

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Blue Ventures Conservation
Project Title:	Towards a Blueprint for Locally-Managed Marine Conservation in the Comoros: Building the Knowledge Base and Capacity for Monitoring and Management
Grant Number:	65776
CEPF Region:	Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands
Strategic Direction:	2 Enable civil society to mainstream biodiversity and conservation into political and economic decision-making.
Grant Amount:	\$149,846.00
Project Dates:	October 01, 2015 - March 31, 2018
Date of Report:	May 31, 2018

Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

- **Dahari (Comorian NGO):** Dahari is leading the implementation of the activities on Anjouan through its technical staff (one socio-economic researcher, one marine ecologist and a team of community field technicians). Blue Ventures has been providing Dahari with technical support and training in ecological monitoring, project management and community-based participatory approaches to marine conservation via the Project Manager.
- **Moheli Marine Park (MMP) (Comorian institution and national park):** Blue Ventures and MMP have exchanged experiences and shared learning around community-based fisheries management, especially around octopus closures. Blue Ventures has also provided technical support to MMP in planning and designing a methodology for fisheries monitoring, as well as an introduction to the use of smartphone-based data collection methods (Open Data Kit).

Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

- **One temporary reef closure is now being managed by the community.**

- The creation of a fisherwomen's association is filling the previous lack of representation of reef gleaning fisheries. Inclusion of fisherwomen in the existing committee which represents the three villages sharing this bay, previously included only male boat fishers.
- Two local community management associations (fisherwomen's association Maecha Bora and fisher's association Malezi Mema) have been strengthened through the organisation of workshops to discuss strengths and weaknesses, facilitation meetings and support in developing action plans.
- Three civil society organisations (UMAMA, DAHARI and Moheli Marine Park) were strengthened through training and technical support (Deliverable 2.1).
- Thirty community members were trained in fisheries monitoring to collect and record data on the catch weight, the species caught, the fishing method, and the fish size (Deliverable 3.1). A total of nine technicians were also trained to use a smartphone app (using the Open Data Kit software).
- Eight community technicians were trained in theoretical aspects of coral reef monitoring and three community technicians in practical surveying methodologies.
- Two exchange visits took place where community members observed community-based management initiatives in other fishing communities and learned from successes and challenges: (1) in April 2017 to Velondriake and Manjaboake LMMAs in Madagascar; (2) in January 2018 to meet three different fishing communities having implemented temporary octopus closures in Zanzibar (Deliverable 3.4).
- In-depth understanding of the socio-economic context of the Sima peninsula has been achieved through surveys, participant observation, household censuses and participatory analyses, supporting the development of relevant management activities (see Appendix 1, Status report; Deliverable 1.3).
- 12 months of boat fishery catch monitoring data in two locations in the Sima peninsula and 18 months of reef gleaning fishery catch monitoring data were collected, providing a comprehensive assessment of the state of the fishery and a dataset to evaluate the impact of implementation of management measures against (see Appendix 1, Status report; Deliverable 1.2).
- Nine reef sites were surveyed by rapid assessment and 2400m² of reef were surveyed in-depth at six of these sites. This dataset enhances understanding of the marine environment on the Sima peninsula and the Vassy reef system, assessing composition and diversity, and providing a baseline against which to evaluate the impact of management actions (see Appendix 1, Status report; Deliverable 1.1).
- Over 700 community members have received awareness raising messages on the current status of marine resources and on how other communities have addressed similar challenges through feedback sessions of catch monitoring results, participatory analyses, exchange visits and film screenings (Deliverable 3.3).
- Seven community members (four in Salamani and three in Dzindri) are being supported in agriculture activities as an alternative livelihood, through plot organisation, provision of plants and technical training. Training in gardening techniques is currently being planned and will include 42 fisherwomen members of the local association Maecha Bora.

