

## Darwin Initiative Main Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin/IWT Report” Information Note:  
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/>).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

**Submission Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

### Darwin Project Information

Project reference	27-006
Project title	Developing an incentive-based model for community-led marine conservation in Comoros
Country/ies	The Comoros
Lead organisation	Blue Ventures Conservation
Partner institution(s)	Dahari, Mohéli National Park, The National and Regional Fisheries Directorate
Darwin grant value	£342,142
Start/end dates of project	1st October 2020 - 30th September 2023
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2020 – Mar 2021) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	1st October 2020 - 31st March 2021  Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Dr Alasdair Harris
Project website/blog/social media	<a href="https://blueventures.org/">https://blueventures.org/</a>
Report author(s) and date	Fanny Vessaz 30th April 2021

### 1. Project summary

The Comoro archipelago sits at the centre of the Northern Mozambique Channel, an ecoregion with the second highest marine biodiversity globally. This marine biodiversity is critical to the Comorian people: 20% are fishers and over 70% of the rural population rely on fish for protein (Obura, 2012). The young, rapidly increasing population in the Comoros depends on dwindling fish stocks and farming for food security and income.

The project is based on Anjouan, the poorest and most populous island. Population growth has increased pressure on agricultural land and traditional extensive farming methods harm soil fertility, resulting in low yields. Soil erosion also leads to the silting of coral reefs, affecting marine biodiversity.

Drawing on the successes of Madagascar’s growing locally managed marine area (LMMA) movement, the Mohéli Marine Park, and Blue Ventures (BV) and partner Dahari’s work to date in the Comoros, the project will develop a community-led marine conservation model for the Comoros that improves fishers’ livelihoods and conserves reef biodiversity, laying the groundwork for its wider replication.

The project aims to improve the livelihoods of 1,500 small-scale fishers in the Comoros whilst reducing pressure on fisheries and enabling effective management of 350 hectares of coral reefs, conserving marine biodiversity. A replicable, locally-led marine management model developed with ten communities on the island of Anjouan will incentivise adaptive fisheries management in three different coastal areas (see Fig. 1). Additional activities will add value to catches and increase agricultural production, diversifying and improving livelihoods. Best practices will be shared with the government and partners, supporting replication nationwide.

We have been working in zone 1 (Vassy) since 2016 with three local fishers' associations spanning four villages: the fisherwomen association Maecha Bora and the fishers' association Malezi Mema in Vassy, Dzindri and Salamani, and the fisherwomen association Fikira Ndjema in Imere. We have initiated activities in zone 2 (Moya) this year, conducting scoping activities in three communities, Moya, Kowe and Maweni. Activities in zone 3 (Dar Salama) will begin at the end of Y2.

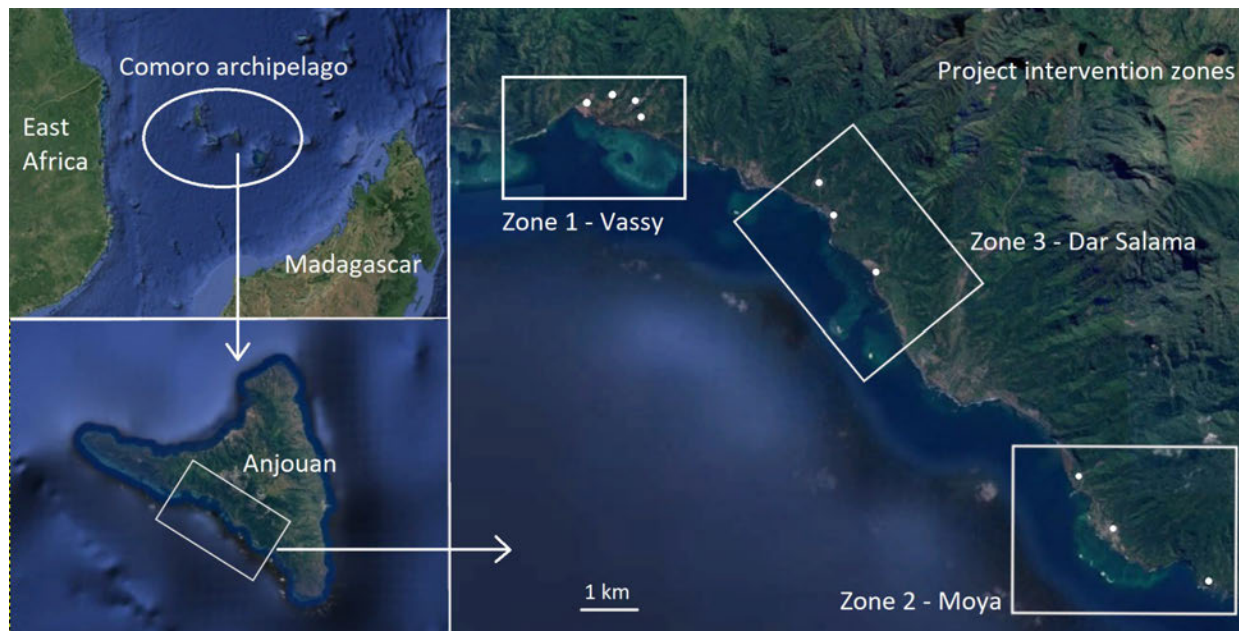


Figure 1: Project location. White dots inside the rectangles on the right show the different communities included in each zone.

## 2. Project partnerships

Dahari is the implementing partner of the project, with close collaboration with one Blue Ventures staff member in-country to provide technical support. Following the departure of Dahari's Project Manager in October 2020, the Blue Ventures (BV) in-country staff member, Fanny Vessaz, stepped up to take on management responsibilities.

Overall, all project activities are developed and implemented with input from both organisations, for example, catch monitoring is supported by BV's expertise in Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) systems. In turn, BV also benefits from Dahari's achievements, for example, flyers (see supporting document 1, Flyers), which were developed to present results from a temporary closure were then shared internally amongst BV staff for inspiration for other in-country teams.

Collaborations with other partners on the project are on-going: Moheli National Park, Fisheries Directorate and Fishers Trade Union.

With Moheli National Park, an exchange visit was organised at the end of March. Fanny Vessaz also visits regularly to support fisheries management, governance and M&E, but this has not taken place in the reporting period due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing travel between islands.

The exchange visit in March also involved the Fisheries Directorate and the Fishers' Trade Union, who took part in meetings with fisher representatives in different areas of Anjouan,

including a visit to one SWIOFish site (world bank project), alongside Dahari-supported communities.

We have kept regular telephone communications with the Fisheries Directorate, and specifically SWIOFish, to share updates on activities and share outreach materials. SWIOFish used BV materials at several of their sites to raise awareness about the octopus lifecycle and the benefits of temporary closures.

The Fishers' Trade Unions' representatives have been involved in awareness-raising for the no-take zone in Anjouan, mobilising their peers across the island for meetings to discuss the regulations.

### **3. Project progress**

#### **3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities**

##### **Output 1. Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted in two new coastal areas (Dar Salama and Moya) and continued by communities in the coastal area of Vassy on Anjouan (ten communities in total), preserving marine resources and providing livelihood benefits.**

All activities have taken place in the coastal area of Vassy (hereafter zone 1) and are on track, with scoping initiated through informal visits in a second coastal area, Moya (hereafter zone 2) during the reporting period.

Awareness-raising sessions (Activity 1.1.1) have not yet started due to restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic (see section 14. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery for more information). In zone 1, 32 reef gleaners<sup>1</sup> (all women) were trained in the use of sustainable fishing techniques (Activity 1.1.2), laying foundations for the uptake of sustainable fishing practices and long-term management measures, such as gear restrictions. During the reporting period, five meetings were held to discuss implementation of a temporary closure from November 2020 until February 2021 (Activity 1.2.3), which resulted in an official local decree validated by authorities (Activity 1.2.4) (see supporting document 2 - Official co-management agreement). Informal meetings were organised with the committee in charge of the management of closures to follow-up with any challenges there may have been, for example with surveillance, during closure implementation (Activity 1.2.5). Due to restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, no community feedback sessions took place during the reporting period. However, we developed flyers to share results from the temporary closure reopening and initiate discussions in the communities (see supporting document 1).

In zone 1, discussions were carried out about putting in place a permanent no-take zone (Activity 1.2.3), the official regulations for which are due to be confirmed in the next quarter. In March, meetings were held for fisher trade unions from different regions on Anjouan to raise awareness about the implementation of the no-take zone, in collaboration with the Regional Fisheries Directorate (Activity 1.4.1). Outreach materials, including flyers and signs, are being prepared to raise awareness of the no-take zone across Anjouan (see supporting document 3, Permanent no-take zone).

In zone 1, association representatives were supported to raise-awareness about using the "*mwiri*", a wooden stick, instead of the destructive "*ntsonso*", metal rebar, to catch octopus (Activity 1.3). Informal conversations and visits to villages took place, where we communicated the use of the "*mwiri*", which is a sustainable fishing technique. Based on continuous catch monitoring results, 64% of reef gleaners are abstaining from destructive fishing techniques in March 2021, and are using a wooden stick instead of the metal rebar to catch octopus, compared to 40% at the start of the project in October 2020.

A thorough process was undertaken to develop the livelihoods and KAP (knowledge, attitude and practices) surveys (Activity 1.4.2) and designing the sampling methodology (see section 8

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<sup>1</sup> Reef gleaners fish for octopus on reef flats at low tide

Monitoring and Evaluation for more information), in collaboration with Blue Ventures' Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team, including helping to develop pilot surveys in zone 1.

**Output 2. Ten communities from three coastal areas of Anjouan have access to data and improved knowledge for identifying key biodiversity hotspots and guiding adaptive management of local marine resources.**

In zone 1, twelve fisherwomen from four different communities were trained in fisheries monitoring techniques over five days during October 2020 (Activity 2.1), and participatory fisheries and reef monitoring are operational (Activity 2.2.1). Fisheries monitoring is conducted across nine landing sites spanning five villages, and reef monitoring over six different sites. Key biodiversity hotspots (Activity 2.2.2) were identified through participatory mapping prior to project start in zone 1, and helped to justify the area selection for the permanent no-take zone by fishers.

Flyers (see supporting document 1) were used to share results from the reopening event in zone 1, instead of community data sharing sessions, due to restrictions on gatherings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which allowed for a trial of a different data feedback format (Activity 2.3.1). The flyers were very successful in engaging discussion amongst communities, and the same strategy will be reused to share results in the future.

Activities 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 have not yet started.

Quarterly feedback sessions were not possible due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing group gatherings for most of the reporting period (Activity 2.3.4). Nevertheless, in zone 1, in October and November 2020, three feedback sessions were able to be organised in three villages to discuss reef monitoring results with 187 participants (see supporting document 4, Reef monitoring presentation). Participants stated that results coincided with their personal experience and highlighted the need to preserve the zones with higher biodiversity. It was also an opportunity to discuss destructive fishing techniques and their impact on the reef ecosystem.

An annual review of monitoring data to advise next steps in management (Activity 2.4) was planned for early 2021 in zone 1, together with the association's general assembly, however, this was postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

In zone 2, Output 2 activities have not yet started but scoping is on-going.

**Output 3. The livelihoods of 400 fishers (200 women) from ten communities are improved through the adoption of value-addition activities for marine products and/or complementary sustainable agriculture activities.**

The baseline study into catch value-addition opportunities is planned to start in the next quarter (Activity 3.1.1). The participatory workshops to discuss the results will follow before the end of year two (Activity 3.1.2). However, training in the drying of fish species (yellowfin tuna and mackerel) was organised in mid-December 2020 in zone 1 for 20 fisherwomen (Activity 3.2.1). Fisherwomen in zone 1 were previously trained in drying of other fish types, and therefore this training helped to refresh their skills and broaden the types of fish they can dry during seasons of limited availability. Regular follow-up sessions are organised with the fisherwomen's associations, Maecha Bora and Fikira Ndjema, to support them in organising this activity (Activity 3.2.2). As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, events to help market the dried products were not possible (e.g. community tasting event). A training curriculum to develop business skills has been developed to encourage the fisherwomen in developing this activity.

