA PÊCHE, DE
L'INDUSTRIE, DE L'ARTISANAT ET DE
L'ENVIRONNEMENT- UNION DES COMORES

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Jul-Aug 2007

Chindini Awareness- raising event

On Friday 27th July, C3 held an awareness raising day in Chindini. Those who attended were informed about the work of C3 as well as conservation of sea turtles and dugong during three presentations given by Mouzidalifa Issouf and Miroirdine Kamardine. Questions followed the presentations and the day was a great success. It is hoped that C3 will be able to build upon previous work carried out in conjunction with the Oulanga Association of Chindini to strengthen conservation efforts in the future. This work was made possible through funding from the Rufford and PADI Foundations.

Bycatch Surveys

C3 has been working with Duke University, USA to conduct a study of bycatch on all 3 islands of the Comoros during the months of July and August. C3 has been collaborating with the Department of Fisheries of the Comoros to conduct this work. The goal of this project is to develop and test a protocol for rapid assessment that quantifies and maps artisanal fishing effort and catch of sea turtles and marine mammals in data-deficient areas. The work has now been completed following surveys in the East coast villages of Chomoni, Mboudé and Kouhani. C3 wishes to thank Mouzidalifa Issouf, Miroirdine Kamardine and Olidat Moussa for their assistance during this project.



Mouzidalifa mapping seagrass

Miroirdine and Mouzidalifa—onwards and upwards!

C3 would like to extend our gratitude to our two scholarship students who have worked alongside us for the past year: Miroirdine Kamardine and Mouzidalifa Issouf. Both students have helped C3 throughout the year with various duties and projects including socio-economic studies, awareness raising campaigns, and presentations at local workshops. In particular, C3 wishes Mouzidalifa all the best in his future career and endeavours as he graduates from the University of the Comoros with a degree in Geography. Thank you both! Miroirdine and Mouzidalifa will also be giving presentations on research conducted with C3 at the Fifth Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) symposium at the end of October in Durban, South Africa. We would like to sincerely thank WIOMSA and the BP Conservation Leadership Programme for providing travel grants to fund their attendance.

Southern seagrass surveys

C3's seagrass mapping fieldwork for Grand Comore is now finished, following completion of the Southern area surrounding Chindini, Ourovendi and Malé. The research has involved over three months of work to map the boundaries of the seagrass beds and conducting transects to collect data on seagrass species diversity and abundance, which will be submitted to international databases. The seagrass research is part of an on-going project which will be carried out on all 3 islands.

C3 would also like to recognize and thank the Oulanga Association in Chindini for hosting them for 2 weeks whilst surveying was carried out in the surrounding region. To express their gratitude, C3 has provided the Association with English language classes. This work was kindly funded by the Rufford and PADI Foundation.



C3 interns with Chindini village association

'...to develop conservation efforts worldwide by building the capacity of local individuals and institutions through grassroots research and training initiatives'

C3 awarded funding by NOAA

C3 has recently been awarded a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to carry out socio-economic (SocMon) surveys of coral reefs and provide recommendations for future marine protected areas in the Comoros. This project will work closely with CORDIO, a regional coral reef organization, and Comorian partners to train local scientists and field technicians to carry out SocMon survey work and set up a network of SocMon sites throughout the islands. In particular, C3 would like to thank Innocent Wanyonyi of CORDIO and Eileen Alicia of NOAA for their kind assistance and support with this proposal.



Iconi Turtle makes it into national paper... La Gazette!

On the 27th July the Iconi environmental association ADELEC and C3 ensured the release of a hawksbill turtle. The juvenile turtle had been captured by a local man from Iconi who wished to rear it in captivity. The hawksbill is a rare and endangered turtle species protected worldwide and is also on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List. The turtle in Iconi was estimated to be around one year old and was visibly fatigued after a day in captivity before finally being released on Friday afternoon. Bourhane Abdou of ADELEC and Rozenn Le Scao of C3 worked together to release the turtle peacefully without the need for police intervention. Both organizations were pleased with the outcome and praised the people of Iconi for their positive environmental attitudes and cooperation.



Bourhane Abdou of ADELEC

C3 welcomes new intern!

C3 would like to welcome a new intern, Emily Walker. Emily is from the UK and has recently graduated from the University of East Anglia with a BSc Environmental Sciences. During her time as an undergraduate she developed a particular interest in environmental policy making as well as in marine conservation after spending a year studying in France at the Centre d'Océanologie de Marseille. In 2003 she worked for Coral Cay Conservation on a coral reef conservation project conducting baseline surveys.

Bycatch workshop proceedings available

The proceedings from the workshop: Incidental Bycatch of Non-Targeted Marine Species in the Western Indian Ocean, held last November in Mayotte, are now available on the WIOMSA website: www.wiomsa.org. A paper from C3 is included in the proceedings: Incidental capture of Dugong in gillnets, Mohéli, Union of the Comoros, which documents work carried out last year in collaboration with Moheli Marine Park and AIDE.

Turtle Poaching Study on Grande Comore

For the last two months, C3 intern Niamh Kelley has undertaken a study for her Masters project on turtle poaching in Grand Comore. The study focused mainly on the level to which turtles are used for consumptive use as well as awareness surrounding the importance of marine turtle conservation. Socio-economic surveys were carried out in 10 villages around Grande Comore. A total of 35 turtle poachers, 86 turtle meat consumers, and 5 gendarmes were interviewed. Preliminary results show that the demand that exists for turtle meat is due to its good taste and its low price. Turtle eggs are also often consumed, further threatening the survival of the population. C3 hopes to work with Comorian communities in the future to ensure that realistic and sustainable alternatives to turtle poaching are implemented as part of wider turtle conservation efforts. This project was only possible thanks to the willing participants and also the great translators that put in a lot of time and effort. C3 particularly wishes to thank Nazir Nazi, Mirordine Kamardine, and Madi and Said Moindjije from Ndroudé.



The C3 Team

- Rozenn Le Scao, Programme Manager
- Melissa Hauzer, Programme Coordinator
- Arabella Bramley, Intern
- Niamh Kelly, Intern
- Helen Pagett, Intern
- Emily Walker, Intern
- Mouzidalifa Issouf, Trainee
- Miroirdine Kamardine, Trainee