All of these outputs/results have contributed to the broader impacts of the project, as described in the next sections.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>The livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities in Comoros are improved through effective local management of inshore marine and coastal resources.</p>	<p>The first community-based management initiative is underway in the Sima peninsula. Blue Ventures has supported communities with the necessary technical support in order to implement participatory coastal resource monitoring. This has been achieved through the training of Dahari technical staff in ecological monitoring and also by supporting MMP in designing a fisheries monitoring plan and introducing the smartphone-based data collection method (Open Data Kit). Training these civil society organisations and also the local communities, has improved general knowledge of conservation issues, organisational capacity, and also management skills throughout the Sima Peninsula. Through learning exchanges between civil society organisations in Madagascar and Zanzibar, conservation knowledge, organisational capacity and management skills have been shared, and as a result, partnerships have been strengthened. Community discussions have empowered local communities to manage their marine resources sustainably and to effectively improve their livelihoods. The emergence of a women’s association has offered a chance for women to be more involved in management decisions than they were previously. Next steps include scoping the potential to replicate the strategy in two additional locations.</p>

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)


Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>Blueprint for community-based coastal resources assessment and management established for the Comoros, based on rigorous scientific studies, participatory monitoring and consultations, capacity development of local civil society organisations, and strategies developed for improving revenues from fishing and alternative marine-base livelihood schemes.</p>	<p>Community-based coastal resources management has started in the Sima peninsula. Comprehensive scientific studies (e.g. participatory catch monitoring and reef monitoring) have been completed, gathering useful knowledge for a better understanding of the status of marine ecosystems and the fisheries, providing the communities with a baseline against which to measure any impact of management measures. Awareness-raising sessions, participatory consultations and decision-making workshops have been conducted, culminating in the creation of a fisherwomen’s association, enhancing local ownership. This has contributed to a blueprint for community-based management, resulting in the organisation of a temporary reef closure in the areas of Vassy, Dzindri and Salamani. Capacity of local communities to manage</p>

	their resources has been effectively strengthened and support will continue for this first management initiative and beyond. Capacity has been strengthened within Dahari and Moheli Marine Park, enhancing their abilities to implement community-based participatory marine resource monitoring methods and decision-making activities, strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations.
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Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives

Successes:

- **Participatory monitoring training and 21 community consultations were successfully carried out. A community-based technician’s network was developed for catch monitoring, and three community technicians are also being trained in reef survey techniques so they can take part in the follow-up assessments. Participatory analyses, community discussions and feedback sessions to present results and experiences from the exchange visits were organised to gather community opinion and ensure a collaborative process in developing management initiatives.**
- **Potential strategies to improve revenue from fisheries and the most suitable alternative marine-based livelihood schemes were successfully identified through scoping exercises. This comprised of a rapid value chain analysis in order to gain a better understanding of the current status of the fisheries markets and the potential for added value. The options for aquaculture in Anjouan were assessed with support from the Blue Ventures aquaculture expert. Based on these, the most suitable options for the Sima peninsula communities were identified as: improved processing of fisheries products (e.g. drying), better access to markets (e.g. products transport organisation) and sponge aquaculture (a pilot study is required to fully assess feasibility).**
- **The support of agriculture activities as an alternative livelihood was provided through plot organisation, provision of plants and technical training. Training is currently being planned and will include 42 fisherwomen members of the local association Maecha Bora. Improving agriculture production increases food security and income, offers a potential alternative livelihood to fishing, and also reduces pressure on marine resources. We are currently monitoring these activities to assess potential socio-economic impacts (e.g. changes in income and time spent fishing).**
- **One new community-based association was created and one existing association was strengthened to lead effective local marine resource management and improve fishers’ livelihoods: the fisherwomen’s association Maecha Bora was created to represent the reef gleaning fishery which was previously unrepresented; the boat fishers’ association has also now decided to include women as well, to integrate representatives from both the boat and reef gleaning fisheries in order to ensure holistic and sustainable resource management. This new grouping has been named Malezi Mema. Additionally, provision of technical advice and facilitation of meetings have supported community engagement and the reinforcement of the associations through designing relevant statutes.**
- **The first community-managed temporary reef closure was implemented in the areas of Vassy, Dzindri and Salamani. This initiative was organised by the fisherwomen’s association Maecha Bora, in collaboration with the fishers’ association Malezi Mema, and with technical support**



from Blue Ventures. The participatory-based activities, continuous mobilisation of communities, and learning exchanges, have all effectively raised awareness of community-based resource management and have enhanced engagement with community members.

