

**Comoros Shallow marine Habitats WIOSAP Demo Project**  
**Meeting minutes**  
**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021**  
**Venue: Microsoft Teams**

**Opening**

The meeting was called to order at 15:00Hrs (EAT), with Angela welcoming all in attendance. This was followed by a brief introduction.

**Meeting objective**

The purpose of this meeting was to get the updates of the *“Sustainable management of shallow marine habitats through improved management planning and rehabilitation of degraded sites in Comoros”* project, challenges they are facing, and support they may need for the convention. The project

**Min 01: Project Progress**

- It was mentioned that due to COVID -19, implementation slowed down due to restricted community interaction when it comes to restoration activities. They have selected 40 people in the community to conduct some restoration activities.
- It was noted that management plans have been developed and they need to organize their validation with the community and stakeholders.
- On education and campaigns, it was mentioned that they had done restoration training using the Nairobi Convention seagrass and mangrove restoration guidelines. The community was reported to be ready to do restoration after receiving the training.
- There are 20 villages under each MPA with 70 members of the local community.
- It was mentioned that the current MPA had increased fisheries catch according to the data captured.
- It was mentioned that the major challenge was to get more resources to replicate the project and expand the MPAs.
- On restoration of 1 ha of mangrove and 1 ha of seagrass, significant progress was made with challenges of managing marine litter which led to the death of some seedlings.
- On capacity building at local levels, it was mentioned that the project worked with school-going children who invite parents and other stakeholders and share the restoration activities. Capacity building activities would still be undertaken while observing the COVID protocols.
- It was noted that the materials shared by the Nairobi Convention are being shared and that the project is yet to make its own materials to share with the community.
- On the timeframe, it was mentioned that 9 months would be enough to complete the project activities but this was subject to the restrictions that are posed by the COVID -19 pandemic.

**Min02: Communication Needs**

- It was mentioned that a survey with the members of the community had been done and this was documented and the reports would be shared with the Nairobi Convention.
- There was a radio interview with the office of radio and television but that would be difficult to share. A number of photos were available and would be shared with the convention as well.

- Housseni mentioned that they had the community, policymakers and donors to participate in their activities. The community has embraced the work being done by the project.
- He noted that communications material that would resonate with young, school-age kids as well as college students and the local community at large would be needed. Would be best if done in Comorian\* language(s). (FR versions)
- The project had social impacts due to the engagements that are done with the local community. Marine protected area will ensure the protection of the critical breeding sites for fish which would lead to better catch. Coastal habitat conservation protects the environment from local community exploitation and misuse of the resources.
- On lessons learnt, it was mentioned that there was acceptability of the project since the local community was involved. This has made the implementation of 5 MPAs in Comoros with 70% of local community involvement.

### **Closing**

There being no other matter the meeting came to a close at 16:00Hrs.

### **In attendance**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
1.	Houssoyni Housseni	DGEF
2.	Melisa Wandia	UNEP
3.	Jane Ndungu	UNEP
4.	Angela Joan Patnode	UNEP
5.	Nathan Majwa	UNEP