For agriculture activities, in zone 1, 165 fishers (84% women) were trained in crop rotation and association of different cultures, multiplication of banana trees and compost making (Activity 3.3.1). Dahari technicians visit and support farming groups at least once a week and provide technical input where needed (Activity 3.3.2).

Livelihoods surveys (Activity 3.4) have started in zone 1 (see Output 1, Activity 1.4.2, or 8. Monitoring and evaluation section).

**Output 4. The first LMMA in the Comoros is established in one coastal area, with the foundations laid for additional LMMAs in two further areas, as a result of governance**

## **structures that are created and supported to design, implement and enforce adaptive fisheries management.**

Milestones towards Output 4 are well in place with management measures repeated in zone 1, and a long-term measure is in place (no-take zone), which is due to be officialised next quarter.

COVID-19 restrictions have delayed scoping visits to zone 2 in Y1. Four official visits with the mayor of zone 2 and the village chiefs were conducted to gain official permission to start activities in zone 2 (Activity 4.1.1 and 4.1.2). Training sessions have been on-going with the association Fikira Ndjema in zone 1, to develop management and leadership skills (Activity 4.1.2), as well as regular informal support sessions for the three local fishing associations in zone 1 (Activity 4.1.3). Our continuous presence in the field with the team of Dahari technicians is key to build associations' capacity in the long run, and empower local communities to manage their resources and build collaboration with government authorities.

Training sessions on LMMA establishment and management (Activity 4.2.1) and the learning exchange with another community managing a LMMA (Activity 4.2.2) have not yet been organised and are planned for Year 2. As such, activities focusing on developing rules and regulations for an LMMA (Activities 4.4.1 to 4.4.3) are planned after those mentioned above.

Support to enforce and penalise infractions (Activity 4.3) has been ongoing in zone 1 with meetings organised during the temporary octopus closure to follow-up surveillance effectiveness (see 1.2.5).

## **Output 5. A network of fishing communities and implementing partners in the Comoros shares best practices in local fisheries management and community conservation.**

A database of potential partners has been developed and engagement has started with ten institutions, including the Shisiwani National Park on Anjouan, the Mayotte Marine Park and Fishers Trade Unions on the three Comorian islands (as well as the project partners, BV/Dahari and Moheli National Park, Regional Fisheries Directorate, Regional Fishers Trade Union) via informal meetings, phone calls and emails (Activity 5.1.1). Partner workshops to share best practices (Activity 5.1.2) and partner training sessions on tools and approaches for community-based management (Activity 5.1.4) have not yet taken place but are planned in the next reporting period.

No formal in-person group partner meetings took place in the reporting period due to COVID-19 restrictions (Activity 5.1.3). However, regular phone calls and activity planning took place, for example, the fishers trade union on Anjouan was involved in meetings to raise awareness about the no-take zone in zone 1 (see 1.4.1).

Two exchange visits were organised, one locally on Anjouan between communities supported by Dahari in zone 1 and communities supported by the Fisheries Directorate through its SWIOFish project, and another nationally with Moheli communities and staff from partner Moheli National Park visiting Anjouan communities (Activity 5.2). Participants had the opportunity to exchange with their peers and share their different contexts and experiences, successes and challenges in marine management.

Regular media outputs (Activity 5.3.1) have been published with two video reports on Comoros national TV channel about management initiatives in zone 1 to showcase local associations, a [blog](#) from Dahari, which was published at the time of writing, and several social media publications, such as Facebook posts.

Development of the film (Activity 5.3.2) and the manual for best practices in community-based management in the Comoros (Activity 5.4) have not yet been started.

## **3.2 Progress towards project Outputs**

### **Output 1. Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted in two new coastal areas (Dar Salama and Moya) and continued by communities in the coastal area of Vassy on Anjouan (ten communities in total), preserving marine resources and providing livelihood benefits.**

We have made good progress during the reporting period, even with restrictions that were in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Management measures were repeated in zone 1,

resulting in a very successful catch per unit effort (CPUE), where catch per fisher doubled compared to before the closure (See supporting document 1). Results of the temporary closure reopening inspired fishers from outside the area to replicate this initiative in their own communities. Based on catch monitoring results, 64% of reef gleaners are now abstaining from destructive fishing techniques, and are using a wooden stick instead of the metal rebar to catch octopus compared to 40% at the start of the project in October 2020. In parallel, training in sustainable fishing techniques has continued with 32 fishers trained in zone 1.

Starting activities was slightly delayed in zone 2, however, scoping and preliminary visits have been completed and discussions about management will start in the next quarter. Activities are planned to start at the end of Y2 for zone 3.

**Output 2. Ten communities from three coastal areas of Anjouan have access to data and improved knowledge for identifying key biodiversity hotspots and guiding adaptive management of local marine resources.**

Progress has been made towards achieving Output 2, while COVID-19 pandemic restrictions have forced prioritisation of certain activities and prevented organisation of training on data analysis, which are planned next quarter. This reporting period we have focused on supporting communities with implementing management instead. In zone 1, catch monitoring is in place with 12 fishers trained in monitoring techniques, and we have completed participatory identification of biodiversity hotspots, providing data and results to initiate adaptive management. For example, the biodiversity hotspots identified were used to select the permanent no-take zone area.

In zone 2, activities will start in Year 2 once initial workshops in output 1 have been completed to provide analysis of the local context.

**Output 3. The livelihoods of 400 fishers (200 women) from ten communities are improved through the adoption of value-addition activities for marine products and/or complementary sustainable agriculture activities.**

Good progress has been made during the reporting period to support livelihood improvement in zone 1. For example, we provided agriculture support to 165 fishers (84% women), including training in crop rotation and association of different cultures, multiplication of banana trees and compost making. One four-day training session for value-addition techniques was conducted for 20 fisherwomen. The consultancy to assess value addition opportunities was delayed, however, this is planned to start remotely in the next quarter to accommodate COVID-19 travel restrictions.

In zone 2, activities will start in the next quarter once study results are available for fishers to select the most suitable initiatives to trial for value-addition. Dahari's support to agriculture already takes place in zone 2, mostly with non-fishers. When marine-focused activities start in zone 2 and interested fishers have been identified, they will be integrated into Dahari agriculture support activities.

**Output 4. The first LMMA in the Comoros is established in one coastal area, with the foundations laid for additional LMMAs in two further areas, as a result of governance structures that are created and supported to design, implement and enforce adaptive fisheries management.**

Milestones towards Output 4 are well in place with management measures repeated in zone 1, and a long-term management measure in place (no-take zone), due to be officialised next quarter. Training sessions have been on-going with associations in zone 1 to develop leadership skills and strengthen local governance. Efforts will continue over Year 2 to engage discussions on LMMA benefits via training sessions and learning exchanges, building upon community efforts to implement a LMMA by Year 3, where most activities will happen under that output.

**Output 5. A network of fishing communities and implementing partners in the Comoros shares best practices in local fisheries management and community conservation.**

Due to restrictions put in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, less progress has been made towards achieving Output 5. However, we organised two exchange visits, one local on

Anjouan and a national one with Moheli fishers to visit their peers on Anjouan. These and future exchange visits provide foundations to develop an effective network to share learnings across fishing communities.

We have stayed in contact with our partners the Moheli National Park, the Regional Fisheries Directorate and the Anjouan Fishers Trade Union over email and phone calls. Joint meetings are planned in April and will take place more regularly moving forward. We have compiled a database of relevant partners in the Comoros and have started reaching out and connecting, for instance with the Mayotte Marine Park to share temporary closure results. We could not organise an annual partner workshop including collaborative training sessions due to COVID-19, but this is planned for Year 2.

### **3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome**

We have achieved good progress towards the project outcome, despite the project only starting six months ago.

Four communities (target 10) are being supported to implement management measures currently encompassing 90ha of coral reefs (target 350ha), and initial scoping with three more communities in a second coastal area have been completed.

One temporary closure was implemented in zone 1, and a permanent no-take zone is due to be officialised next quarter, which will be the first community-based no-take zone in the Comoros, laying foundations for a future LMMA integrating different management measures.

In total 165 fishers (86% women) (target 1500) have been supported in activities such as agriculture and value addition to diversify their livelihoods. Baseline surveys to assess changes in livelihoods are being conducted in zone 1.

Four partners were engaged in learning exchanges (target 5), and two exchange visits were conducted with nine different fishing communities (target 20), ensuring foundations/first steps are in place to develop an effective knowledge sharing network in the Comoros.

The project indicators remain adequate to measure the Outcome and the project is on-track to achieve its Outcome by mid-Year 4.

### **3.4 Monitoring of assumptions**

#### **Assumption 1: Newly-engaged communities work together to implement collective marine management actions.**

Comments: Assumption still valid. Support to new communities was initiated at the end of the reporting period, with fisher representatives showing initial interest in collective fisheries management.

#### **Assumption 2: Livelihood improvements are not negated by natural disasters or other events out of project control.**

Comments: Assumption still valid. There haven't been any natural disasters, and the COVID pandemic hasn't had a negative impact on livelihood improvement activities.

#### **Assumption 3: Other donor-funded marine management projects respond to outreach and collaboration efforts.**

Comments: Assumption still valid. Communication efforts around activities have ensured a positive collaboration amongst existing projects, especially during bi-monthly meetings and ensuring government support.

#### **Assumption 4: Targeted reefs do not suffer heavily from extreme heating or other climatic events.**

Comments: Assumption still valid. Reef monitoring allows assessment of impact from climatic events. There were no extreme heating or climatic events in the reporting period.

**Assumption 5: Unsustainable and illegal fishing practices do not increase thus negating the benefits of local management initiatives.**

Comments: Assumption still valid (see indicator 1.3): based on catch monitoring results in zone 1, 64% of reef gleaners are abstaining from destructive fishing techniques, and are using a sustainable wooden stick instead of the destructive metal rebar to catch octopus compared to 40% at the start of the project in October 2020.

**Assumption 6: Community members involved in monitoring engage in interpreting and presenting monitoring data for fellow community members.**

Comments: Assumption still valid but not yet tested as activities linked to that assumption were mostly not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic shifting priorities. However, community members have engaged with the flyers we developed to share the temporary closure reopening results.

**Assumption 7: No significant destruction of crops by natural disasters.**

Comments: Assumption still valid. There hasn't been any disasters impacting crops this reporting period.

**Assumption 8: Sufficient local leadership and cohesion exists within the target communities for local management to be developed successfully and respected.**

Comments: Assumption still valid. In zone 1, association representatives are well respected and are now implementing a long-term management measure, a testimony of their legitimacy amongst their community and in front of local authorities.

**Assumption 9: Partners see the benefits of sharing experiences.**

Comments: Assumption still valid. Two partners took part in an exchange visit at the end of March and are eager to share experiences further. For instance, Moheli National Park is interested in adapting outreach materials created by Dahari to use with the communities they support (see supporting document 3 Permanent no-take zone).

### **3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation**

The project is strongly aligned with the Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity by promoting full participation of communities in the establishment and maintenance of marine protected areas in line with decision VII/28 on protected areas.

The project's activities have so far made progress towards a positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation. We have been working with fishers to manage biodiversity with the goal of reducing poverty and protecting preferential access rights, establishing one temporary fishery closure across four communities and developing regulations for a no-take zone to be officialised in the next quarter. The temporary closure has positively impacted fishers' livelihoods by doubling their usual catch compared to before the closure. Anecdotally, community members have voiced appreciation for agriculture support during these temporary closures, and have gained more profits from their cultures.

