

JOURNAL NGOUVA



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Community Centred Conservation—C3-Comores

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MINISTRE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE LA PECHE, DE
L'INDUSTRIE, DE L'ARTISANAT ET DE
L'ENVIRONNEMENT- UNION DES COMORES

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Sep-Oct 2007

C3 presents at regional marine science conference

At the end of October, C3 personnel: Chris Poonian, Mouzidalifa Yssouf Bounou and Miroirdine Kamardine Mabrouk attended the 5th Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) Symposium, held in Durban, South Africa. For Mouzidalifa and Miroirdine this was an especially exciting occasion as it was their first time overseas.

Mouzidaifa presented results from our turtle poaching study on Mohéli which has since been extended to Grande Comore, and will be conducted in Anjouan next year. This work, in combination with our current bycatch research in collaboration with Duke University and Project GloBAL is helping to give us an overall picture of turtle mortality due to anthropogenic factors in the Comoros.

Miroirdine presented results from the fisher interviews and seagrass mapping conducted as part of the dugong study on Mohéli and described the intensive public awareness campaigns conducted on the island last year. Both presenters received lots of interesting questions from their audiences.

Chris made some useful contacts regarding future fisheries research in Comoros and was able to meet with the co-ordinators of SocMon, a regional socio-economic research programme which we will be implementing in the Comoros from 2008. He also met dugong researchers from around the region and discussed plans for future work together.

Our team would like to express our sincere gratitude to BP Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) Alumni scheme and WIOMSA for funding our attendance at this high profile event. Our team members benefited from making contact with other scientists and conservation practitioners from throughout the western Indian Ocean region, fuelling their enthusiasm for continued conservation work at home and publicizing C3-Comores' successes to date. Abstracts can be accessed at www.wiomsa.org



Miroirdine presents at WIOMSA

International agreement to protect dugongs comes into effect

Following C3's research into the management of dugong populations in Palau and the Comoros, Patricia Davis participated in the Technical Workshop and meeting on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for international protection of dugongs in Abu Dhabi at the end of October.

This was an exciting meeting, during which the Convention for Migratory Species (CMS) Conservation Management Plan for the western Indian Ocean region was finalized and government officials from Tanzania, Eritrea, France, Australia, Madagascar, United Arab Emirates, Myanmar and Pakistan ensured their nations were the first signatories to the MoU.

It is anticipated that all range states will shortly sign the agreement in order to catalyze and co-ordinate conservation initiatives for this endangered species throughout the world. Patricia had the opportunity to update delegates on the important dugong research being conducted in the Comoros as a result of

strong collaborations between government, NGOs and local communities. Delegates from other countries were interested in applying C3's research methods to collect data on their own dugong populations so there will be close co-ordination in the future.

Unfortunately the Secretary General for the Ministry of the Environment in the Union of Comoros was unable to attend the meeting, but will be involved closely in the development and implementation of a National Conservation Action Plan in the coming months. Further information about this exciting step forward for dugong conservation can be found at <http://www.ead.ae/en/?T=4&ID=3391>

This workshop was financed by the Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi (EAD), TOTAL, UNEP and CMS and Patricia would especially like to thank EAD for their generosity which enabled C3 to participate in this historic event.

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

C3 launches new radio show

C3 has just launched its own radio show on ORTC (Office of Radio and Television Comoros) sponsored by Yako, Gazcom and Kenya Airways. The programme will focus on raising public awareness of environmental issues in the Comoros, such as waste disposal, endangered species, dangerous fishing practices and environmental degradation. C3 will use the show to publicize current and upcoming activities and projects, and to encourage environmental responsibility throughout the Comoros.

If you are interested in sponsoring the show, please contact C3-Comores either by email at rozenn@c-3.org.uk or by phone at the C3 office in Iconi on +269 73 75 04.



Daniella Blake and Al'yas'aa Ben Ahmed in the studio

C3-Comores sponsors new student

C3 will soon be working with a new student from the University of the Comoros: Nazir Nazi. Nazir is from Mitsamiouli and has previously worked with C3 in the field. Fluent in English and French, Nazir has been teaching English in his spare-time to help pay for his first-year university tuition fees in linguistics. He has shown his enthusiasm and motivation by helping C3-Comores with their surveys on turtle poaching on Grande Comore. C3 hopes that by sponsoring him he will achieve his goals and continue similar work in the future.



International Year of the Reef 2008

Ten years ago, 1997 was declared the International Year of the Reef (IYOR). The first IYOR campaign was initiated in response to the increasing threats and loss of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, like mangroves and sea grasses. IYOR 97 was a global effort to increase awareness and understanding of coral reefs, and support conservation, research and management efforts. IYOR 97 proved to be very successful, with over 225 organizations in 50 countries and territories participating, over 700 articles in papers and magazines generated, hundreds of scientific surveys undertaken, and catalyzed conservation and policy initiatives, as well as numerous local and global organizations dedicated to coral reef conservation. Recognizing that ten years after IYOR 97 there continues to be an urgent need to increase awareness and understanding of coral reefs, and to further conserve and manage valuable coral reef and associated ecosystems, the International Coral Reef Initiative designated 2008 as the International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2008). IYOR 2008 will:

Strengthen awareness about the ecological, economic, social and cultural value of coral reefs and associated ecosystems

Improve understanding of the critical threats to coral reefs and generate both practical and innovative solutions to reduce these threats

Generate urgent action at all levels to develop and implement effective management strategies for conservation and sustainable use of these ecosystems.

C3 has been appointed as a focal point organization for IYOR 2008. For more information, please visit www.iyor.org

C3 article in UNIVERS MAORE

In November, UNIVERS MAORE, a natural history magazine published in Mayotte and distributed internationally, will present an article concerning work carried out by C3 and HUPPE (Hoani uni pour la protection de l'environnement) in Hoani on the island of Moheli. The article describes the collaboration between C3 and HUPPE to protect Moheli's sea turtles including the renovation of the centre designed to welcome tourists and provide information on local history and conservation, and the training of eco guards to monitor turtle poaching.



Hoani Conservation Centre

C3 welcomes new interns!

In October, C3 welcomed two new interns, Daniella Blake from New Zealand and Pascale Lepoint from Belgium. Daniella completed a degree in Ecology, Anthropology and French at the University of Otago. She spent time working as a park ranger in New Zealand, before volunteering with the World Wildlife Fund in Madagascar. Daniella is particularly interested in the development of sustainable eco-tourism projects. Pascale completed her MSc in Land Management at the University catholique de Louvain. and later specialized in Phytopathology/Molecular Biology. As an undergraduate she volunteered to work on the follow up of black stork migration in Belgium and on sustainable agricultural systems in Rwanda.

The C3 Team

- Rozenn Le Scao, Programme Manager
- Melissa Hauzer, Programme Coordinator
- Daniella Blake, Intern
- Pascale le Point, Intern
- Mouzidalifa Yssouf, Trainee
- Miroirdine Kamardine, Trainee

