

**FINAL EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT:
“CONSOLIDATION OF CRCA ACHIEVEMENTS”
FINAL REPORT**



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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ANACM	National Agency of Civil Aviation and Meteorology
BM	World Bank
CRDE	Rural Economic Development Center
DNSAE	National Directorate of Agricultural and Livestock Strategies
DGE	General Directorate of the Environment
FEM	Global Environment Facility
SUN	Direct Implementation Modality
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NIM	National Implementation Modality
OSC	Civil society organization

PCE	Emerging Comoros Plan
PTA	Annual work plan
INRAPE	National Research Institute for Agriculture
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UDC	University of Comoros
GTP	

Executive Summary

To tackle the significant challenges posed by climate change, which has become an increasing concern for the country in recent years, the Union of the Comoros received financial support from UNDP and the GEF amounting to \$10,390,890. This funding facilitated the implementation of the project titled **"Strengthening the Adaptation and Resilience Capacity of the Agricultural Sector to Climate Change (CRCCA),"** which focused on six vulnerable regions.

At the conclusion of the project in 2018, the government expressed a desire to consolidate the results while awaiting the development of a more ambitious project. It was agreed to mobilize UNDP TRAC funds to establish a follow-up initiative aimed at **"Equipping the Union of the Comoros with the necessary capacities, tools, and technologies to reduce the vulnerability of agricultural systems in Mohéli, Grande Comore, and Anjouan to climate change and variability."**

The agreement for the CRCCA Achievements Consolidation project was signed on February 28, 2019, with a budget of \$2,000,000, financed through UNDP TRAC funds.

After four years of implementation, a final evaluation is now planned in line with UNDP guidelines, rules, and procedures. The objective is to assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of the project's interventions.

Due to the lack of quantified data on targets and achievements, the evaluation relied on qualitative methods to provide a comprehensive and detailed understanding of project performance. Preliminary findings and results were shared during a feedback meeting held on September 6, 2024, with the members of the steering committee. The list of participants is attached in Appendix 4 of this report.

The use of the documentation provided to the evaluation mission, along with interviews conducted with various stakeholders, allowed for the formulation of the following conclusions:

The project was relevant in addressing national priorities and the needs of beneficiaries. However, it suffered from a lack of a clear results framework and poorly defined objectives, which made it challenging to measure its overall impact. Despite this, the project succeeded in enhancing beneficiaries' knowledge and improving the resilience of their production systems.

The project consolidated its achievements by retaining trained experts on-site, expanding activities to additional CRDEs, and regularly disseminating agricultural techniques. This reinforced the role of CRDEs, which have become essential actors in agricultural policy, particularly at Hamalengo-Diboini. This helped to facilitate the implementation of new projects in the regions concerned.

Efforts were made to promote gender equity, especially benefiting women, and to support youth entrepreneurship, aligning with government priorities. The project also initiated activities for youth in agribusiness, enabling the identification of key barriers.

The introduction of local crop varieties, new livestock breeds, and the training of breeders contributed to improved agricultural productivity, food security, and the optimization of existing infrastructure.

Finally, with the assistance of experts, a new project titled “**Strengthening the Resilience of Climate-Smart Agricultural Systems and Value Chains in the Union of the Comoros**” was developed. Its aim is to enhance the climate resilience of agricultural value chains and sustainably improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

Key success factors:

- The project team and CRDE managers successfully built trust with local communities, enabling smoother interventions at the grassroots level. This close proximity to the population helped ensure that project activities were well-received and had a lasting impact.
- Experts trained under the previous project, with extensive knowledge of the intervention areas and close collaboration with local farmer-trainers, provided high-quality technical support.
- The National Director of Agricultural Strategies, with his thorough understanding of the project and active involvement in planning, played a key role in its success.
- The partnership between the Ministry and the UNDP, considered effective by both parties, was instrumental in the project's implementation.

Main challenges encountered:

- Insufficient human and financial capacity within the CRDEs.
- Unpredictability of financial resources.
- Ambitious objectives relative to available resources.
- A weak logical framework, lacking SMART indicators, and institutional dysfunctions that hindered effective monitoring and evaluation.
- Institutional difficulties due to the prolonged absence of RUTI in Anjouan and Mohéli, along with the work overload faced by the RUTI in Ngazidja in the absence of a coordinator.
- Water scarcity in the targeted agricultural areas.
- Limited interest shown by youth in agribusiness.

