

# JOURNAL NGOUVA



www.c-3.org.uk

Community Centred Conservation—C3-Comores

C3-Comores, Iconi, Grande Comore

Email: [info@c-3.org.uk](mailto:info@c-3.org.uk)

Tel. +269 73 75 04

GSM+269 34 25 57/9

AIDE



5

Nov-Dec2006

## Conservation Centre Mural, Hoani

The Hoani Conservation Centre, funded by IOSEA Year of the Turtle has a new look! This turtle information and research centre was established through a partnership between FADE-VICHO (village association of Hoani), and C3. In November, C3 intern Audrey Clark and Hoani community member Aboubacar Ahmed Kaldi painted murals on three walls of the centre. The murals contain images representing Mohéli including a turtle, dugong, coelacanth, dolphin, whale, coral, palm tree and banana tree. Ms. Clark painted a mural on the front of the centre, facing the ocean. Mr Ahmed Kaldi painted murals on the back (facing the road) and side walls of the centre. The centre is now a striking landmark to promote turtle conservation in the northwest region of Mohéli.



Hoani Conservation Centre



## University of Comoros Student Scholarship

2007 is C3's 5th anniversary, and to celebrate, we have awarded scholarships to two exceptional students at the University of the Comoros. These scholarships will cover their fees for a year. The recipients of these awards are both Mohelians: Mouzidalifa Issouf Bounou (3rd year Geography) and Miroirdine Kamardine Mabrouk Slim (1st year Sciences). These students will also gain practical experience by working with C3-Comores in the field at weekends. This combination of academic and applied training will significantly build local capacity for conservation in the Comoros.



Miroirdine



Mouzidalifa



Zaharani Moindjie and Patricia Davis viewing the unrivalled cetacean biodiversity of the Mayotte lagoon.

## Turtle Poaching Survey on Mohéli

C3 intern Audrey Clark designed and conducted a turtle poaching survey for the island of Mohéli during November. The objective of the survey was to understand the volume and nature of the turtle meat market on the island in order to implement effective anti-poaching measures. Ms. Clark, assisted by Mohelian volunteers and Marine Park ecoguards interviewed poachers, consumers, ecoguards, and law enforcement officers in the villages of Nioumachoua, Ndrondroni, Hamavouna, Hamba, Domoni, Hoani, and Fomboni. Data analysis is still in progress, but solutions may include awareness-raising, increased surveillance, and alternative supplies of meat.



## Incidental Catch Workshop

Patricia Davis, Zaharani Moindjie and Chris Poonian recently attended a workshop in Mayotte: Incidental Catch of Non-targeted Marine Species in the Western Indian Ocean: Problems and Mitigation Measures. Data were presented from C3-Comores' dugong study in Mohéli, particularly regarding the threat of incidental and intentional capture in gillnets. Other topics covered at the workshop included: the current status of turtles and marine mammals in the Western Indian Ocean, incidental catch issues, and mitigation strategy development. Participants hailed from as far as Australia, Oman, and the USA.

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

### Reef Conservation UK Conference

In December, C3 intern Joanne Nice presented preliminary findings from our ecotourism research on Mohéli at the annual RCUK conference, held at the Zoological Society of London. Ms Nice had been working on the survey with Zaharani Moindjie and the rest of the C3-Comores team. From this work, we hope to provide recommendations to implement a sustainable strategy for ecotourism on Mohéli. C3-Comores also presented a poster documenting the success of our collaborative turtle conservation efforts in the village of Hoani. Both oral and poster presentations were received by the conference participants with interest and enthusiasm.



### New C3-Comores headquarters

We have moved! Our office is now located in Iconi, Grande Comore. We greatly enjoyed being based in Nioumachoua, Mohéli and are grateful to all the people we worked with there. Our current projects on Mohéli have reached completion, although we hope to return soon. We are turning our sights to Grand Comore and Anjouan in order to complete the National Conservation Action Plan for the dugong in collaboration with AIDE, INRAPE (The National Institute for Research in Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment) and The University of the Comoros. C3 will also become more involved in the development of the Coelacanth Park on Grande Comore, and has already begun discussions with the village Chindini to develop their capacity for ecotourism.



The C3 team interviewing fishers in Southern Grande Comore

**C3-Comores  
wishes a Happy  
New Year 2007 to  
all of our friends,  
collaborators and  
supporters  
worldwide!**



C3 HQ Iconi

### Future projects

The C3-Comores team will be heading to Anjouan in the New Year in order to interview fishers about the dugong on the island. For this survey, we will be working with two students from the University of the Comoros, who will be using the data for their thesis. We will also be carrying out seagrass and marine habitat surveys on Anjouan and Grande Comore as well as initiating some exciting environmental awareness events throughout the two islands.

### Dugong Questionnaires on Grand Comore

C3-Comores has commenced a questionnaire survey of fishers on Grand Comore. We are working with locals and students from the University of the Comoros to visit close to 40 villages around the island. In each village we seek out fishers who have seen dugongs. The students have the opportunity to practise leadership and research skills: explaining our objective to groups of fishers, conducting the interviews in Shikomori and translating into French to record the information onto the questionnaire. This work has been generously funded by a Rufford Small Grant for Nature Conservation and a grant from the PADI Foundation.

### Teaching English at American Corner

Since moving to Grande Comore, the C3 team has been teaching English at American Corner, the English language centre of the University of the Comoros, funded by the American Embassy in Madagascar. Classes last about an hour and a half and are attended by up to 30 university students. Subjects taught so far include feeling sick, seeing the doctor, parts of the body, family, relatives, friends, and hobbies. During each class we review previous vocabulary, learn new words, and practise the new vocabulary in groups or play an educational game.

### The C3 team

- Patricia Davis, Director
- Chris Poonian, Projects Manager
- Melissa Hauzer, Projects Coordinator
- Audrey Clark, Intern
- Al'yas'aa Ben Ahmed (Paradise), Translator