We have provided training and support in technical skills to manage associations effectively and implement management initiatives successfully, as well as in sustainable fishing techniques for 47 association members. Regular support visits in the field and distribution of flyers to share results from catch monitoring are stepping stones towards enabling informed decision-making around marine management.

By reinforcing the effective management of marine resources through community management and by taking practical actions to rebuild fish populations and protect key habitats, in particular coral reefs, the project is on its way to help protect critical ecosystems and ensure local, low-income communities are able to benefit sustainably from biodiversity; helping Comoros achieve CBD Aichi Biodiversity **Targets 6** (sustainable fishing), **10** (minimising climate change impacts), **11** (effective conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services) and **14** (safeguarding health, livelihoods and well-being).



The project responds directly to targets identified in the Comoros' National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan submitted to the CBD in 2016. The approach and objectives contribute to all five of the key targets: reduce the causes of biodiversity loss through integration into productive sectors; reduce direct pressures and encourage sustainable use; conserve ecosystems and species; and reinforce implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

#### **4. Contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)**

**SDG1** - No poverty. The project has made significant progress towards local economic development. Comorian coastal communities are largely reliant on small-scale fisheries for their livelihoods, and we have been supporting diversification and improvement of livelihoods through agricultural activities and catch value improvements. For instance, 20 fisherwomen have been trained in drying activities and 263 people were supported in sustainable agriculture practices.

**SDG2** - Zero hunger. The project has been working with fishing-dependent coastal communities to establish sustainable fisheries management through LMMAs, ultimately promoting long-term food security.

**SDG5** - Gender equality. (Refer to section 7, Project support to gender equality issues). The project gives women a rare and valuable opportunity to develop their leadership skills, ultimately promoting their standing within the community and contributing to improving gender equality. This reporting period we have provided opportunities for empowering women, ensuring that they are encouraged to participate in decision-making around marine management. Our target for women's participation in decision-making is 50% of the target population, 750 women. This reporting period we have managed to involve 153 women, who are members of local fisher women's associations, in leading the implementation of a temporary closure, and in different training sessions on management and governance skills.

**SDG14** - Life Below Water. The project engages local communities in marine management through first raising awareness about their local environment via data feedback sessions, for example on reef monitoring results, reducing destructive fishing practices via training, supporting implementation of management measures, such as the temporary fishery closure and the no-take zone, all of which help to preserve resources in the long-term. These activities will make a substantial contribution towards the Comoros' commitment to SDG 14 – conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

#### **5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements**

The project is contributing towards the three main objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (ratified by Comoros in 1994) as planned, in particular Articles 8 (In-situ Conservation), 10 (Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity) and 14 (Impact Assessment and Minimizing Adverse Impacts). We are working towards Articles 8 and 10 through development of fisheries management measures, including those that reduce use of destructive fishing techniques, and implementing a no-take zone to preserve coral reefs in the long-term. We are working towards Article 14 through catch and reef monitoring programmes in zone 1 and these are also planned for other coastal areas. Results from monitoring will be used to assess the state of marine resources, allow for adapting and informing management measures in locations where they are most needed (e.g. by identifying key biodiversity areas), and evaluate the effect of management initiatives to ensure a positive impact on marine biodiversity.

BV in-country staff met with the Comoros CBD focal point, Abdouchakour Mohamed, during a visit in Grande Comore in November 2020, to introduce the project in-person and discuss upcoming activities. He stated his interest in participating in the workshops to share learnings around fisheries management with fishing communities and partners.

## 6. Project support to poverty alleviation

The project is based in the most low-income and most populous island of the Comoros, with a rapidly increasing population that depends on dwindling fish stocks and farming for food security and income.

The project targets both reef gleaning and boat fisheries, aiming to improve livelihoods of 1500 fishers. Reef gleaning is practiced mainly by women who are entirely dependent on accessible, shallow coral reefs, which are vulnerable to climate change. They often use destructive fishing techniques such as poison or metal rebars to fish for octopus. Boat fishing is practiced mainly by men, who often use destructive fishing techniques such as small-sized nets.

The project works towards poverty alleviation by supporting alternative livelihoods and encouraging families to diversify their income, such as so far training 20 fisherwomen in fish drying techniques. We trained 165 (84% women) people in agriculture techniques, such as crop rotations and associations of different cultures or strategies to prevent soil erosion, ultimately supporting yield improvement.

Specifically, by working with fishers to manage biodiversity with the goal of reducing poverty and protecting preferential access rights, the project fulfills general principle 4 of the Programme of Work. For instance, the implementation of temporary fisheries closures as in zone 1 increases the octopus catches (see Supporting document 1), providing short-term benefits and engaging fishers in the development of longer-term measures, such as a no-take zone with lasting impacts for biodiversity. Community-based measures ensure these initiatives are legitimate locally and will be enforced. For example, the temporary closure was officialized by local authorities, and no infractions were reported during the temporary closure.

## 7. Consideration of gender equality issues

Women in the Comoros are traditionally absent from resource management discussions where collective decision-making is dominated by men. Their interests are underrepresented and they often lack confidence to participate in male-dominated meetings. The project aims to empower women to play a more equitable role in resource management.

Due to the prevalent patriarchal structure and male dominance in Comorian society, we are ensuring that women participate in several initiatives thereby promoting gender equity and equality in value-addition activities and improved agricultural practices, community consultations and are prioritised for participatory fisheries and habitat monitoring activities.

This reporting period we have built local support, capacity and leadership for gender-equitable community-based marine management across the Comoros through training in governance and management skills for 15 fisherwomen (all are members of a local fisher's association), and encouraging women's participation in meetings with 67% of women attendees at the meetings so far. There are currently 186 fisher association members (153 are women, 82%).

Next steps include carrying out workshops to discuss representativity in decision-making and discuss gender differences and impacts in engagement in management discussions, especially with association members from zone 1 as we have already developed our relationship with them, allowing us to discuss such sensitive topics, with the aim of empowering women further in leadership positions.

## 8. Monitoring and evaluation

Blue Ventures delivers projects using principles of adaptive management, as part of a cycle that moves from project design, implementation and monitoring, to reviewing results, and back to project design (adapting / revising strategy and plans). The outputs' and activities' contribution to the project outcome is detailed in a theory of change that we refer to at all stages in this cycle. Review happens at a range of frequencies, depending on the thoroughness of the review, with the broad strategy reviewed less frequently (usually every

three years), and the day-to-day implementation of activities reviewed more frequently (at least monthly).

Project activities are implemented mostly by our partner Dahari, who we are working closely with to manage the project, including through M&E. In-country BV staff are connecting with Moheli National Park and overseeing communications between partners. When the Dahari Project Manager left, BV in-country staff stepped up to cover the role's responsibilities, and recruitment to replace this role has just started.

We use data from monitoring and evaluation activities (described below) to continually assess the rationale behind our theory of change, and the assumptions that underpin it, reviewing the relevance of the outputs and activities of the project. The indicators provided in the project proposal are outlined in the logframe.

Strengthening the capacity of Comorian community associations for marine and fisheries management is fundamental to achieving the project's objectives. This reporting period, 12 community members received training in fisheries monitoring, including the use of tried and tested smartphone-based fisheries monitoring and dashboarding systems.

As well as catch monitoring, which allows evaluation of outcome of temporary fishery closures, sharing result data with community members via flyers (see Supporting document 1) and discussions about how to improve management measures enable further development of management. A report was written to describe main outcomes and lessons learned from the recent temporary closure implementation, and at the time of writing, is being finalised to be shared with project partners and published on Dahari's website.

The project proposed to develop and conduct household surveys to assess improvements in livelihoods as well as KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practices) surveys to assess awareness and perceptions/support towards marine conservation. During the reporting period, BV staff in-country and the M&E support team were focused on designing both of these surveys. We decided to combine both the household and KAP questions into one survey because target respondents are the same, and the survey timeline is similar (start and end of project). The questionnaires developed look at the programme from a broad perspective, evaluating our overall approach to use information to improve project delivery. They include key livelihood indicators (e.g. % of produce used for household consumption versus market sales, diversity of crops grown), as well as aspects outside of monetary wealth (e.g. access to food; changes in expenditure behaviour; livelihood diversification as an indicator for income resilience). Questions are also designed to evaluate knowledge and attitudes towards marine conservation (including fisheries management and sustainable fishing techniques) (See supporting document 5- Livelihoods+KAP table and 6 - Questionnaire).

The surveys were piloted in the communities with the Dahari technicians team and improved as necessary (formulating the questions, options to add, translation to review). A team of eight data collectors from the communities were hired to avoid any bias in answers on perceptions if project partner staff were to conduct the surveys. The data collectors were trained over five days in early March on how to conduct the surveys. In parallel, a sampling strategy was developed to ensure target groups are well represented and so that we can have confidence in the results provided statistically (see Supporting document 7, Sampling strategy).

## **9. Lessons learnt**

Overall, the project has made a good start in continuing to establish zone 1, and initial steps have been made in zone 2. Exchanges between fishing communities and partners are underway, and we have seen good engagement from partners and fishing communities in sharing successes and challenges to improve community-based fisheries management.

Developing the livelihoods and KAP surveys took longer than planned, from the design phase up to training surveyors. We had to readapt the sampling methodology after having started surveys, because many people refuse to be involved in answering them, due to survey fatigue from other projects carried out by other organisations, without feedback and/or fear that data

will be used to some profit without their knowledge. This is the first time we have developed such broad surveys in the Comoros, which not only involve the people we work with, but also the wider community. Learnings will be capitalized for future instances and the roll-out of surveys will then be smoother for the next zones. A group session is planned with the Dahari team, who has been running similar surveys in its other programmes, to exchange experiences on the different survey setups and learn from each other.

We have developed interactive survey methods in an effort to increase respondents' engagement. For the livelihoods focused questions, we worked with a local artist to create drawings representing the different activities people do, then transferred them onto cardboard cards to be used by the data collectors to discuss livelihoods. Respondents can pick and choose which activities they relate to, in a visual and engaging way. We have received positive feedback on this method from data collectors, and are planning to use them in Dahari's rural development sector.

## **10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)**

N/A

## **11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

N/A

## **12. Sustainability and legacy**

This project is part of a long-term approach to build local support, capacity, and leadership for gender-equitable community-based marine management across the Comoros.

The use of community-led monitoring and periodic fishery closures have proven to be effective catalysts for wider local engagement in marine management in diverse Indian Ocean contexts, and this was also the case in the Comoros. For example, the temporary closure that took place from November to February inspired neighbouring villages to do the same, expanding community-based fisheries management across the Comoros.

Exchange visits with partners have started, and they have been successful in inspiring communities and partners to share experiences and engage in marine management. The exchanges conducted up until now and planned in the future will provide the foundations needed to create a network of communities and partners (including government) motivated to expand the work beyond the project term. This will also ensure a sustained legacy of the project, with learnings and successes shared across the Comoros and replicated more broadly. Already, the government is engaging with women from the communities supported by Dahari who have experienced the closures, and invited them to other islands to share their experiences. Additionally, our partner, Dahari, is becoming an increasingly well known implementer in the field, helping to ensure future sustainability of this project.

The project exit strategy is still valid - The development of Dahari's capacity to support communities for marine management is a cross-cutting component of this project with the aim that they will be largely independent of BV's support by the end of the project. This goes together with an emphasis on local hiring and training, for instance with catch monitoring technicians and supporting associations, to ensure skills remain within the target communities.