Recommendations:

- Capacity building of CRDEs: Recruit and train qualified personnel, and establish continuous training programs for experts and beneficiaries to maintain and enhance their skills.
- Diversifying CRDE funding sources: Secure government subsidies and develop sustainable funding mechanisms to reduce reliance on external support and ensure the sustainability of projects.
- Improving CRDE governance: Optimize fund management, establish a permanent accountability mechanism, and implement a robust monitoring and evaluation system to adjust strategies based on results.
- Scaling up successful actions: Expand successful initiatives to other CRDEs and regions, and promote the adoption of local agricultural techniques and varieties by a wider range of farmers.

- Consolidation of achievements within the DNSAE: Strengthen monitoring and evaluation capacities by establishing a rigorous system to ensure effective oversight, quickly identify challenges, and adjust strategies based on emerging priorities.
- Developing a DNSAE Project Consolidation Strategy: Formulate a strategy to improve project management, enhance adaptation and resilience to climate change, and establish rigorous monitoring mechanisms while promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

PART I: CONTEXT

1.1 Context of the Evaluation

The Union of the Comoros is facing significant challenges related to climate change, which has become a critical concern for the country in recent years. This has led to an increased vulnerability of poor populations, a recurrence of food insecurity, and a rise in risks for the agricultural sector.

In response to this situation, the Union of the Comoros received support from the UNDP and the GEF, amounting to \$10,390,890, to strengthen the adaptation and resilience capacities of vulnerable communities. The project “Strengthening the Adaptation and Resilience Capacities of the Agricultural Sector to Climate Change (CRCCA)” was established to reduce the vulnerability of agricultural systems in the Comoros.

The main objective was to equip the Union of the Comoros with the necessary capacities, tools, and technologies to mitigate the vulnerability of agricultural systems in Mohéli, Grande Comore, and Anjouan to climate change and variability.

To achieve this, the project aimed to improve the skills of key structures within the agricultural sector and enhance the resilience of vulnerable farming communities across six identified high-risk areas.

The project, launched in March 2014 and completed in June 2018, underwent an independent final evaluation, which provided several recommendations, particularly focused on consolidating the achievements.

1.2 Description du projet.

To consolidate the gains from this phase and prepare for a large-scale program aimed at scaling up results and enhancing the resilience of agricultural value chains, the Union of the Comoros has received support from UNDP for the project titled "Consolidation of Gains in Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity and Resilience of the Agricultural Sector to Climate Change in the Comoros."

The financing agreement for this project was signed on February 28, 2019, with a duration of three years.

1.2.1 Expected Project Outcomes

The following results were expected:

Outcome 1 : Strengthening technical and operational capacities for communication: The six CRDEs possess the necessary technical and operational capacities to facilitate dialogue and enhance both internal and external communication with partners, ensuring effective collaboration.

Outcome 2 Utilization and dissemination of agro-meteorological information: The six CRDEs, along with farmer trainers in the targeted areas, have the technical and technological expertise required to utilize and disseminate agro-meteorological information developed by the ANACM's agro-meteorological service, benefiting field practitioners.

Outcome 3 :

The six CRDEs and farmer trainers in the targeted areas actively integrate and promote technologies and techniques for crop cultivation and livestock breeding that enhance the resilience of production systems to climate change and variability across the six pilot sites.

Outcome 4 :

The six CRDEs and the beneficiaries in the target areas produce and distribute plant material that is resilient to climate change, including food crops, market garden crops, and fodder, within the project's intervention areas.

Outcome 5

The six CRDEs and leading farmers have developed the necessary technical and operational capacities to ensure proper management of breeding infrastructures and livestock, in alignment with the partnership agreements established with farmer-breeders.

Outcome 6 :

The three reference CRDEs for poultry farming, alongside pilot poultry farmers, possess the technical, technological, and operational capacities to disseminate the parental strain of a newly introduced resilient poultry breed (Kuroiler), supported by the project.

Outcome

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:

The six CRDEs and beneficiary farmers ensure the sustainable management of hydraulic infrastructures (including basins, spring heads, Ekotanks, watering troughs, and irrigation systems) and water resources in the project's intervention areas.