Challenges:

- In 2016 we discontinued activities in Bimbini village due to UMAMA wishing to end their work with Dahari. This resulted in a move to new project sites which was disappointing and challenging at first but did not delay component level target delivery.
- Trying to collaborate with other governmental projects which often take a different approach (more top-down and less collaboration with communities) has been challenging throughout the project. Our efforts to focus on community-based initiatives were potentially undermined by other projects showcasing short term benefits for communities (e.g. providing fisher associations with fishing materials/freezing units), creating discontent in the communities. However, we discussed the situation with concerned stakeholders and agreed on transparency and communication for future actions. The collaboration between organisations working towards sustainable fisheries management has been strengthened and we will ensure regular communication continues with these organisations.
- Planning an exchange to a community in Zanzibar to witness a temporary octopus closure reopening was difficult due to unexpected incidents outside of our control (e.g. the no-take zone opening was cancelled by the NGO supporting it due to unrest in the community in question). Eventually the exchange visit was organised in January 2018 (initially planned October 2017).
- Due to the isolation of different neighbourhoods and some strong-minded community members, one of the communities targeted was more challenging to work with. Inclusion of representatives from the main neighbourhoods in exchange visits and regular in-person visits eventually resulted in effective mobilisation of local leaders who further raise awareness in the community for broad consensus on management initiatives.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

After the exchange in Zanzibar and following feedback sessions from the participants in their communities, fisherwomen started organising in each village with the objective of forming an association. The levels of motivation and engagement were very high and actions developed very fast. Fisherwomen were determined to implement a temporary closure to improve their fishery yields and preserve their resources. However, we expected that mobilising communities to reach a collective agreement on management would require more time and awareness-raising. We were pleasantly surprised to see that in just a few weeks, key leaders from the three villages were engaged, continuing to motivate their communities and eager to start this initiative with our support. The creation of the fisherwomen's association, which aims to sustainably manage reef flat resources, resulted in empowerment of the women in the community and was a catalyst for further mobilisation of female community members. This triggered the boat fishing association (so-called three village committee), which traditionally only included men, to propose that women should also be included in the committee. Fisherwomen therefore are now integrated in the boatfisher's committee, joining the reef gleaning fishery and boat fisheries for an inclusive community-based management association to manage local marine resources. This integration was one of our longer-term objectives and it was a positive surprise that it happened so soon.



Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Knowledge base improved for marine environment of the Bimbini Peninsula, and at least one other KBA site in Anjouan.	1.1	Technical report and database documenting status of coral reefs and mangroves in Bimbini Peninsula, and marine environment in at least one other marine KBA in Anjouan.	Technical report complete (see Appendix 1, Status Report). Includes the status of coral reefs and mangroves in Sima peninsula and Vassy zone, including rapid ecological assessment and in-depth coral reef assessments. The status report will be shared with communities and partners once it has been translated into French.
1	Knowledge base improved for marine environment of the Bimbini Peninsula, and at least one other KBA site in Anjouan.	1.2	Technical report and database documenting status and composition of small-scale fisheries in Bimbini Peninsula.	Technical report complete (see 1.1) (see Appendix 1, Status Report). The report includes results from 12 months of boat catch monitoring of two small-scale fisheries in Sima peninsula (Bimbini and Vassy). 12 months of reef gleaning monitoring were completed (completed at the end of March 2018) and preliminary results for the first six months of monitoring are presented in the status report (see Appendix 1, Status Report). The full dataset is not yet available due to issues with data entry (lack of standardised digitization methodology at the start lead to errors and inability to validate the entered data). A technical report will be issued and shared publicly once these data are available. The data entry system was updated between January and March to avoid these issues (see Appendix 5, Data Entry Forms).
1	Knowledge base improved for marine environment of the Bimbini Peninsula, and at least one other KBA site in	1.3	Technical report and database of socioeconomic assessment of fishing community in Bimbini	Rapid Socio-economic assessments of the Sima peninsula and more in depth assessments for the villages of Bimbini, Vassy, Dzindri and Salamani were successfully completed. The results are included in the status report (see 1.1 and 1.2) (see Appendix 1, Status Report). The household census is complete for Vassy, Dzindri and Salamani and included in the status report. Between January and March, the household census was completed

