

COASTAL POPULATIONS AND ECOSYSTEMS RESILIENCE IN THE SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN (RECOS)

/ THE INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION /

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) is an intergovernmental organisation of five Member States: the Union of the Comoros, France (La Réunion), Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.

As the only regional organisation in Africa composed exclusively of islands, it promotes the specificities of its Member States both on the continent and in the international arena. With the active support of a dozen international partners, the IOC provides substance to regional solidarity through cooperation projects covering a wide of ecosystems, sustainable management of natural resources, maritime safety, entrepreneurship, public health, renewable energy and culture.

This project, “Coastal Populations and Ecosystems Resilience in the Southwest Indian Ocean” (RECOS),

co-funded by the *Agence française de développement* (AFD) and the *Fonds français pour l'environnement* (FFEM), contributes to IOC's diversified action in favor of a sustainable and resilient environment.

Coastal ecosystem services

- Regulating services, such as reducing coastal erosion, reducing the impact of extreme events and ensuring carbon sequestration;
- Provisioning services, such as the production of food and building materials;
- Supporting services, such as soil formation and life cycle and maintenance;
- Cultural services, through recreation and artistic and spiritual inspiration.

/ REGIONAL CONTEXT /

The coastal ecosystems of IOC countries in the Southwest Indian Ocean are remarkable but at the same time remain highly vulnerable. In most of these countries, they are located in populous areas and are subject to physical disturbances due to extreme climatic events. Together with man-made impacts, on the environment, climate change is causing more frequent and more intense natural disasters in the region.

Restore and preserve! These are key words of the project. Coastal populations are highly dependent on healthy ecosystems. Thus, restoring and preserving coastal environments directly contributes to the resilience of these populations. The gains are not simply ecological: they also encompass economics, food, health, societies and culture.

/ KEY FEATURES /

PARTNER COUNTRIES



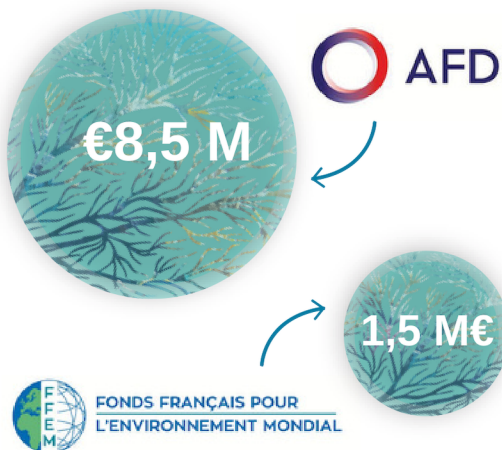
The Union of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles will directly benefit from the project.



Close collaboration with France (La Réunion) will be developed for key activities.

Activities will also involve spontaneous collaborations with Nairobi Convention Member Countries and island countries in other regions of the world.

FINANCIAL PARTNERS



PROJECT DURATION



/ OBJECTIVES /

The **overall objective** of the project is to strengthen the resilience of coastal populations to the effects of the climate change by restoring coastal ecosystem services.

The **specific objectives** to achieve the above are:

- Strengthen regional and national governance of coastal and marine ecosystems in the Southwest Indian Ocean ;
- Implement innovative, varied and replicable projects for the restoration and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems based on scientific working groups.

/ COMPONENTS /

COMPONENT 1

Strengthening the monitoring and management of coastal ecosystems through the implementation and sharing of ICZM approaches in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region

Implementation of pilot projects

Call for projects promoting local actions for the restoration and management of coastal ecosystems

Exchange of experiences programme on coastal ecosystem management

Support to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) governance at regional and national levels

COMPONENT 2

Strengthening regional scientific cooperation on coastal ecosystem restoration, knowledge production and scientific monitoring of field projects

Set up and manage the project scientific committee

Strengthen regional scientific and technical cooperation on:

- ▶ Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- ▶ Ecosystem management
- ▶ Coastline monitoring and ICZM
- ▶ Environmental education in coastal areas

Contribute to the capacity building of thematic experts in the IOC region

COMPONENT 3

Managing cross-functional dimensions

Communication and visibility

Raising awareness on the importance of coastal ecosystems

Knowledge management

Monitoring & Evaluation

COMPONENT 4

Project management and IOC support

Technical assistance, management team and operating costs

Financial audits

Financing IOC operational component and RECOS National Focal Points (NFPs)

Miscellaneous and unforeseen

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