1.2.2 Institutional, organizational, and project management framework.

i) Project management:

The project was implemented under the NIM modality by the DNSAE, following the established partnership agreement. The National Directorate of Agricultural and Livestock Strategies (DNSAE) was identified as the national entity responsible for project implementation. However, due to a HACT assessment conducted in 2022 that classified DNSAE as high-risk, the funds were managed by UNDP under the DIM modality.

ii) CRCCA coordination:

A steering committee, chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Production and comprising representatives of all project stakeholders, was responsible for coordinating activities. The committee met once a year throughout the project duration.

iii) Project duration:

The project began in 2019 with an initial implementation period of three years. Currently, an extension has been granted to retain the teams while preparations are underway for the implementation of the next approved program.

iv) Project intervention areas:

The six areas identified as highly vulnerable in the initial project, namely:

- Diboïni-Hamalingo and Sidjou-Idjinkoundzi in Grande Comore,
- Lingoni-Pomoni and Nioumakélé Bas in Anjouan,
- Mibani and Fomboni in Mohéli, were retained.

However, in preparation for the upcoming programme, teams have been deployed in new areas to ensure data collection, including Cembenoi in Ngazidja, Bambao Mstanga in Anjouan, and Médjélé in Mohéli.

PART II: OBJECTIVES, SCOPE AND CRITERIA OF THE EVALUATION

2.1 Purpose and objectives of the evaluation

This evaluation seeks to assess the project's effectiveness in achieving its intended results. It will provide valuable insights into the implementation details and output delivery by highlighting the direct causal relationships and attributions between initiatives and outcomes.

The assessment will therefore aim to:

- Examine the relevance, coherence, and effectiveness of the project.
- Evaluate the management and monitoring mechanisms' efficiency.
- Formulate recommendations for future improvements and the sustainability of acquired skills.

Specifically, it will involve assessing various elements of the project based on the aforementioned evaluation criteria.

2.2 Evaluation criteria and evaluation questions

The evaluation will focus on the OECD-DAC sustainability criterion, along with the key assessment criteria: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. Additionally, it will consider cross-cutting gender issues.

Specifically, the main evaluation questions are outlined in the table above.

Evaluative questions	Under questions	Indicators to use	Method of collection
CRITERION 1: RELEVANCE			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Design: Provide an opinion on the relevance of the project as a response to the problems to be solved. Evaluate whether the objectives and expected results of the project have been clearly, explicitly and logically expressed in the project document in verifiable terms. Assess the degree of framing of the expected results. <p>Communication/visibility of the project and consideration of</p>	<p>-To what extent are the project objectives and design aligned with national priorities,</p> <p>-To what extent have the objectives and expected results as translated into the logical framework been clearly, explicitly and logically expressed in the project document in verifiable terms?</p> <p>To what extent are the expected results of the project defined, logically structured and accompanied by specific and verifiable performance</p>	<p>Comparison of project objectives with the objectives set out in relevant national strategies. The objectives and results meet the defined priorities.</p> <p>Existence and SMART nature of indicators</p>	

<p>issues related to gender and poverty reduction: Assess the relevance of the means of communication used for better visibility of the Project as well as the integration of the gender dimension in the implementation of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beneficiary assessment: Collect the opinions of beneficiaries on the various aspects relating to the Programme (approach strategy, targeting, results achieved, level of approval, etc.). 	<p>indicators, thus allowing an evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is there a clearly defined communication strategy? ● Are the means of communication used to promote the visibility of the project appropriate and effective in reaching the different target audiences, ● Have gender issues been explicitly and consistently integrated into the implementation of the project, taking into account the needs and perspectives of women and men in a balanced manner? ● Does the project contribute tangibly to poverty reduction, by targeting the most vulnerable populations and including indicators to measure this impact? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Was the process of selecting beneficiaries transparent and fair? ● What are the main results observed through the project and to what extent do these results conform to the initial expectations of the beneficiaries? ● To what extent are beneficiaries satisfied? project interventions and activities, and what aspects would he like to see improved ? 	<p>Existence of the strategy</p> <p>Visibility of the project is ensured among the parties</p> <p>Taking gender into account in project design</p> <p>Are women and young people targeted as a priority? Existence of indicators for measuring this impact</p> <p>Transparent selection process known to stakeholders</p> <p>Level of satisfaction of beneficiaries with the results obtained</p>	
CRITERION 2: EFFECTIVENESS			