	Anjouan.		Peninsula.	in Dzindri.
2	Civil society capacity strengthened (in at least two partner civil society organisations (CSOs)) for supporting community-based marine environmental monitoring and adaptive management planning.	2.2	Training manual of participatory marine resource monitoring and data management templates, tailored to the needs of partner organisations in Comoros.	From January to March 2018, methodologies for participatory marine resource monitoring (catch and reef monitoring), adapted to the needs of partner organisations, were finalised. Data management tools were developed (e.g. data entry forms, data storage guidelines) from the end of 2017. Manuals and data management templates for fisheries monitoring were provided to Moheli Marine Park according to their needs (see Appendix 4, Marine Monitoring Manuals and Appendix 5, Data Entry Forms).
3	Over 80% of === AMENDMENT SEPT 2016 === targeted === community members in Bimbini Peninsula zone have increased understanding and awareness of the marine environment through community-based marine resource monitoring, awareness raising and training.	3.1	Network of at least 6 trained community based fisheries monitoring agents established in villages feeding monitoring data into project databases.	A total of 30 community members were trained in fisheries monitoring since the project start (see Appendix 10, Training Records). Nine community members were trained in mobile based fisheries monitoring (see Appendix 6, Mobile Monitoring with Open Data Kit). By the end of the project, a network of 19 community technicians were rotating fisheries monitoring tasks, and this is ongoing.
3	Over 80% of === AMENDMENT SEPT 2016 === targeted === community members in Bimbini	3.2	At least 80% of === AMENDMENT SEPT 2016 ===targeted ===Bimbini Peninsula	A total of 413 people attended the catch monitoring feedback sessions (see Appendix 9, Catch Monitoring Feedback Presentations) since the project start (in 2015: one session with 17 participants; in 2016: two sessions with 130 participants; in 2017: three in May and three in November with 150 and 116 participants respectively).

	Peninsula zone have increased understanding and awareness of the marine environment through community-based marine resource monitoring, awareness raising and training.		community engaged in the results of marine resource monitoring.	
3	Over 80% of AMENDMENT SEPT 2016 targeted community members in Bimbini Peninsula zone have increased understanding and awareness of the marine environment through community-based marine resource monitoring, awareness raising and training.	3.3	At least 80% of AMENDMENT SEPT 2016 targeted Bimbini Peninsula community aware of management options and interventions available to improve fisheries and marine environmental sustainability.	A total of 707 participants attended outreach sessions focusing on management interventions since the project start. Results have been described in previous reports and summarised below. A total of 222 participants attended the participatory analyses and feedback sessions in 2017 to discuss issues to the local fisheries and potential solutions (12 in total: nine participatory analysis sessions (three per village), three feedback sessions from participatory analysis (one per village). The feedback sessions to share experiences from the Madagascar learning visit (see Appendix 11, Learning Exchange Pictures) gathered 150 participants (the same sessions as for catch monitoring). In February 2018, 175 participants attended three feedback sessions (one in each village) to share insights from the Zanzibar learning exchange (see Appendix 11, Learning Exchange Pictures) (one in each village). In March 2018, a total of 160 attended three feedback sessions to discuss the temporary closure as a management initiative to be implemented by the fisherwomen's association. In the villages of Vassy and Salamani, the initiative was positively welcomed and attendees suggested improvement to the rules system (e.g. confiscating catch in case of area closure breach) which were subsequently integrated.
3	Over 80% of AMENDMENT SEPT 2016 targeted community members in Bimbini Peninsula zone	3.4	Fisher-fisher learning facilitated through an exchange visit to a regional community-based marine	Exchange visits were conducted in April 2017 to Velondriake and to Manjaboake LMMAs in Madagascar with the Project Manager, one Dahari staff member and three community members. This was facilitated by the Blue Ventures Madagascar team. A second exchange in January 2018 to meet three different fishing communities having implemented temporary octopus closures in Zanzibar took place with the Project Manager, one Dahari