## **13. Darwin identity**

During the reporting period we have openly and transparently acknowledged the Darwin Initiative and the UK Government's funding. Logos have been used on awareness-raising materials to inform community members about management measures used during temporary

closures, and on signs along the coast to inform people about the temporary closure location and dates.

We also acknowledged the Darwin Initiative and the UK Government's funding on a Dahari [blog](#), which was then translated into an English [blog](#) for the Blue Ventures conservation blog website, which were both published at the time of writing in April.

#### **14. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery**

At the time of writing on April 7th, there are 50 active cases in the Comoros (50 on Grande Comore, 0 on Anjouan and 0 Moheli). The number of cases has been decreasing in the past weeks (compared to 355 cases early February), while increasing slightly in March in Grande Comore. Since January 31st 2021, a curfew is in place from 8pm to 5am, masks and social distancing are mandatory in all public spaces and offices, and measures are relatively enforced with regular police patrols.

In the Comoros, there is very poor healthcare infrastructure and lack of uptake of preventative measures, limited testing and slow communication of results could lead to a worrying trend of community transmission, however current numbers seem to show a downward trend after a strengthening of restrictions to prevent community spread. Vaccination should start in April, but the process is not clear yet.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused some disruption to group events, such as awareness-raising events and training sessions, which were unable to take place due to restrictions on gatherings of people. As a result of restrictions, in this reporting period we adjusted our approach, for instance we distributed flyers in villages detailing the results of a temporary closure, instead of carrying out in-person group sessions to discuss the reopening results. We will continue to use this tool as well as group sessions once restrictions allow. We have just slightly adjusted our work plans - prioritizing support on management implementation instead of data analysis training, and plan to carry out training once restrictions allow.

Blue Ventures has policies and mitigations in place, and there are some restrictions to work and movement, and briefings required for staff. Dahari has strong guidelines in place that are reviewed regularly every week, and are in touch with the doctor in charge of the COVID-19 response on Anjouan for trusted information.

Effy Vessaz, the only BV employee in the Comoros, is following the same procedures as our in-country partner Dahari; no public transport, limit movements, wear a face mask, maintain social distancing, and maintain careful hygiene.

#### **15. Safeguarding**

Please tick this box if any safeguarding or human rights violations have occurred during this financial year.

If you have ticked the box, please ensure these are reported to [ODA.safeguarding@defra.gov.uk](mailto:ODA.safeguarding@defra.gov.uk) as indicated in the T&Cs.

Blue Ventures place great importance on the rights of our partner communities, partner organisations, our beneficiaries and our people. We work with remote coastal communities where people often struggle with severe environmental, economic, and educational challenges. These challenges can heighten communities' vulnerability. For Blue Ventures, safeguarding means protecting communities from the potential harm that arises from coming into contact with anyone working for or with us, or from our activities or our programmes. We have clear policies, procedures and governance in place that have been reviewed and updated every six months, and policies are updated every month with new training provided to the project team, to ensure we provide a safeguarding framework that everyone who works with us is made aware of through induction and training.

We have a dedicated position within the organisation (UK based) to oversee Safeguarding and Health and Safety matters. We are committed to ensuring that our staff, partners and anyone

working with us, are fully aware of what safeguarding means, our policies and procedures - including reporting mechanisms. These policies include: Protection Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults, Ethical Photography Guidelines, Terms of Reference for Safeguarding and Reporting Committee, Whistleblowing and Reporting Guidance Procedure, and our Code of Conduct. Our primary objective in safeguarding is to do no harm, and we take a zero tolerance approach to anyone who contravenes our policies.

## 16. Project expenditure

**Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021)**

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2020/21 Grant (£)	2020/21 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				
<b>TOTAL</b>				

## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2020-2021

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>Integrated local management of inshore coastal resources in the Comoros protects coral reef ecosystems whilst improving livelihoods for rural communities.</p>		<p>We continue to put in place management measures that promote sustainable fishing techniques. For example, the use of the <i>mwiri</i>, wooden stick, is mandatory during octopus closure reopening days. This technique is used instead of the <i>ntsontso</i>, a metal rebar that destroys the reef when used. Local fisher association leaders also decided to ban the catching of juvenile octopus weighing less than 500 grams during the octopus closure reopening day in February 2021, in an effort to allow the octopus to reach reproductive age before they are caught.</p> <p>A permanent no-take zone is in development in zone 1, allowing long-term conservation of key marine biodiversity and ultimately increasing fisheries productivity benefitting fishers livelihoods.</p> <p>Support to agriculture and value addition to fisheries products continued in zone 1. Through training and continuous field support, fishers are supported to diversify their income sources, while promoting ecological practices (e.g. anti-erosion agriculture techniques).</p>	

<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>An integrated, replicable model for community-based marine management is developed, improving the livelihoods of 1,500 fishers and enabling effective management of 350 hectares of coral reefs, conserving marine biodiversity.</p>	<p>0.1 By end of project, ten communities from three coastal areas (with an estimated 1,500 fishers) on Anjouan are actively implementing local marine and fisheries management initiatives encompassing 350 ha of coral reefs, including the establishment of a locally managed marine area (LMMA) of at least 70 ha.</p> <p>0.2 By end of project, 75% of fishers report improvements in their livelihoods from fisheries management measures and/or value-addition/ agriculture activities, compared with project start.</p> <p>0.3 By end of project, at least 20 participating communities and 5 partners (established and new partnerships) are engaged in sharing knowledge and best practices for community-led marine management in the wider Comoros.</p> <p>0.4 Key biodiversity indicators (abundance and biomass of reef fish; reef benthic composition) within the LMMA remain stable or improve by the end of the project, and are monitored within the two other areas, including the abundance and biomass of day fishery targeted reef species, e.g parrotfish (<i>Scarus</i> sp.), surgeonfish (<i>Acanthurus</i> and <i>Ctenochaetus</i> sp.), key grouper species blackfin and tomato grouper (<i>Epinephelus fasciatus</i> and <i>Cephalopholis sonnerati</i>).</p>	<p>0.1 In total 186 fishers, seven communities (including zone 1 and scoping in zone 2) supported. Four communities are implementing fisheries management measures, with 90 ha of coral reefs currently managed via temporary closures and a no-take zone in place, which is due to be officialised next quarter.</p> <p>0.2 Livelihood surveys have started for baseline in zone 1.</p> <p>0.3 Sharing experiences have occurred via informal contacts and two exchange visits, four partners involved (Moheli National Park, Dahari, Fisheries Directorate, Fishers Trade Union) (Mayotte Marine Park only email exchanges on activities). Nine fishing communities have been involved in exchanges so far.</p> <p>0.4 Reef and catch monitoring is in place in zone 1</p>	<p>We will begin activities in zone 2.</p> <p>In zone 1, we will put in place a no-take zone, and provide opportunities to engage community members in discussions on LMMAs and integrated management</p> <p>We will develop livelihoods support with consultancy on value addition options.</p> <p>We will hold a national workshop to discuss experiences on temporary closures and involve partners and fishing communities representatives in the process.</p>
<p><b>Output 1.</b></p> <p>Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted in two new coastal areas (Dar Salama and Moya) and</p>	<p>1.1a 2,000 community members (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas have attended awareness-raising sessions on</p>	<p>We have made good progress during the reporting period, even with restrictions that were in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Management measures were repeated in zone 1 (Vassy), resulting in a very successful catch per unit effort</p>	



<p>continued by communities in the coastal area of Vassy on Anjouan (ten communities in total), preserving marine resources and providing livelihood benefits.</p>	<p>sustainable fishing practices and marine conservation by end of project;</p> <p>1.1b 200 fishers (half of whom are women) have attended training on sustainable fishing techniques and management initiatives (e.g. temporary closures) by end of project.</p> <p>1.2 Short-term fisheries management initiatives (e.g. temporary closures), repeated in one coastal area, and co-designed, agreed and piloted in another coastal area by end of year two; repeated by two coastal areas and piloted in a third coastal area by end of year three; repeated by all three coastal areas by end of project.</p> <p>1.3 Foundations for long-term fisheries management strategies (e.g. gear restrictions) are in place with more than 50% of fishers (half of whom are women) abstaining from destructive fishing techniques in the first coastal area; and more than 25% in two other coastal areas, by end of project.</p> <p>1.4a 50% of community members (half of whom are women) are aware of existing management measures by end of project;</p> <p>1.4b 80% of fishers (half of whom are women) report improvements in their livelihoods from fisheries management initiatives and/or sustainable fishing techniques by end of project.</p>	<p>(CPUE), where catch per fisher doubled compared to before the closure, inspiring fishers from outside to replicate this initiative in their communities.</p> <p>Training in sustainable fishing techniques has continued in zone 1.</p> <p>Activities have just started in zone 2 (Moya), and are planned to start at the end of Y2 for zone 3 (Dar Salama).</p> <p>1.1a Awareness-raising sessions have not yet started due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, which limit gatherings.</p> <p>1.1b Ongoing. In zone 1, 32 fishers were trained in October and November on sustainable fishing techniques, such as the “dema”, the local name for a fishing trap, in an effort to replace destructive techniques, such as poisonous fishing.</p> <p>1.2 Ongoing. In zone 1, two temporary closures took place from November 2020 until February 2021 (see supporting documents 2, and 8 Temporary closure map).</p> <p>1.3 Ongoing. In zone 1, based on catch monitoring results, 64% of reef gleaners are abstaining from destructive fishing techniques, and are using a wooden stick instead of the metal rebar to catch octopus compared to 40% at the start of the project in October 2020. Catch monitoring has not yet started in zone 2 and 3.</p> <p>1.4 Ongoing. In March, we began Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) and livelihoods baseline surveys in zone 1 (see supporting documents 5, 6 and 7), and we will start them in zone 2 in the next quarter.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1 1. Awareness-raising sessions to increase understanding of marine conservation, management measures and adoption of sustainable fishing techniques (e.g. movie nights, debates about threats to the reef, theatre plays on closures).</p>		<p>Awareness-raising sessions, such as movie nights and theatre plays, have not yet started due to restrictions</p>	<p>Once restrictions on gatherings are lifted, we will organise awareness-raising sessions in communities from zone 1 and 2.</p>

	imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	As an alternative to in-person events, we plan to hold television and radio broadcasts to discuss marine conservation measures.
Activity 1.1.2 Training in sustainable fishing techniques and management initiatives for 200 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas	Ongoing. In October and November 2020, 32 reef gleaners (all women) in zone 1 were trained in the use of sustainable fishing techniques, such as the “ <i>dema</i> ”, the local name for a fishing trap, during two four-day sessions.	A workshop to discuss successes and challenges in using the “ <i>dema</i> ” is planned for zone 1 in next quarter, in order to improve the current training methodology.  Further training in sustainable fishing techniques are planned in zone 1 and zone 2.
Activity 1.2.2 Community consultations to discuss fisheries management options, based on participatory monitoring data	Not started yet for zone 2 and 3.  In zone 1, where activities were initiated prior to the start of the project, community consultations already took place.	In April, community consultations are planned for seventeen focus groups in the three communities spanning zone 2, in order to get participants’ perceptions on marine resources, challenges and potential management solutions.
1.2.3 Communities are supported to choose one fisheries management initiative to trial.	Ongoing and completed.  In zone 1, five meetings were held to discuss implementation of a temporary closure, which were attended by a total of 136 participants. Local authorities were present in the final meeting to validate decisions with the community. Feedback and results from a previous closure in early 2020 were taken into account when developing regulations for this new initiative. Two different zones were selected (total 75 ha) to accommodate for the different village locations. A stronger surveillance system was also put in place with a designated surveillance committee and logbooks to monitor any infractions (see supporting document 2).  During the same period in zone 1, discussions were carried out about	In zone 1, communities will continue to discuss implementing another temporary closure in 2021.  In zone 2, following community consultations in 1.2.2 and awareness-raising activities in 1.1.1, workshops will be organised to support communities to choose one management initiative (forecast Q2).