<p>Developing annual work plans: Assessing the effectiveness of the project activity planning process (Annual Work Program).</p> <p>Implementation of activities and results obtained: Assess the relevance of the strategies developed on the ground and the initiatives taken to implement the planned activities, as well as the degree of achievement of the targets set by the project over the period 2019-2023.</p> <p>The institutional framework: Assess the consistency of the project structure with the principles of national execution, considering the institutional framework, in particular the anchoring of the project</p> <p>Guidance, advice and monitoring/coordination mechanisms: Assess the regularity of meetings/gatherings of the various bodies both at central and island level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were annual work plans developed in a participatory manner involving key stakeholders, and were the objectives set clear and achievable? • Were the activities planned in the Annual Work Programmes carried out in accordance with the planned timetable and did they achieve the expected results? • Was the business planning process flexible and adaptable to changes or unforeseen events encountered during the year, and how were these adjustments managed? <p>To what extent were the strategies developed to implement the planned activities relevant and well adapted to local conditions?</p> <p>Have the initiatives taken by the project managers made it possible to effectively achieve the targets set for the period 2019-2023?</p> <p>What are the main results obtained in relation to the initial objectives and what challenges were encountered in achieving these targets? Have the beneficiaries and local stakeholders observed direct positive impacts of the activities implemented on their situation and living conditions?</p> <p>Does the project design comply with the principles of national execution, and how does it fit into the existing institutional framework at national and local levels?</p> <p>Can you describe how national and local structures were</p>	<p>Percentage of stakeholders involved in the work plan development process Level of compliance with the schedule Level of achievement of the results programmed in the work plan</p> <p>Level of flexibility in the face of change</p> <p>Level of relevance and adequacy of the strategies developed for the implementation of planned activities</p> <p>-% of indicators achieved -% of results indicators not achieved or partially achieved</p> <p>Level of involvement of central national structures</p> <p>Level of involvement of central national structures</p>	
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	<p>involved in the management and implementation of the project?</p> <p>Is the project well anchored in local and national institutions, and have institutional partnerships been effective in supporting the achievement of project objectives?</p> <p>What types of collaborations and coordinations have been established with local and national institutions to ensure the success of the project?</p> <p>Were the meetings/gatherings sufficiently inclusive and participatory, allowing for a balanced representation of stakeholders and promoting an effective exchange of information?</p> <p>Appreciate the quality of the discussions and decisions taken during these meetings?</p>	<p>Number of steering committee meetings</p> <p>Level of implementation of the recommendations issued</p>	
CRITERION 3: EFFICIENCY			
<p>Financial execution: Assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the project in terms of financial management, including the budget monitoring mechanism (financial reports).</p> <p>The project reporting system: Assess the delivery times of the various reports and the quality/promptness of the annual reports</p>	<p>What are the possible deviations between the initial budget and actual expenditure, and what were the factors contributing to these deviations?</p> <p>What tools or systems were used to track expenditures and assess the financial performance of the project? Were they deemed effective by stakeholders?</p> <p>Can you provide details on the frequency and deadlines of reporting required by the project?</p> <p>Are the reports submitted complete, accurate and in accordance with the quality standards established by the project?</p> <p>How do you assess the quality of the information contained in the reports, particularly in terms of</p>	<p>Existence and effectiveness of the expense tracking system.</p> <p>Number of reports provided Compliance with the monitoring and evaluation plan Frequency of reporting .</p> <p>Level of validation of reports by the steering committee</p>	

	<p>relevance, clarity and accuracy of the data provided?</p> <p>Are reports presented in a timely manner, enabling effective decision making and ongoing monitoring of project progress?</p> <p>Have you experienced any delays in reporting, and if so, what were the main factors contributing to these delays?</p>	<p>Report presentation rhythm in line with plan</p> <p>Gap level</p>	
CRITERION 4: SUSTAINABILITY			
<p>The assets/constraints encountered: Identify all the factors which have favored or hindered the implementation of the activities, establish the consequences of the negative factors and identify the corrective measures to be undertaken.</p> <p>Project prospects: Identify the areas for sustainability and capitalization of the project's achievements as well as the intervention prospects for a possible second phase.</p>	<p>What were the main factors facilitating or hindering the implementation of the activities, and what were their consequences on the project results?</p> <p>What corrective measures have been considered or implemented to overcome the identified obstacles and improve future implementation of the project?</p> <p>What are the project achievements that can be sustained or capitalized on to ensure continued benefits after the initial project closes?</p> <p>What are the intervention prospects for a possible second phase of the project, and how do these prospects align with the current needs and priorities of beneficiaries and stakeholders ?</p>	<p>Measuring the availability of financial resources, stakeholder engagement, coordination of activities and logistics efficiency</p> <p>Number and level of implementation of corrective measures</p> <p>Percentage of results that can be considered sustainable by stakeholders</p> <p>Number of results considered sustainable meeting national priorities</p>	

