



Distribution of prizes to winners of the IOSEA turtle drawing competition on Mohéli

During the first week of April, C3 travelled to villages on Mohéli to hand out prizes to the winners of the IOSEA turtle drawing competition which was held in 5 schools on Mohéli in July 2006. Winners Déga Hamada Yssouf from Nioumachoua, Youssef Nadi from Hamba, Abacar Yssouf from Hamavouna, Andawiya Ali from Ndrondroni, and Soinada Halasse from Hoani all received a T-shirt and poster for themselves and posters for their schools. The t-shirts and posters contain the winning turtle pictures from the drawing competition. In total, 100 posters and 50 T-shirts were distributed.

C3 also gave turtle postcards to the House of Ecotourism, the Hoani Conservation Centre, the Itsamia Turtle House, the Ouallah I Livingstone Bat House, and various village associations throughout Mohéli. The centres and associations will sell the postcards to generate income.



Seagrass specimens



Abacar Yssouf from Hamavouna proudly displays

Seagrass surveys and mapping to begin in Northern Grande Comore

During the month of May, the C3 field team will be stationed in Mitsamiouli to conduct intensive seagrass surveys and mapping throughout the northern region.

Seagrass beds are the primary food source and habitat for the endangered dugong and green sea turtles, and provide important nursery grounds for juvenile fish. This research is an essential first step for creating a long-term seagrass monitoring program for the region and increasing understanding of these vital habitats. The work will also contribute to the National Conservation Action Plan for the dugong funded by a Rufford Small Grant for Nature Conservation and the PADI Foundation.

Mohéli: its Environment and its Future - C3 workshop held on Mohéli

On April 9th, Melissa Hauzer and Rozenn Le Scao held a workshop on C3's project: Operation Moheli funded by the BP Conservation Programme at the Ministry of the Environment in Fomboni, Mohéli. Topics discussed included: *What do stakeholders really think of the park? Ecotourism: What is the future for Mohéli? Marine endangered species: here today, gone tomorrow?*

Many people attended the workshop including government officials, ecoguards, staff, and management committee, various local developmental and environmental organizations, and interested individuals. The workshop proved to be a great success with interesting discussions and ideas for future projects on Mohéli.

Certificates of Achievement were also awarded to PMM ecoguards Hamada Issoufi from Nioumachoua and Cheikh Moussa (Bush) from Ouallah I for their substantial efforts and contributions to C3's projects.



Bush and Hamada

Endangered Species Awareness Raising in Grande Comore

During March and April, C3 toured the villages of Iconi, Bouni, Ndroude, Mitsamiouli, and Chindini on Grande Comore to raise awareness about the highly endangered dugong and green sea turtle. The campaign included presentations on the biology and importance of conserving these species and was given by C3 trainees, Mouzidalifa Issouf and Miroirdine Karmardine. Communities were highly receptive and an intense discussion followed each presentation.

C3 hopes that these villages now have a better understanding of the long-term importance of protecting these species.

SOCMON training

From the 3rd to 6th of March Rozenn Le Scao and Mouzidalifa Issouf from C3 participated in a Socio Economic Monitoring Workshop for the West Indian Ocean Region (SocMon WIO). This Workshop was organised by AIDE and took place in the AIDE office, Mavouna.

The workshop was led by Dr. Delphine Malleret King from COR-DIO, the goal was to train participants in regional socio economic coastal monitoring. Through its international network SocMon aims to promote exchange of information and standardize data collection methods in order to provide guidelines to decision makers in the Indian Ocean region.

At the conclusion of the workshop Said Ahamada from AIDE appointed Mouzidalifa as SocMon Coordinator for the island of Mohéli.



Miroirdine gives a presentation on sea turtles

C3 welcomes new staff and interns!

C3 would like to welcome a new staff member, Rozenn Le Scao. Rozenn is originally from France and has worked on conservation projects in the Caribbean region, where she focussed on endangered species in a National Marine Protected Area on St. Eustacius. Rozenn has a degree in Anthropology and a MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation from Leeds University UK. She has joined the C3 team as C3-Comores Programme Manager.

C3 also has two new interns, Patience Mulu Mezoh Ajija from Cameroon and Arabella Bramley from the UK. Patience is a final year student of a masters' programme in environmental management in Denmark. She is interested in resource management and environmental impact assessment. Arabella has a BSc (Hons) degree in Zoology from the University of Wales, Swansea and an MSc in Conservation from University College London. She has worked in nature conservation in the UK and overseas for over 5 years. Her work has included undertaking various wildlife surveys in the UK, volunteering at a Sumatran Rhino Conservation Centre in Malaysia and carrying out a research project on Olive Colobus monkeys in the Ivory Coast.

C3 and AIDE celebrate Earth Day by launching a poetry competition for youth in Moroni

Earth day, April 22nd 2007 was C3's 5th Anniversary, and C3 and AIDE launched a poetry competition for youth in Moroni, the theme being: the environment! Participants have until May 10th to submit poems at AIDE's office whereupon a panel of C3 and AIDE members will review the poems and choose winners of from various age categories. Points will be awarded for creativity, originality, and style.

C3 would like to thank local businesses and organizations that generously donated prizes for the competition: Librarie Camy, Ahdjaj Services Informatique, Librairie Alapage and Patisserie Nassib.

Winning poems will be published in the next Journal Ngouva.

The C3 Team

Rozenn Le Scao, Programme Manager

Melissa Hauzer, Programme Coordinator

Patience Mulu Mezoh Ajija, Intern

Arabella Bramley, Intern

Mouzidalifa Issouf Bounou, Trainee

Miroirdine Kamardine Mabrouk Slim, Trainee