	<p>putting in place a permanent no-take zone. From October to November, two workshop sessions (average 14 participants) took place to discuss management rules with other governmental partners, focusing on rules around the no-take zone but also monitoring, control and surveillance, conflict resolution mechanisms and decision-making processes. Local authorities were present in the last session to formalise decisions.</p> <p>In zone 2, activity has not yet started.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.2.4 Work plan agreed upon with community and relevant authorities – including relevant associations and women’s groups – for management initiative implementation (e.g. location, duration, rules).</p>	<p>Completed and ongoing.</p> <p>In zone 1, the temporary octopus closure started in November 2020 and continued until February 2021, following a local decree describing regulations formalised with local authorities (see supporting document 2).</p> <p>In zone 2, activity has not yet started.</p>	<p>In zone 1, the management plan for the no-take zone is currently under revision and the permanent reserve is planned to be officially implemented in May 2021.</p> <p>In zone 2, following results of 1.2.2 and 1.2.3, a work plan will be developed by the end of Y2.</p>
<p>Activity 1.2.5 Monthly meetings to follow-up on implementation of management work plan and next steps advised by community feedback sessions (linked to 2.3.4).</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>In zone 1, informal meetings were organised with the committee in charge of the management of closures to follow-up with any challenges and to organise the reopening day in February, and a ban on catching octopus below 500g was agreed.</p> <p>Considering restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, no community feedback sessions took place during the reporting period. However, we developed flyers to share results from the reopening and initiate discussions in the communities (see supporting document 1).</p>	<p>In zone 1, meetings are planned with representatives from local associations to organise for a potential temporary closure in the coming months, and to develop a strategy to control the number of people taking part in reopening events, possibly involving local authorities and police.</p> <p>Monthly meetings will be organised once the no-take zone is officialised to follow-up on implementation and surveillance processes.</p> <p>In zone 2, following on results from 1.2.2, 1.2.3 and 1.2.4, activities will be planned accordingly.</p>

	<p>During a meeting in March with representatives from local associations, a more in-depth presentation of catch monitoring results allowed discussion on the closure impact and next steps. Monthly meetings have not yet started in zone 2.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.3 Follow-up visits to provide support and further awareness raising to encourage uptake of sustainable fishing techniques (continuous in-field presence with local technicians).</p>	<p>On-going.</p> <p>In zone 1, association representatives were supported to raise-awareness about using the “<i>mwiri</i>”, a wooden stick, instead of the destructive “<i>ntsontso</i>”, metal rebar, to catch octopus. Informal conversations and visits to villages took place to communicate the use of this sustainable fishing technique. Based on catch monitoring results, 64% of reef gleaners are abstaining from destructive fishing techniques in March 2021, and are using a wooden stick instead of the metal rebar to catch octopus, compared to 40% at the start of the project in October 2020.</p> <p>The use of the trap technique “<i>dema</i>” is being monitored regularly following the training sessions, through informal conversations and a catch monitoring system. The fishers are currently facing challenges in using this method as the gear is heavy, not very effective and there have been stealth occasions.</p> <p>In zone 2, this activity has not yet started.</p>	<p>In zone 1, a workshop to discuss challenges associated with the use of <i>dema</i> traps is planned, as well as exchanging experiences between fishers from different villages.</p> <p>In zone 2, following training sessions planned in 1.1.2, follow-up sessions will be organised.</p>
<p>Activity 1.4.1 Support to local associations in mobilising communities and spreading information on management initiatives, in collaboration with local authorities (linked with 1.1.1 awareness-raising sessions).</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>In zone 1, Dahari and Blue Ventures supported three local associations, Malezi Mema (fisher’s association),</p>	<p>In both zones 1 and 2, following results from upcoming meetings included in activities 1.2.2. to 1.2.5, we will provide</p>

	<p>Maecha Bora (fisherwomen's association) and Fikira Ndjema (fisherwomen's association), to prepare for the zone 1 temporary octopus closure reopening day in February, informing them on the measures that were decided during several visits in neighbouring villages. Local authorities were present on the reopening day.</p> <p>In March, two meetings were held for fisher trade unions from different regions on Anjouan to raise awareness about the up-coming no-take zone to be implemented, gathering 39 participants, in collaboration with the regional fisheries directorate. Outreach materials (flyers and signs) were prepared to increase awareness-raising across Anjouan (see supporting document 3).</p> <p>In zone 2, this activity has not yet started.</p>	<p>support to raise awareness about the selected management initiatives.</p>
<p>1.4.2 Household livelihood and KAP surveys with targeted fishers before commencing activities in respective zones, and at the end of project (complemented with results of 3.4).</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>A thorough process was undertaken to develop the livelihoods and KAP surveys and designing the sampling methodology (see supporting documents 5, 6 and 7), in collaboration with Blue Ventures Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E) team. In zone 1, surveys started in March.</p> <p>In zone 2, activity has not started yet.</p>	<p>In zone 1, all baseline surveys will be completed in next quarter.</p> <p>In zone 2, recruitment and training of data collectors will be carried out in the next quarter. Following this, surveys will be conducted by the end of Q1.</p>
<p><b>Output 2.</b> Ten communities from three coastal areas of Anjouan have access to data and improved knowledge for identifying key biodiversity hotspots and guiding adaptive management of local marine resources.</p>	<p>2.1 60 community members (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas are able to conduct fisheries monitoring activities by the end of year two.</p>	<p>Progress has been made towards achieving Output 2, while COVID-19 pandemic restrictions have forced prioritisation of certain activities and prevented data analysis training. This reporting period we have focused on supporting communities with implementing management.</p>

	<p>2.2a Participatory mobile-based catch and reef monitoring operational in three coastal areas by end of year two;</p> <p>2.2b Participatory identification of key coral reef biodiversity hotspots in each coastal area in collaboration with fishers based on reef monitoring datasets by the end of year three.</p> <p>2.3a By the end of year three, 60 management association members (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas have been trained to present catch and reef monitoring data to the wider community, and to use the data to guide adaptive management;</p> <p>2.3b By end of project, 15 management association members across three coastal areas have presented catch/reef monitoring data to the wider community.</p> <p>2.4 One management association in each coastal area has started to implement an adaptive management system, informed by at least one review of participatory catch and reef monitoring data by end of project.</p>	<p>In zone 1, we completed catch monitoring and participatory identification of biodiversity hotspots. Fishers from four communities were trained in catch monitoring.</p> <p>In zone 2, activities will start once initial workshops in activity 1.2.2 are complete to provide analysis of the local context.</p> <p>2.1 Ongoing. Twelve fisherwomen have been trained to conduct fisheries monitoring in zone 1.</p> <p>2.2a Ongoing. Catch and reef monitoring operational in zone 1, and is planned next quarter in zone 2.</p> <p>2.2b Completed in zone 1, not yet started in zone 2 or 3.</p> <p>2.3a and 2.3b Not started yet.</p> <p>2.4 Not started yet.</p>	
<p>Activity 2.1 Training for 60 community members in fisheries monitoring methods (half of whom are women).</p>		<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>In zone 1, twelve fisherwomen were trained in fisheries monitoring techniques over five days during October. The participants were enthusiastic about learning new technical skills, such as precise reading of a scale, and fish measurement.</p> <p>In zone 2, not started yet.</p>	<p>In zone 1, another training session is planned in May for 10 community members (all women).</p> <p>In zone 2, training in fisheries monitoring methods is planned at the end of Q1 following completion of activity 1.2.2.</p>

<p>Activity 2.2.1 Participatory fisheries monitoring carried out by community members and reef monitoring operational in each community of interest across three coastal areas (by end of year two).</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>In zone 1, fisheries monitoring is operational across two different fisheries. For the reef gleaning fishery, 5978 fishing trips have been sampled across seven landing sites spanning five villages. For the boat fishery, 372 boat trips have been sampled across two landing sites spanning three villages.</p> <p>Reef monitoring in zone 1 is conducted over six different sites, both in October-November and in March-April (4500m<sup>2</sup> of reef covered in each monitoring phase).</p> <p>In zone 2, participatory fisheries and reef monitoring has not yet started.</p>	<p>Participatory catch monitoring and reef monitoring is planned for the next quarter in zone 2, following training in 2.1.</p>
<p>Activity 2.2.2 Participatory workshops to identify key biodiversity hotspots per coastal area in collaboration with fishers, supported by the reef monitoring datasets.</p>	<p>Completed for zone 1, not started yet for zone 2.</p> <p>In zone 1, a participatory mapping session was conducted in September 2020 (prior to project start) to initiate discussions on the permanent no-take zone with fisher representatives. We asked the participants to designate areas on a large map picturing the coastline and adjacent reefs, according to specific categories. Categories included: high coral cover, high fish density, seagrass, anthropogenic impact (e.g. waste, reef gleaners), and boat versus pirogue fishing areas. Based on that exercise, we showed the results from the reef monitoring surveys, which coincided with high biodiversity areas highlighted by fisher representatives. This high-biodiversity area is also where the fishers wished to locate the permanent reserve. The exercise therefore helped to justify the</p>	<p>In zone 2, participatory workshops will be organised mid-year 2, once catch and reef monitoring have been implemented.</p>

	area selection and can provide arguments to discuss the permanent reserve in awareness-raising sessions.	
Activity 2.3.1 Trial different feedback formats and methods with the community to determine the best way to disseminate fisheries and reef data.	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>In zone 1, we distributed flyers to share results from the reopening event (see supporting document 1) rather than sharing results in-person. These were very successful in engaging discussion amongst communities, and the same strategy will be reused to share results in the future.</p> <p>In zone 2, not started yet.</p>	In zone 1, workshops with fisher association representatives will be organised in the next quarter to discuss data analysis and use in management (see 2.3.2), including different feedback formats to assess most suitable methods.
Activity 2.3.2 Training for 10 management association members in each coastal zone in simple analysis and presentation of catch (and reef) monitoring information back to their communities (half of whom are women).	Not started yet.	In zone 1, training sessions are planned for association representatives in the next quarter.
Activity 2.3.3 Training for 10 members of local management associations (half of whom are women) in each coastal zone in how to use data as a management decision-support tool (e.g. evaluating the impact of and adapting management measures).	Not started yet.	In zone 1, training sessions are planned for association representatives in the next quarter.
Activity 2.3.4 Dissemination of results of participatory fisheries monitoring and reef monitoring through quarterly feedback sessions to communities via management associations representatives (once trained).	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Quarterly feedback sessions were not possible due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing group gatherings for most of the reporting period.</p> <p>In zone 1, in October and November, three feedback sessions were organised in three villages to discuss reef monitoring results with 187 participants. The sessions were interactive (see supporting document 4).</p> <p>At the end of March, two feedback sessions were organised to present results from the reopening in more detail. Results included the largest octopus caught, which weighed more</p>	In both zones 1 and 2, public feedback sessions will be planned more regularly once restrictions are loosened.