2.3 Scope of the study

The study will focus on the 6 intervention zones of the initial project, namely:

- in Grande Comoros: Diboïni and Sidjou
- in Mohéli: Fomboni and Mibani
- in Anjouan: Mremani and Pomoni

2.4 Deliverables

the following deliverables are anticipated from the mission:

- A methodological guidance note to be submitted five (05) days after signing the contract. This note will include a comprehensive methodology outlining the tools and methods to be used, a presentation of the approach based on project elements (logical framework, targets, etc.), a timetable for conducting the evaluation, and any potential challenges. This note will be validated by the Evaluation Steering Committee (DNSAE and UNDP).
- An interim report at the end of the third week, which will:
 - Provide specific conclusions regarding the project's progress.
 - Offer detailed and targeted recommendations that may suggest new directions.
 - This provisional report will be submitted to the Evaluation Steering Committee for validation.
- A final report in french to be delivered at the end of the fourth week, incorporating feedback from the steering committee.
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- A final report in english.
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PART III - METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The methodological approach adopted was independent, participatory and inclusive. Due to the lack of quantified data on targets and achievements, the evaluation relied on qualitative methods to obtain an in-depth and detailed understanding of the project's performance.

It will include the following main steps

3.1 Conducting an in-depth documentary review

During this stage, the mission examined the following documents:

- The project document
- The CRCCA project document and its final evaluation report;
- The 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 activity reports of the project;
- Work plans (PTA);
- minutes of the steering committee meetings
- **RCCA** project document

Project documents

- Project document: Consolidation of the achievements of strengthening the adaptation and resilience capacities of the agricultural sector to climate change in the Comoros
- Project document: Strengthening the resilience of the Comoros to disaster risks linked to climate change and variability .

CRCCA Project Activity Report

- 2019 Activity Report
- 2021 Activity Report
- 2022 Activity Report

CRCCA Annual Work Plan

- Annual work plan 2019
- Annual work plan 2020
- Annual work plan 2021
- Annual work plan 2022
- Annual work plan 2023

Steering committee reports

- 2019 Steering Committee Meeting Report
- 2021 Steering Committee Meeting Report
- 2022 Steering Committee Meeting Report
- Minutes of the 2023 steering committee meeting
- Minutes of the 2024 steering committee meeting

Various reports

- RCCA Project Final Evaluation Report
- Final report Implementation of the CRDE support and assistance project by UCCIA

At the end of this stage, the mission submitted an inception report which was validated by the committee responsible for the evaluation.

3.2 Collecting information from stakeholders

The mission conducted semi-structured individual interviews with key partners and focus groups.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with the following key stakeholder informants:

- The Director General of DNSAE
- The RUTI of Ngazidja
- The UNDP Programme Officer
- The Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP
- CRDE pilot managers of Grande Comores and Moili
- An ANACM agent
- UCCIA Project Manager
- Moili peasant trainers
- Moili Breeders
- The head of the Moinakouhou association (Moili)

Focus groups were organized with

- CRDE experts from Hamalengo Doboïni
- The experts of the CRDE of Sidjou-Idjikoundzi
- The farmers and breeders of Hamalengo – Diboïni
- The peasants and breeders of Sidjou Idjikoundzi

As the mission did not go to Moili and Anjouan, the interviews were conducted by telephone. Field visits were organized on the sites of Diboïni – Hamalengo and Sidjou - Idjikoundzi to directly observe the implementation of activities, evaluate the infrastructures and resources mobilized,

The list of persons interviewed can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

3.2 Qualitative data analysis

The mission was unable to conduct a quantitative analysis of the results as planned due to .