	have increased understanding and awareness of the marine environment through community-based marine resource monitoring, awareness raising and training.		conservation project with ongoing aquaculture and/or short-term fishing closure initiatives.	staff member and four community members. This was facilitated by Mwambao Coastal Network (a Blue Ventures partner) and Blue Ventures (see Appendix 12, Comoros Mwambao Exchange Summary and Appendix 11, Learning Exchange Pictures). A blog about the exchange and its outcome is online on the Blue Ventures website (https://blog.blueventures.org/inspiring-change-comorian-fisherwomen-visit-zanzibar-to-learn-about-resource-management/).
3	Over 80% of AMENDMENT SEPT 2016 targeted community members in Bimbini Peninsula zone have increased understanding and awareness of the marine environment through community-based marine resource monitoring, awareness raising and training.	3.5	Report of community-based social marketing campaign raising awareness of key marine environmental issues and management options.	As previously discussed with CEPF, instead of a marketing campaign, awareness-raising activities were regularly organised. A film created with fishers was screened back to the community on two occasions. A cartoon/film was translated into Comorian to share with the community and to promote further awareness and engagement. As this will not be a formal social marketing campaign we will not be producing a formal report but will make the awareness raising tools available to partners (see Appendix 7, Awareness Raising Videos).
4	Opportunities for enhancing local livelihoods through fisheries improvement planning and marine-based alternative income generating schemes assessed.	4.1	Action plan developed for engaging Bimbini Peninsula fishing community with higher value markets for sustainable fisheries.	Fishery valuation activities and aquaculture were discussed during the exchanges in Madagascar and Zanzibar (see Appendix 12, Comoros Mwambao Exchange summary). Feedback sessions are a platform to discuss marine management. After feedback sessions with the communities, they are aware that sea cucumber/seagrass aquaculture are not feasible, however, sponge aquaculture might be an option to explore in the future. A value chain analysis report (see Appendix 8, Value Chain Analysis Report) was conducted for the boat and reef gleaning fisheries, allowing us to develop an action plan. The drying of aquaculture products has been identified as

				a technique which could add value to existing products. Training for these drying techniques is planned to go ahead for the reef gleaning fisheries so that they can begin to take advantage of the demands of the current market.
4	Opportunities for enhancing local livelihoods through fisheries improvement planning and marine-based alternative income generating schemes assessed.	4.2	Report on the potential and feasibility of market-based incentive schemes for improving fisheries value and sustainability.	A feasibility study was conducted through consultation with Blue Ventures' aquaculture expert. Most activities were deemed not feasible due to the habitats and conditions (e.g rough seas), but the possibility for sea sponge aquaculture may be further investigated.
5	The methods and tools are identified, developed and implemented by Blue Ventures to ensure the proper administrative and financial management of the project and the monitoring and evaluation of its implementation by the project partners Dahari.	5.1	Signed subgranting agreement and clear work plan, and division of responsibilities .	The agreement has been in place since the project inception. The work plan was regularly updated throughout October 2015 to March 2018.
5	The methods and tools are identified, developed and implemented by Blue Ventures to ensure the proper administrative and financial	5.2	Financial reports and progress reports submitted on time.	All reports submitted on time.