	<p>than 7.5 kilograms, and one fisher caught 24 kilograms of octopus in one day. The feedback sessions took place with members of the commission in charge of managing the temporary closure, as well as with local authorities and partners.</p> <p>In zone 2, feedback sessions have not yet started.</p>	
<p>Activity 2.4 Support organisation of annual review by each management association to advise next actions</p>	<p>Not started yet due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.</p> <p>In zone 1, the annual review and the association's general assembly was postponed until group gatherings are allowed.</p> <p>Zone 2, not started yet.</p>	<p>In zone 1, the annual review will be conducted with a smaller group of people (eight board members) together with the audit of their accounts and results for 2020 likely in Q2, restrictions allowing.</p> <p>In zone 2, this will be organised at the end of Y2 once substantial data have been gathered via 2.2.1</p>
<p><b>Output 3.</b> The livelihoods of 400 fishers (200 women) from ten communities are improved through the adoption of value-addition activities for marine products and/or complementary sustainable agriculture activities.</p>	<p>3.1a By mid-year two, a study into catch value improvement and market opportunities is completed;</p> <p>3.1b Study results, with focus on applicable practical livelihood interventions that can leverage economic gains, are shared with the communities in all three coastal areas by the end of year two;</p> <p>3.2a By mid-year three, 200 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas are trained in value-addition activities (e.g. post-harvesting transformations);</p> <p>3.2b By the end of project, 100 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas are conducting activities to increase income from their fisheries products.</p>	<p>Good progress has been made during the reporting period to support livelihood improvement in zone 1. For example, we provided agriculture support and training for 263 people. We also distributed different types of seeds, such as cassava and corn.</p> <p>One four-day training session for value-addition techniques was conducted for 20 fisherwomen. The consultancy to assess best value addition opportunities was delayed, however, this planned to start remotely in the next quarter, to accommodate COVID-19 travel restrictions.</p> <p>3.1a and b. Not started yet (not delayed, all organised with consultant to start Y2 Q2).</p> <p>3.2a Twenty fishers (100% women) trained in fish drying techniques in zone 1.</p> <p>3.2b Not evaluated yet</p> <p>3.3a 165 fishers (84% women) trained in market gardening and others in zone 1.</p> <p>3.3b Not evaluated yet.</p> <p>3.4 Not evaluated yet (baseline surveys have started in zone 1).</p>

	<p>3.3a By end of project, 400 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas are trained in market gardening and/or improved food crop production;</p> <p>3.3b By end of project, 300 fishers (half of whom are women) are conducting new agricultural activities to diversify their income source.</p> <p>3.4 By end of project, 75% of fishers involved in value-addition/agriculture activities (half of whom are women) report improvements in their livelihoods as a result.</p>		
<p>Activity 3.1.1 Baseline study into catch value-addition opportunities focusing on the context of the coastal zones of interest and taking into account existing and potential markets.</p>	<p>Not started yet.</p>	<p>The consultant has been contracted, and the study will start on the 19th April through to August.</p>	
<p>Activity 3.1.2 Participatory workshops to discuss the results of the study with communities including leaders, local management associations and women's groups and select practical interventions to trial to leverage economic gains.</p>	<p>Not started yet.</p>	<p>Workshops will be organised in zones 1 and 2 in August once the study has been completed.</p> <p>Workshops in zone 3 will be organised after introductory visits have been completed, planned at the end of Y2.</p>	
<p>Activity 3.2.1 Training for 200 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas in selected value-addition activities.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>In zone 1, training in drying of fish species (yellowfin tuna and mackerel) was organised mid-December for 20 fisherwomen of the Maecha Bora fisherwomen's association. Fisherwomen in zone 1 were previously trained in drying of other fish types, and this training helped to refresh their skills and broaden the types of fish they can dry depending on the season.</p>	<p>Further training sessions in drying techniques are planned in zones 1 and 2 in the coming quarters.</p> <p>Depending on the study and community workshop results (3.1.1 and 3.1.2), training sessions in different value-addition activities (e.g. focused on marketing, smoking) will be organised accordingly.</p>	

<p>Activity 3.2.2 Technical support to communities to implement value-addition activities (e.g. follow-up after training, necessary material/gear).</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>In zone 1, regular follow-up sessions are organised with Maecha Bora to support them in organising their activity. Considering COVID-19 restrictions, events to help market the products were not possible. A training curriculum to develop business skills has been developed to encourage the fisherwomen in developing this activity.</p>	<p>In zone 1, we plan to continue support and organise tasting events, and training in business skills.</p> <p>In zone 2, support will be organised once training sessions have taken place.</p>
<p>Activity 3.3.1 Training for 400 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas in market gardening and/or improved crop production (different trainings taking place across the year depending on the season).</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>In zone 1, 165 fishers were trained in agriculture techniques, including crop rotation and association of different cultures, multiplication of banana trees and compost making.</p> <p>The community members that are benefitting from the agriculture support are organised into groups; there are in total 17 groups spanning four villages.</p>	<p>In zone 1, we will continue agriculture support for existing groups, including for farmers during the potato season.</p> <p>Dahari already support agriculture in zone 2, mostly with non-fishers. When marine-focused activities start in zone 2, and interested fishers have been identified, they will be integrated into Dahari agriculture support activities.</p>
<p>Activity 3.3.2 Technical support to communities to implement sustainable agriculture practices (e.g. follow-up after training, material/gear, seed bank development).</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>In zone 1, Dahari technicians regularly visit the supported groups (at least once a week) and provide technical input where needed.</p>	<p>In zone 1, we plan to continue support following upcoming training.</p> <p>In zone 2, support will be organised once training sessions have taken place.</p>
<p>Activity 3.4 Surveys at the start and end of project assessing progress against key livelihood indicators.</p>	<p>Ongoing (see 1.4.2).</p> <p>In zone 1, baseline surveys started in March.</p>	<p>We will complete baseline surveys in zone 1 in the next quarter.</p> <p>Planned for zone 2 surveys in the next quarter.</p>
<p><b>Output 4.</b> The first LMMA in the Comoros is established in one coastal area, with the foundations laid for additional LMMAs in two further areas, as a result of governance structures that are created and supported to design, implement and enforce adaptive fisheries management.</p>	<p>4.1 By end of year two, 60 community management association members (half of whom are women) are trained in technical management and governance skills required for the successful implementation of fisheries management measures (e.g. recording meetings, keeping surveillance</p>	<p>Milestones towards Output 4 are well in place with management measures repeated in zone 1, and a long-term management measure in place (no-take zone). Training sessions have been on-going with associations in zone 1, to develop leadership skills.</p> <p>4.1 Zone 1: 15 women from Fikira Ndjema were trained in technical management and governance skills required for the successful implementation of fisheries management measures (see 4.1.2 for more information)</p>

	<p>logbooks, financial management, leadership/conflict resolution skills).</p> <p>4.2 By end of project, 30 community management association members (half of whom are women) from each coastal area (90 in total) are trained on how to establish and govern an LMMA (e.g. description and benefits of LMMAs, consultative decision-making, teamwork, challenges).</p> <p>4.3 Management associations are enforcing management measures and penalising 75% of infractions by end of project.</p> <p>4.4 By end of project, a management plan outlining rules and regulations for one LMMA of at least 70 ha, informed by key biodiversity hotspots identified in 2.2b, is being implemented in one coastal area.</p>	<p>4.2 Training on how to establish and govern an LMMA has not yet started.</p> <p>4.3 During the 2020/2021 fisheries closure, there were 0 infractions recorded during the surveillance period.</p> <p>4.4 Not started yet.</p>
<p>Activity 4.1.1 Participatory SWOT analysis workshop of existing management associations or where there is no existing association workshop to assess/discuss creating a new management association</p>		<p>Not started yet. This activity is not planned for zone 1 as we already know the management associations.</p> <p>COVID-19 restrictions have delayed scoping visits to zone 2 in Y1. Official visits with the mayor of zone 2 and the village chiefs (four visits in total) were conducted to gain official go-ahead to start activities in zone 2.</p>
<p>Activity 4.1.2 Training sessions for new/existing management association to strengthen technical management and governance skills including recording meetings, keeping surveillance logbooks, financial management.</p>		<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>In zone 1, from September to November, 15 fisherwomen from Fikira Ndjema were trained in association management skills, such as setting objectives and developing a simple work plan, financial bookkeeping, and writing meeting reports. Six half-day</p>

	<p>training sessions were followed by regular support visits to the local associations to evaluate if the tools are suited for them, or solve any issues they might have using them.</p> <p>From December until March, the 15 fisherwomen from the women's association Fikira Ndjema, in Imere, were trained further in communication skills, teamwork and conflict resolution during five sessions. All sessions were very interactive with games and role plays followed by group discussions. Overall, participants' feedback was very positive with one fisher stating "since the training, there are now less tensions in my household because I listen more and we communicate better." We have seen how such training can empower people, and we are confident these skills are also used when discussing fisheries management with their peers and local authorities.</p> <p>Associations from zone 1 have all been trained in technical management and governance skills.</p>	
Activity 4.1.3 Monthly support visits to associations for capacity-building/tools in place.	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>During the reporting period in zone 1, regular informal support sessions for the three local associations took place.</p>	<p>Support sessions will continue in zone 1.</p> <p>In zone 2, these will start following trainings in 4.1.2</p>
Activity 4.2.1 Training sessions for management association members on LMMA establishment and management including description and benefits of LMMAs, consultative decision-making, teamwork, challenges (half of participants are women).	Not conducted yet.	Training sessions are planned in the next quarter for associations in zone 1.
Activity 4.2.2 Learning exchange with another community managing an LMMA to witness management and discuss governance (national or international).	Not conducted yet.	Planned for Y2 Q2 in zone 1, possibly in Lamu, Kenya, where BV partners

		support communities managing a LMMA in a similar context to the Comoros.
Activity 4.3 Support management associations to enforce measures and penalise infractions (linked with 4.1.3 and 1.2.4 fisheries management measures), including book keeping, surveillance scheduling.	Ongoing.  In zone 1, meetings were organised during the temporary octopus closure to follow-up on surveillance effectiveness (see 1.2.5). No log books were used, as three different associations split surveillance schedules and recording activities is challenging for them. We are planning to support them in using log books during the next closures.  For the no-take zone, simple log books have been developed with the fishers associations in order to monitor surveillance and infractions.	In zone 1, tools developed for the surveillance for the no-take zone will be implemented and we will provide support for their use as necessary.
Activity 4.4.1 Workshops with community and management associations to discuss the benefits of developing an LMMA (linked to 1.2.3 to 1.2.6, 4.2.1 and 4.2.2).	Not started yet.	In zone 1, workshops to discuss LMMA benefits are planned for Y2 Q2.
Activity 4.4.2 Workshops to decide on governance criteria (e.g. rules and regulations), informed by key biodiversity hotspots identified in 2.2.2, and gain consensus for a local management plan.	Not started yet.	In zone 1, planned following results from workshops in 4.4.1
Activity 4.4.3 Support management associations to implement and enforce management plan (LMMA).	Not started yet.	
<b>Output 5.</b> A network of fishing communities and implementing partners in the Comoros shares best practices in local fisheries management and community conservation.	5.1 Partner organisations are sharing best practices and lessons learned via partner meetings, annual workshops, and at least six reciprocal trainings by end of project.  5.2 Six local and regional exchange visits (including training) for fishing communities across the Comoros (half of participants are women) on community-based marine management approaches by end of project.	Due to restrictions put in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, less progress has been made towards achieving Output 5. We organised two exchange visits, but could not organise an annual partner workshop including collaborative training sessions.  We have stayed in contact with our partners the Moheli National Park, the Regional Fisheries Directorate and the Anjouan Fishers Trade Union over email and phone calls.  We have compiled a database of relevant partners in the Comoros to start reaching out and connecting.