- The difficulty in reconstructing a logical framework
- The lack of clear and previously defined quantitative indicators to measure the performance and results of the project.
- The lack of targets makes any comparison with specific objectives difficult.

The mission therefore considered that without a logical framework to guide data collection throughout the project, it is likely that the quantitative data available will be insufficient, thus preventing rigorous quantitative analysis.

The primary data collected directly from the project beneficiaries and from all the actors involved and the secondary data collected at the level of the activity reports were therefore analyzed only in a qualitative manner. This descriptive analysis method made it possible to identify trends, challenges encountered, successes, and lessons learned.

A triangulation of information sources (secondary data, interviews, observation) was carried out and made it possible to reach conclusions and recommendations based on evidence and accepted by all stakeholders.

3.4 Restitution of results

Based on this analysis, the consultant prepared a preliminary report containing precise conclusions on the progress of the project, as well as detailed and targeted recommendations, likely to guide new perspectives. These preliminary conclusions, as well as the mission's recommendations, were presented for validation to the project steering committee during a workshop organized on September 6 in the UNDP conference room, under the chairmanship of the Director General of DNSAE. The opening speech and the list of participants are annexed respectively to Annexes 3 and 4 of this report.

3.5 Finalization of the report

The final report was written by integrating the comments and recommendations made by the steering committee during the restitution workshop.

3.6 Submission of the final report in English.

An English version of the final report is provided at the end of the mission

3.7 Limitations of the approach

The limitations of this mission primarily stemmed from the absence of:

- The project's logical framework
- Financial reports
- The final project report

PART V - MAIN RESULTS OF THE PROJECT ACCORDING TO THE EVALUATION CRITERIA

4.1 Analysis of the relevance of the project

To evaluate the relevance of the project, the mission analyzed the following aspects:

- the alignment of project objectives and design with national priorities.
- the formulation of objectives and expected outcomes.
- the extent to which the expected results were clearly defined.
- the visibility of the project.

4.1.1 Adequacy of project objectives and design with national priorities

According to DNSAE, the project is well-aligned with the overall development strategy of the Comoros. It is closely connected to the Emerging Comoros Plan (PCE), which aims to build a country resilient to climate shocks and ensure sustainable development.

Specifically, the project is designed to contribute to:

- Strengthening agricultural resilience by promoting more productive farming systems that are better adapted to climate change, thus supporting food security in the Comoros.
- Supporting agricultural development and reducing poverty, particularly by increasing farmers' incomes.
- Promoting gender equality through an empowerment approach for women in rural areas.
- Stimulating economic growth by developing the agricultural sector, which will contribute to national economic growth and job creation.
- Addressing climate change by encouraging sustainable agricultural practices that help mitigate its effects and adapt to its consequences.
- Protecting biodiversity through sustainable natural resource management, thereby aiding in the preservation of biodiversity.

This project continues the efforts initiated under the project "Strengthening the Adaptation and Resilience Capacities of the Agricultural Sector to Climate Change in the Comoros," reflecting the government's commitment to sustaining achievements while awaiting the implementation of a large-scale initiative.

4.1.2 Formulation of objectives and expected results, and level of results monitoring

The mission found that specific objectives were not formulated in the project document. The seven expected results directly address the issues identified in the final evaluation of the project "Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity and Resilience of the Agricultural Sector to Climate Change in the Comoros," responding to expressed needs and consolidating the achievements of the previous project. According to all stakeholders, these results aligned with the priorities set for consolidating the gains.

However, the mission observed that some results, as formulated, were:

- Not necessarily realistic, given the available resources and the capacities of the CRDE;
- Not precisely measurable due to the absence of indicators needed to verify their feasibility.

As a result, the initial project outcomes underwent several modifications, including the removal of two results and the addition of a new one. These adjustments were not formally documented or submitted for approval by the steering committee. According to the project team, these changes were primarily driven by resource limitations or by requests from the beneficiaries.

4.1.3 Assessment of the visibility of the project and consideration of the gender dimension

As part of result 3, the development of a specific concerted communication plan was planned on

- the promotion of the project objectives:
- communication about the problems and solutions provided by the project
- communication on the relevance of the areas of intervention and the planned actions
- definition of messages adapted to each area of intervention
- development of suitable communication media to ensure better visibility
- communication between the different actors involved in the project

This plan was developed and validated but could never be implemented due to lack of sufficient financial resources.