	management of the project and the monitoring and evaluation of its implementation by the project partners Dahari.			
2	Civil society capacity strengthened (in at least two partner civil society organisations (CSOs)) for supporting community-based marine environmental monitoring and adaptive management planning.	2.1	Capacity of at least two civil society organisations (UMAMA, MMP, Dahari) is strengthened for marine environmental monitoring and management (at least 6 staff trained in participatory marine resource monitoring by end of project).	The capacity of three civil society organisations (UMAMA, Moheli Marine Park, Dahari) has been strengthened for participatory marine resource monitoring and management (in total 10 staff; two from UMAMA, five from Dahari and three from Moheli Marine Park). UMAMA was provided with training and technical support in marine resource monitoring and participatory techniques from November 2015 to June 2016. Training and technical support on marine resources monitoring were provided to Dahari from October 2015 and is ongoing to build greater staff capabilities to support marine management. A MoU was signed between Moheli Marine Park and Blue Ventures in 2017 (see Appendix 2, MoU Moheli Marine Park), ensuring long-term technical support. In February 2018, three representatives from Moheli Marine Park visited Dahari and BV on Anjouan and participated in a one-day training session on fisheries monitoring provided by BV staff (see Appendix 3, MMP Training Materials).
2	Civil society capacity strengthened (in at least two partner civil society organisations (CSOs)) for supporting community-based marine environmental monitoring and adaptive management planning.	2.3	Marine and fisheries stakeholders (government, private sector, research, NGO and community) aware of project findings and outcomes, and models for participatory marine monitoring and	Data feedback sessions of catch landing results with the community were conducted biannually and after any important event (such as an exchange visit) (see Appendix 9, Catch Monitoring Feedback Presentations). The Status report (see Appendix 1) is available online and will be shared with relevant local institutions once it has been translated into French. Meetings were organised in February and March 2018 with the Fisheries Directorate, Regional Fisheries Syndicate and other projects active in the Sima peninsula (SWIOFish and UNDP), aimed at sharing activity results and to discuss next steps for effective community-based marine resource management. Meetings will be held regularly to ensure findings are shared and discussed, for long term project continuity.

			management that have been developed by the project.	
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Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.


- **Appendix 1: Status Report.** The status report compiles results from socio-economic and ecological research as well as catch monitoring results, following discussion and recommendation for development of community-based marine management initiatives.
- **Appendix 2: MoU Moheli Marine Park.** A memorandum of understanding between Moheli Marine Park and Blue Ventures.
- **Appendix 3: MMP Training Materials.** Two presentations in French focusing on: methodology to design a fisheries monitoring programme; an introduction to Open Data Kit for monitoring data collection.
- **Appendix 4: Marine Monitoring Manuals.** These include the reef monitoring methodology using snorkel surveys, and the catch monitoring methodology for boat and reef gleaning fisheries. The methodologies have been adapted to the local context but can be used as templates for other locations.
- **Appendix 5: Data Entry Forms.** Excel spreadsheets used for accurate digitization of catch monitoring data. The Excel built-in macros allow to restrict input values (e.g. numbers, value range, text) and to require certain values, which ensures data entry accuracy. Data is also entered twice for subsequent comparison as a further validation method.
- **Appendix 6: Mobile Monitoring with Open Data Kit.** This document illustrates the smartphone-based monitoring methodology through screenshots.
- **Appendix 7: Awareness raising videos.** Two videos are included: ‘Tovo the reef gleaner’, a short movie produced by Blue Ventures in Madagascar, to raise awareness of sustainable gleaning practices, translated into Comorian, to be screened for the communities; ‘Vassy fishers’ movie, staging local fishers to raise awareness about the issues they are facing as well as potential future solutions.
- **Appendix 8: Value chain analysis report.** A report outlining the potential strategies to improve revenue from fisheries and the most suitable alternative marine-based livelihood schemes.