	<p>5.3 At least one article is published every 6 months to promote community-based fisheries management in the Comoros' media, and a film produced by end of project.</p> <p>5.4 Manual documenting best practices in community-based marine management in the Comoros produced by end of project.</p>	<p>5.1 Not started yet (one training was conducted during the exchange visit, see 5.2).</p> <p>5.2 One exchange visit took place at the end of October between two communities on Anjouan, and one national exchange visit took place at the end of March with Moheli fishers visiting Anjouan communities.</p> <p>5.3 Video reports appeared on a Comoros national TV channel following the octopus closure reopening in February and to raise awareness about the no-take zone in March.</p> <p>5.4 Not started yet.</p>	
<p>Activity 5.1.1 Scoping for and engaging partners and fishing communities (also through partners) to participate in workshops, trainings and exchange visits.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>A database of potential partners has been developed and engagement has started with ten institutions, including the Shisiwani National Park on Anjouan, the Mayotte Marine Park and Fishers Trade Unions on the three Comorian islands (as well as the project partners, BV/Dahari and Moheli National Park, Regional Fisheries Directorate, Regional Fishers Trade Union) via informal meetings, phone calls and emails.</p>	<p>Several institutions will be scoped and engaged in the next quarter.</p> <p>Selected partners and fishing communities will be invited to a workshop (5.1.2).</p>	
<p>Activity 5.1.2 Partner workshops every twelve months to share best practice and lessons learned in community-based fisheries management.</p>	<p>Not started yet.</p>	<p>Partner workshops are planned for the next quarter to exchange on successes and challenges of temporary closures nationally.</p>	
<p>Activity 5.1.3 Regular bi-monthly meetings with authorities and other key actors and partners to advocate for community-based management and share results.</p>	<p>Not started yet.</p> <p>No formal in-person (group) meetings took place in the reporting period due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, regular phone calls and activity planning took place, for example, the fishers trade union on Anjouan was involved in meetings to raise awareness about the no-take zone in zone 1 (see 1.4.1).</p>	<p>COVID-19 restrictions allowing, meetings are planned in early April about results from the temporary closures and the no-take zone.</p>	

<p>Activity 5.1.4 Training in methodologies and tools to support community-based management for partners (e.g. catch monitoring, participatory methods) at least every twelve months.</p>	<p>Not started yet.</p>	<p>A workshop to exchange on experiences with temporary closures (5.1.2) is planned for the next quarter.</p> <p>BV person in-country will support Moheli National Park for mobile-based catch monitoring in next quarter.</p>
<p>Activity 5.2 Exchange visits between fishing communities locally on Anjouan and between islands with Mohéli and Grande Comore communities to share experiences on community-based management.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>On the 27th October, members of the local associations from zone 1 (Vassy, Dzindri, Salamani and Imere) took part in an exchange visit to Sadampoini, south of Anjouan (site of SWIOFish project, Fisheries Directorate). In total, 48 participants had the opportunity to exchange with their peers and share their different contexts and experiences, successes and challenges in marine management. For instance, they discussed the implementation of temporary closures and the different regulations in place considering their specific context. Participants mentioned that they were very inspired to listen to the experiences of others and find solutions together for potential issues. For example, representatives from the Sadampoini area were very interested in the awareness-raising materials provided by Dahari and Blue Ventures that included information about closure impacts and results (i.e flyers after the first 2020 closure).</p> <p>At the end of March, six fishers from Moheli village associations and three representatives from the Moheli National Park travelled to Anjouan for five days to discuss fisheries management initiatives and learn from their respective contexts. Participants</p>	<p>An exchange visit between representatives from zone 1 and 2 on Anjouan will be planned in Q2.</p> <p>Further exchange visits are planned in Y1, including at least one national one with Grande Comore.</p>



	<p>visited association representatives in zone 1, and in Sadampoini (Fisheries Directorate site). They were inspired by a training they took part in focusing on leadership skills (see 4.2.1), stating it would be key to conduct similar training with their colleagues to inspire engagement in fisheries management and conservation.</p>	
<p>Activity 5.3.1 Regular media outputs in Comoros, and on partner social media accounts and blogs.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Two video reports on Comoros national TV channel about management initiatives in zone 1 to showcase local associations (see 1.2.3 to 1.2.5). The first report presented the February reopening results and a second one raising awareness about the implementation of the no-take zone</p> <p>Dahari has created ten Facebook posts during the reporting period, and BV at least two, presenting the management initiatives and the different training sessions conducted.</p> <p>Our partner Moheli National Park has also published on their social media accounts (Twitter and Facebook) following the exchange visit (see 5.2).</p> <p><a href="#">Blog published on Dahari website</a> on the reopening (published at the time of writing on the 22nd of April)</p> <p><a href="#">Blog</a> translated into English published in April on the BV website at the time of writing on the 22nd April.</p>	
<p>Activity 5.3.2 Film produced in collaboration with communities to share learnings in community-based fisheries management.</p>	<p>Not started yet.</p>	<p>Participatory video training sessions are planned with communities, and could lead to identification of topic/storyline for the film.</p>

<p>Activity 5.4 Development and publication of a manual on experiences in community-based fisheries management in the Comoros developed in collaboration with partners.</p>	<p>Not started yet.</p>	<p>The workshop in 5.1.2 will start establishing foundations for knowledge exchange and establishing best practices on one topic, temporary closures. Further workshops will build upon this on other topics, developing material for a Comoros manual.</p> <p>Plans for the manual will be developed by the end of Y2.</p>
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## Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Impact: Integrated local management of inshore coastal resources in the Comoros protects coral reef ecosystems whilst improving livelihoods for rural communities.</b></p>			
<p><b>Outcome: An integrated, replicable model for community-based marine management is developed, improving the livelihoods of 1,500 fishers and enabling effective management of 350 hectares of coral reefs, conserving marine biodiversity.</b></p>	<p>0.1 By end of project, ten communities from three coastal areas (with an estimated 1,500 fishers) on Anjouan are actively implementing local marine and fisheries management initiatives encompassing 350 ha of coral reefs, including the establishment of a locally managed marine area (LMMA) of at least 70 ha.</p> <p>0.2 By end of project, 75% of fishers report improvements in their livelihoods from fisheries management measures and/or value-addition/ agriculture activities, compared with project start.</p> <p>0.3 By end of project, at least 20 participating communities and 5 partners (established and new partnerships) are engaged in sharing knowledge and best practices for community-led marine management in the wider Comoros.</p> <p>0.4 Key biodiversity indicators (abundance and biomass of reef fish; reef benthic composition) within the LMMA remain stable or improve by the end of the project, and are monitored within the two other areas, including the abundance and biomass of day fishery targeted reef species, e.g parrotfish (<i>Scarus</i> sp.), surgeonfish (<i>Acanthurus</i> and <i>Ctenochaetus</i> sp.), key grouper species blackfin and tomato grouper</p>	<p>0.1a Village association activity logs;</p> <p>0.1b Documents outlining community-determined governance (including rules, regulations, zoning maps) approved by local authorities.</p> <p>0.2a Surveys at the start and end of project capturing key livelihood indicators;</p> <p>0.2b KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices) surveys at the start and end of project;</p> <p>0.2c Participatory fisheries monitoring of catches before and after temporary fishery closures (CPUE and individual octopus weight);</p> <p>0.2d Annual qualitative focus groups with direct project participants to assess project progress.</p> <p>0.3 Fisher learning exchanges and training workshop reports.</p> <p>0.4 Bi-annual reef monitoring surveys (including key fish trophic group biomass (kg/ha) and benthic diversity (% cover of key benthic groups)).</p>	<p>Newly-engaged communities work together to implement collective marine management actions.</p> <p>Livelihood improvements are not negated by natural disasters or other events out of project control.</p> <p>Other donor-funded marine management projects respond to outreach and collaboration efforts.</p> <p>Targeted reefs do not suffer heavily from extreme heating or other climatic events.</p>

	( <i>Epinephelus fasciatus</i> and <i>Cephalopholis sonnerati</i> )).		
<b>Output 1.</b> Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted in two new coastal areas (Dar Salama and Moya) and continued by communities in the coastal area of Vassy on Anjouan (ten communities in total), preserving marine resources and providing livelihood benefits	<p>1.1a 2,000 community members (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas have attended awareness-raising sessions on sustainable fishing practices and marine conservation by end of project;</p> <p>1.1b 200 fishers (half of whom are women) have attended training on sustainable fishing techniques and management initiatives (e.g. temporary closures) by end of project.</p> <p>1.2 Short-term fisheries management initiatives (e.g. temporary closures), repeated in one coastal area, and co-designed, agreed and piloted in another coastal area by the end of year one; repeated by two coastal areas and piloted in a third coastal area by the end of year two; repeated by all three coastal areas by end of project.</p> <p>1.3 Foundations for long-term fisheries management strategies (e.g. gear restrictions) are in place with more than 50% of fishers (half of whom are women) abstaining from destructive fishing techniques in the first coastal area; and more than 25% in two other coastal areas, by end of project.</p> <p>1.4a 50% of community members (half of whom are women) are aware of existing management measures by end of project;</p> <p>1.4b 80% of fishers (half of whom are women) report improvements in their</p>	<p>1.1a Attendance records and reports for awareness-raising activities;</p> <p>1.1b Training records (attendance by gender) and photos.</p> <p>1.2a Minutes and documents from community meetings on management decisions;</p> <p>1.2b Participatory maps of fishing sites/closure zones and/or details of management measures;</p> <p>1.2c Minutes and documents from consultations with relevant authorities for management decision approval</p> <p>1.3 Participatory catch monitoring results (which includes information on methods used) showing uptake of sustainable fishing techniques.</p> <p>1.4a KAP surveys at the start and end of the project.</p> <p>1.4b Surveys at the start and end of project capturing key livelihood indicators.</p>	Unsustainable and illegal fishing practices do not increase thus negating the benefits of local management initiatives.

	livelihoods from fisheries management initiatives and/or sustainable fishing techniques by end of project.		
<b>Output 2.</b> Ten communities from three coastal areas of Anjouan have access to data and improved knowledge for identifying key biodiversity hotspots and guiding adaptive management of local marine resources.	<p>2.1 60 community members (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas are able to conduct fisheries monitoring activities by the end of year two.</p> <p>2.2a Participatory mobile-based catch and reef monitoring operational in three coastal areas by mid-year two;</p> <p>2.2b Participatory identification of key coral reef biodiversity hotspots in each coastal area in collaboration with fishers based on reef monitoring datasets by the end of year two</p> <p>2.3a By the end of year two, 60 management association members (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas have been trained to present catch and reef monitoring data to the wider community, and to use the data to guide adaptive management;</p> <p>2.3b By end of project, 15 management association members across three coastal areas have presented catch/reef monitoring data to the wider community.</p> <p>2.4 One management association in each coastal area has started to implement an adaptive management system, informed by at least one review of participatory catch and reef monitoring data by end of project.</p>	<p>2.1a Training records/attendance by gender, photos;</p> <p>2.1b Number of people (and % of women) collecting fisheries data</p> <p>2.2a Catch and reef biodiversity monitoring datasets;</p> <p>2.2b Maps created from reef monitoring datasets and participatory consultations.</p> <p>2.3a Training records/attendance by gender, photos</p> <p>2.3b Simple data dashboards; records of outreach sessions sharing data (e.g. photos, notes, materials).</p> <p>2.4 Meetings minutes and records of management changes</p>	Community members involved in monitoring engage in interpreting and presenting monitoring data for fellow community members.
<b>Output 3. The livelihoods of 400 fishers (200 women) from ten communities are improved through the adoption of value-addition</b>	3.1a By the end of year one, a study into catch value improvement and market opportunities is completed;	3.1a Study report;	No significant destruction of crops by natural disasters.