According to stakeholders, the visibility of the project was ensured in particular through the organization of agricultural fairs.

4.1.3 integration of the gender dimension in the implementation of the project,

As part of this project, 50 women and 50 men were supported in agro-entrepreneurship, with the support of the Chamber of Commerce's incubation structure, while strengthening the skills of the CRDE teams of Diboini, Pomoni and Mibani to better meet the specific needs of farmers."

4.1.4 Opinion of beneficiaries

According to the beneficiaries met by the mission, the project, as it was designed, perfectly meets their specific needs.

For farmers in the project intervention areas, it would have made it possible to master and popularize new soil conservation methods and significantly improve their income; to participate in the fight against the harmful effects of climate change on agriculture and offers the possibility of making profitable the infrastructure they had received during the initial project.

However, some people regret the fact that they were not involved in the design of the project, which would have allowed them to express their specific needs and thus receive more appropriate support.

For the DNSAE, this project would have made it possible to develop the 6 CRDEs, to provide them with greater expertise and to maintain the achievements of the previous project while waiting for the implementation of a large-scale project;

She also believes that the integration of young people is in line with the need for the government to revalue the profession to make it more attractive and attract the interest of young people.

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4.3 Analysis of project effectiveness

The effectiveness of the project will be analyzed on the basis of the following evaluation questions:

- assessment of planning effectiveness
- qualitative evaluation of results in relation to targets
- analysis of the effectiveness of the actions implemented to achieve the objectives

4.3.1 Analysis of the project activity planning process.

A three-year work plan was included in the project document. For the annual planning of activities, the six CRDEs were supported by the project experts and were able to develop annual work plans in close collaboration with the farmer trainers. These work plans were then submitted to their steering committees before being transmitted to the project team.

Based on these PTAs, the project team identified feasible activities based on available resources, while sometimes taking into account new requests from beneficiaries or the government. The project PTA was then developed and submitted to the steering committee for validation.

This planning was limited by the need to constantly make adjustments to resource availability and sometimes to incorporate new demands from either the government or the beneficiaries. This could not only hamper the achievement of results, but also complicate the monitoring of project implementation. Some stakeholders believe that it would have been beneficial to also train farmer trainers in planning techniques in order to strengthen their participation in the process.

4.3.2 : Qualitative assessment of results in relation to targets

The mission will evaluate the project activities on the basis of the planned activities, the activities implemented and reported in the various activity reports and PTAs and the information collected from the beneficiaries and the project team.

For the implementation of the activities, the project benefited from:

- experts made available by the project within the CRDE;
- expert support from other UNDP projects.
- support for the support and assistance project for the CRDEs of Diboini, Pomoni and Mibani in agribusiness, financed by the UNDP and implemented by the UCCIA, and whose objective was to “ *Contribute to the promotion of agribusiness among young people and women in the Comoros* ”.

The objectives of this project were to:

- train CRDE managers in Diboini, Pomoni and Mimbani in entrepreneurship support techniques and provide them with tools to develop viable economic models.
- support 100 farmers, 50% of whom are women, by providing them with training in agro-entrepreneurship and raising their awareness of the requirements of regional markets.
- develop and implement an effective communication strategy to promote the actions and results of the project.

i. Qualitative assessment of Result 1

Outcome 1: The six CRDEs possess the necessary technical and operational capacities to facilitate dialogue and enhance both internal and external communication with partners, ensuring effective collaboration.

To achieve result 1, the following activities were therefore carried out :

Development of annual work plans for CRDEs

To equip the reference CRDEs with strong strategic planning tools, promote a culture of performance and transparency, and foster their autonomy, the project, through RUTIs and experts assigned to the CRDEs, supported the six CRDEs in the development of Annual Work Plans (PTAs). Throughout the project, these PTAs were created with active involvement from farmer-trainers and validated by the steering committees.

Although all six CRDEs now have action plans in place, their implementation is hindered by several factors:

- a lack of qualified personnel to execute the activities.
- delays in public subsidy payments to the CRDEs, limiting their financial autonomy and forcing them to engage in activities similar to those of farmers, which at times undermines their role as support structures.
- the absence of a monitoring and evaluation system to track the implementation of these action plans.

Development of the CRDE procedures manual for Hamalengo-Diboini.