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

Consider lessons that would inform:

- Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

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- Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
 - Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

- **The participatory data collection methodologies used during the project implementation were fundamental for creating a trustful and strong collaboration with communities, ensuring community buy-in and engagement. Local community members were trained in catch monitoring, allowing for their full involvement in the project activities. This enabled them to reach out to other community members, raising awareness of the project objectives and activities. Solutions to improve the fisheries sustainability and next steps for this project were developed during participatory exercises with community members, ensuring our activities are grounded in local context and relevant for the communities.**
- **Transparent collaboration with other projects and governmental bodies is essential to ensure successful project implementation. The different scales at which organisations operate (e.g. national, island-wide or local) and approaches (e.g. community-based or top-down) create a complex web of interacting stakeholders. Coupled with a lack of communication about objectives and activities (between and within organisations), it can lead to conflicts with communities and between organisations, which prevents the implementation of project activities. Regular communication (e.g. through meetings and calls) is necessary for strengthening relationships, and was implemented in the last stages of this project to ensure other projects/governmental bodies are aware of the project, its objectives, and activities. They are also invited to discuss activities and future opportunities. Developing a shared understanding reinforces collaboration towards the common goal of sustainable fisheries management.**

Sustainability / Replication

Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

Successes

- **The enthusiasm of the communities we have worked with is an essential catalyst to mobilise other communities and replicate our work in different locations, e.g. by organising exchange visits to share experiences and motivation.**
- **Support with agriculture activities as an alternative livelihood was highly appreciated amongst the fisherwomen, with a majority conducting both agriculture and fishing as main occupations. Reinforcing agriculture activities has the potential to reduce pressure on reef resources (less gleaning activity through destructive methods e.g. poison fishing) and provide local communities with increased food security and income through improved agriculture production, therefore enhancing project sustainability.**
- **Long-term capacity-building for the Dahari team is ongoing and we are currently planning a strategy for Dahari to evolve towards independent management of the current community-based marine resources management project on Anjouan and for future replication sites. This**

will ensure sustainability and replication potential by a local Comorian NGO leading marine conservation on Anjouan, with Blue Ventures acting as technical support partner.

Challenges

- Sustained follow-up and support in the communities we are currently working with is needed to strengthen long-term engagement and mobilisation. This has to be carefully planned in a balanced and progressive manner for the communities to independently manage their marine resources sustainably while still receiving punctual support from Dahari and Blue Ventures.
- Sustaining and replicating current projects will require resources to be shared with new sites of interest where the activities have the potential to be replicated and/or expansion of the current team. Securing long-term funding will be essential to reach such objectives and represents a challenge (e.g. lack of English-speaking staff narrowing funding opportunities).
- Institutional and political context in the Comoros is challenging for relatively small-scale community-based NGOs such as Dahari. Inconsistent approaches, variable leadership and priorities, and negative community reception, may all have negative impacts on the sustainability of our activities and their replication (e.g. preventing actions in certain sites undermining our reputation). Aware of this challenge, we are committed to maintain a collaborative approach to ensure the project sustainability.

Safeguards

If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

No anticipated or unanticipated environmental or social safeguard issues occurred during this period.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

Additionally we will explore the potential for the development of an island-wide community-based conservation network of shared experiences and learning between community associations, to enhance local marine resource stewardship. This will go beyond institutional and political boundaries in order to achieve conservation objectives.

Capacity-building of local civil society organisations (Dahari and Moheli Marine Park) is paving the way for a larger scale national network to exchange on best practices for sustainable coastal resources management that deliver positive impacts for conservation. They will be supported by Blue Ventures through further training so that they can influence political and economic decision-makers to ensure they favour biodiversity and conservation priorities when implementing management plans.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

Total additional funding (US\$)

\$225,972.00

Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:

- A Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)*
- C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

A: Tusk Trust: Renewed for January 2018 - December 2018 (USD \$19,500/£13,875 for 12 months). Previous grants: \$21,087/£15,000 (December 2015 - December 2016) & \$21,510/£15,300 (December 2016 - December 2017).

A: World Wildlife Fund (WWF): Renewed for May 2018 – October 2018 (USD \$30,000 for 6 months). Previous grants: \$17,005 (April 2015 – December 2015) & \$26,870 (July 2016 - December 2016) & \$30,000 (May 2017 – December 2017).

A: European Union (EU) & Comoros Union Support Program for Building Resilience to Climate Change (AMCC) (shared between Dahari terrestrial and marine projects): July 2017 – October 2018 (USD \$60,000 for 15 months).

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below

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