<p><b>activities for marine products and/or complementary sustainable agriculture activities.</b></p>	<p>3.1b Study results, with focus on applicable practical livelihood interventions that can leverage economic gains, are shared with the communities in one coastal area by the end of year one; by the end of project, this data will have been shared in all three areas.</p> <p>3.2a By the end of year two, 200 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas are trained in value-addition activities (e.g. post-harvesting transformations);</p> <p>3.2b By the end of project, 100 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas are conducting activities to increase income from their fisheries products.</p> <p>3.3a By end of project, 400 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas are trained in market gardening and/or improved food crop production;</p> <p>3.3b By end of project, 300 fishers (half of whom are women) are conducting new agricultural activities to diversify their income source</p> <p>3.4 By end of project, 75% of fishers involved in value-addition/agriculture activities (half of whom are women) report improvements in their livelihoods as a result</p>	<p>3.1b Meeting records from community consultations on market/value-addition option</p> <p>3.2a Records of trainings delivered;</p> <p>3.2b Participatory records (photos) of actions implemented; number of people participating in value-addition activities</p> <p>3.3a Database of fisher participation in agricultural training;</p> <p>3.3b Database of fishers conducting agricultural activities</p> <p>3.4a Surveys at start and end of project capturing key livelihood indicators;</p> <p>3.4b Record of price/kg of fisheries products post value-addition activities</p>	
<p><b>Output 4. The first LMMA in the Comoros is established in one coastal area, with the foundations laid for additional LMMAs in two further areas, as a result of governance structures that are created and supported to design,</b></p>	<p>4.1 By end of year two, 60 community management association members (half of whom are women) are trained in technical management and governance skills required for the successful implementation of fisheries management measures (e.g. recording</p>	<p>4.1a Minutes and documents from community/association meetings;</p> <p>4.1b Training records/attendance by gender, photos;</p> <p>4.1c Reports of monthly checks for a year after training to follow-up with</p>	<p>Sufficient local leadership and cohesion exists within the target communities for local management to be developed successfully and respected.</p>

<p><b>implement and enforce adaptive fisheries management</b></p>	<p>meetings, keeping surveillance logbooks, financial management, leadership/conflict resolution skills).</p> <p>4.2 By end of project, 30 community management association members (half of whom are women) from each coastal area (90 in total) are trained on how to establish and govern an LMMA (e.g. description and benefits of LMMAs, consultative decision-making, teamwork, challenges).</p> <p>4.3 Management associations are enforcing management measures and penalising 75% of infractions by end of project.</p> <p>4.4 By end of project, a management plan outlining rules and regulations for one LMMA of at least 70 ha, informed by key biodiversity hotspots identified in 2.2b, is being implemented in one coastal area</p>	<p>association if management and governance tools are still in place (e.g. tracking finances, overseeing equipment etc.)</p> <p>4.2a Minutes and attendance sheets from community/association meetings;</p> <p>4.2b Training records/attendance by gender, photos</p> <p>4.3a Documents outlining enforcement measures;</p> <p>4.3b List of infractions and those enforce</p> <p>4.4 Management plans/documents, including zoning maps, outlining community determined governance.</p>	
<p><b>Output 5. A network of fishing communities and implementing partners in the Comoros shares best practices in local fisheries management and community conservation</b></p>	<p>5.1 Partner organisations are sharing best practices and lessons learned via partner meetings, annual workshops, and at least six reciprocal trainings by end of project</p> <p>5.2 Six local and regional exchange visits (including training) for fishing communities across the Comoros (half of participants are women) on community-based marine management approaches by end of project.</p> <p>5.3 Two articles are published per year to promote community-based fisheries management in the Comoros' media, and a film produced by end of project.</p> <p>5.4 Manual documenting best practices in community-based marine</p>	<p>5.1a Minutes and attendance sheets from partner meetings;</p> <p>5.1b Training records and photos</p> <p>5.2a Training records;</p> <p>5.2b Exchange visit reports, photos</p> <p>5.3a Press articles published;</p> <p>5.3b List of television and radio hits;</p> <p>5.3c Film available online</p> <p>5.4 Picture-based manual of community-based marine management published</p>	<p>Partners see the benefits of sharing experiences</p>

	management in the Comoros produced by end of project.		
Activity 1.1.1. Awareness-raising sessions to increase understanding of marine conservation, management measures and adoption of sustainable fishing techniques (e.g. movie nights, debates about threats to the reef, theatre plays on closures).			
Activity 1.1.2 Training in sustainable fishing techniques and management initiatives for 200 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas			
Activity 1.2.2 Community consultations to discuss fisheries management options, based on participatory monitoring data			
1.2.3 Communities are supported to choose one fisheries management initiative to trial.			
Activity 1.2.4 Work plan agreed upon with community and relevant authorities – including relevant associations and women’s groups – for management initiative implementation (e.g. location, duration, rules).			
Activity 1.2.5 Monthly meetings to follow-up on implementation of management work plan and next steps advised by community feedback sessions (linked to 2.3.4).			
Activity 1.3 Follow-up visits to provide support and further awareness raising to encourage uptake of sustainable fishing techniques (continuous in-field presence with local technicians).			
Activity 1.4.1 Support to local associations in mobilising communities and spreading information on management initiatives, in collaboration with local authorities (linked with 1.1.1 awareness-raising sessions).			
1.4.2 Household livelihood and KAP surveys with targeted fishers before commencing activities in respective zones, and at the end of project (complemented with results of 3.4).			
Activity 2.1 Training for 60 community members in fisheries monitoring methods (half of whom are women).			
Activity 2.2.1 Participatory fisheries monitoring carried out by community members and reef monitoring operational in each community of interest across three coastal areas (by end of year two).			
Activity 2.2.2 Participatory workshops to identify key biodiversity hotspots per coastal area in collaboration with fishers, supported by the reef monitoring datasets.			
Activity 2.3.1 Trial different feedback formats and methods with the community to determine the best way to disseminate fisheries and reef data.			



Activity 2.3.2 Training for 10 management association members in each coastal zone in simple analysis and presentation of catch (and reef) monitoring information back to their communities (half of whom are women).
Activity 2.3.3 Training for 10 members of local management associations (half of whom are women) in each coastal zone in how to use data as a management decision-support tool (e.g. evaluating the impact of and adapting management measures).
Activity 2.3.4 Dissemination of results of participatory fisheries monitoring and reef monitoring through quarterly feedback sessions to communities via management associations representatives (once trained).
Activity 2.4 Support organisation of annual review by each management association to advise next actions
Activity 3.1.1 Baseline study into catch value-addition opportunities focusing on the context of the coastal zones of interest and taking into account existing and potential markets.
Activity 3.1.2 Participatory workshops to discuss the results of the study with communities including leaders, local management associations and women's groups and select practical interventions to trial to leverage economic gains.
Activity 3.2.1 Training for 200 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas in selected value-addition activities.
Activity 3.2.2 Technical support to communities to implement value-addition activities (e.g. follow-up after training, necessary material/gear).
Activity 3.3.1 Training for 400 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas in market gardening and/or improved crop production (different trainings taking place across the year depending on the season).
Activity 3.3.2 Technical support to communities to implement sustainable agriculture practices (e.g. follow-up after training, material/gear, seed bank development).
Activity 3.4 Surveys at the start and end of project assessing progress against key livelihood indicators.
Activity 4.1.1 Participatory SWOT analysis workshop of existing management associations or where there is no existing association workshop to assess/discuss creating a new management association
Activity 4.1.2 Training sessions for new/existing management association to strengthen technical management and governance skills including recording meetings, keeping surveillance logbooks, financial management.
Activity 4.1.3 Monthly support visits to associations for capacity-building/tools in place.

Activity 4.2.1 Training sessions for management association members on LMMA establishment and management including description and benefits of LMMAs, consultative decision-making, teamwork, challenges (half of participants are women).
Activity 4.2.2 Learning exchange with another community managing an LMMA to witness management and discuss governance (national or international).
Activity 4.3 Support management associations to enforce measures and penalise infractions (linked with 4.1.3 and 1.2.4 fisheries management measures), including book keeping, surveillance scheduling.
Activity 4.4.1 Workshops with community and management associations to discuss the benefits of developing an LMMA (linked to 1.2.3 to 1.2.6, 4.2.1 and 4.2.2).
Activity 4.4.2 Workshops to decide on governance criteria (e.g. rules and regulations), informed by key biodiversity hotspots identified in 2.2.2, and gain consensus for a local management plan.
Activity 4.4.3 Support management associations to implement and enforce management plan (LMMA).
Activity 5.1.1 Scoping for and engaging partners and fishing communities (also through partners) to participate in workshops, trainings and exchange visits.
Activity 5.1.2 Partner workshops every twelve months to share best practice and lessons learned in community-based fisheries management.
Activity 5.1.3 Regular bi-monthly meetings with authorities and other key actors and partners to advocate for community-based management and share results.
Activity 5.1.4 Training in methodologies and tools to support community-based management for partners (e.g. catch monitoring, participatory methods) at least every twelve months.
Activity 5.2 Exchange visits between fishing communities locally on Anjouan and between islands with Mohéli and Grande Comore communities to share experiences on community-based management.
Activity 5.3.1 Regular media outputs in Comoros, and on partner social media accounts and blogs.
Activity 5.3.2 Film produced in collaboration with communities to share learnings in community-based fisheries management.
Activity 5.4 Development and publication of a manual on experiences in community-based fisheries management in the Comoros developed in collaboration with partners.

## Annex 3: Standard Measures

**Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures**

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
Established codes								
6A 6B	Training in sustainable fishing techniques and management initiatives	50% women	Comorian	32			32	200
6A 6B	Training in fisheries monitoring techniques	50% women	Comorian	0			0	60 1 week
6A 6B	Training in data analysis and presentation	50% women	Comorian	0			0	60 1 week
6A 6B	Training in agricultural techniques for fishers	50% women	Comorian	165			165	400 3 weeks
6A 6B	Training in value addition techniques for fishers	50% women	Comorian	20			20	200 2 weeks
6A 6B	Training in technical management and governance skills	50% women	Comorian	15			15	60 1 week
6A 6B	Training in LMMA establishment	50% women	Comorian	0			0	90 1 week
6A 6B	Reciprocal training in community-based management tools and approach for partners		Comorian	0			0	6 2 days
7	Manual on community-based management  Film on community-based management			0			0	2
9	Temporary closure management plans  Other management measures (long-term, eg. no-take zone, gear shift, LMMA)			1  1			1  1	5  2
12A	Database for boat catch monitoring  Database for reef monitoring			0			0	2

12B	12B Database for reef gleaning catch monitoring			1			1	1
23								

**Table 2 Publications**

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Dahari garde la pêche	Blog	Michaël Gozlan, Dahari, 2nd April 2021	Male	French	Dahari, Anjouan, Comoros	<a href="https://daharicomores.org/dahari-garde-la-peche/">https://daharicomores.org/dahari-garde-la-peche/</a>
Dahari garde la pêche: keeping fishers' spirits high	Blog	Michaël Gozlan, Dahari, 21st April 2021	Male	French	Blue Ventures, Bristol, UK	<a href="https://blog.blueventures.org/en/dahari-garde-la-peche-keeping-fishers-spirits-high/">https://blog.blueventures.org/en/dahari-garde-la-peche-keeping-fishers-spirits-high/</a>

## Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Supporting Document 1 - Flyers (showing results from the temporary closure reopening)

Supporting Document 2 - Official co-management agreement

Supporting Document 3 - Permanent no-take zone (poster to raise awareness)

Supporting Document 4 - Reef monitoring presentation

Supporting Document 5 - KAP+livelihoods surveys design table

Supporting Document 6 - Questionnaire (KAP+Livelihoods)

Supporting Document 7 - Sampling Strategy (for KAP+Livelihoods questionnaire)

Supporting document 8. Temporary closure 2020 map

Please see link to supporting documents here -

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gsqOWfFui2Nfk6fdNlwDx\\_PMvdjivnbn?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gsqOWfFui2Nfk6fdNlwDx_PMvdjivnbn?usp=sharing)

## Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	✓
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	✓
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report?</b> If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	✓
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	✓
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	