With the support of an expert provided by UNDP, the Diboini CRDE was equipped with a tailored procedures manual. The successful implementation of this manual led to its classification as "moderate risk" during the HACT micro-assessment.

The goal was to extend this model to all six CRDEs to harmonize management practices and establish a culture of transparency. However, the lack of human resources in the other five CRDEs has made scaling up this initiative challenging.

Establishment of a permanent consultation platform

Designed to facilitate regular monitoring of action plans between the Ministry, DNSAE, and the regional directorates, the platform was created but failed to operate as intended. Stakeholders highlighted the lack of communication between these institutions as a significant issue in effectively monitoring activities.

Development of a results-based communication plan

UCCIA supported the creation and validation of a targeted communication plan focused on the following actions:

- Promoting the project's objectives.
- Communicating the issues addressed and solutions provided by the project.
- Highlighting the relevance of the intervention areas and planned actions.
- Tailoring messages to each intervention area.
- Developing appropriate communication materials to enhance the visibility of project actions.
- Facilitating communication among the various stakeholders involved in the project.

Although the communication plan was developed and validated, it was never implemen

Securing the CRDE sites of Pomoni

The final evaluation of the RCCA project emphasized the need to address land issues faced by certain CRDEs. In response, the project supported securing the perimeter of the Pomoni CRDE, notably through the construction of a living fence. This initiative resolved multiple challenges, such as preventing animal and human intrusions and protecting the site from the damaging effects of sea winds.

A similar approach was also implemented at the Hamalengo-Diboini site, even though this activity had not originally been planned.

The result was partially achieved. The CRDEs made progress in strategic planning, management, and site security, but significant obstacles remain, including a shortage of qualified personnel, a lack of financial resources, and the non-functionality of monitoring and communication systems.

ii. Qualitative assessment of result 2

Outcome 2 : The six CRDEs, along with farmer trainers in the targeted areas, have the technical and technological expertise required to utilize and disseminate agro-meteorological information developed by the ANACM's agro-meteorological service, benefiting field practitioners

The previous project aimed to establish an agro-meteorological system to collect and analyze weather data from the three islands, transforming this data into agricultural advice for farmers. Several actions were undertaken, including the installation of four weather stations based on coverage needs identified by ANACM, enhancing ANACM's capacities, and signing four agreements with DNSAE, DGSC, INRAPE, and CRDE. However, the following activities were not executed:

- The formation of a multidisciplinary working group (GTP) composed of specialists from institutions involved in agro-meteorology, tasked with producing bulletins containing insights and advice for decision-makers and farmers.
- The regular production of operational agro-meteorological bulletins in collaboration with the ministries of agriculture, livestock, environment, and national meteorology.

To build on the achievements of the previous project, the CRCCA project planned, in close collaboration with ANACEM:

- The establishment of the GTP.
- The creation of an operational agro-meteorological bulletin for producers, with assistance from relevant ministries.
- The regular dissemination of agro-weather bulletins to farmers through traditional channels to help them adapt their agricultural practices to climatic conditions.

In conclusion, none of the planned activities were carried out, resulting in an unachieved outcome. These activities were removed from the project planning in 2022 without proper documentation or submission to the steering committee. Additionally, no budget line was allocated for these activities, and the absence of a functioning GTP would have compromised their implementation regardless. Discussions with DNSAE indicated that these activities are essential for combating the effects of climate change in the agricultural sector.

iii. Qualitative assessment of Result 3

Outcome 3 : The six CRDEs and farmer trainers in the targeted areas actively integrate and promote technologies and techniques for crop cultivation and livestock breeding that enhance the resilience of production systems to climate change and variability across the six pilot sites

To achieve this result, UCCIA and project experts undertook several key activities.

Structuring and capacity building of agricultural cooperatives

The project successfully structured and strengthened 27 cooperatives across the six CRDEs, uniting farmers from various sectors (such as market gardening and livestock) with a notable representation of women, especially in market gardening and livestock cooperatives. These cooperatives facilitated the promotion and dissemination of innovations in resilient cultivation techniques through knowledge exchanges among producers. However, outreach was significantly limited in the CRDE of Sidjou due to challenges in accessing plots. Cooperative members received training to enhance their knowledge and agricultural practices, particularly in market gardening (e.g., potatoes) and cash crops (e.g., ginger).

Construction of anti-erosion facilities

With the efforts of CRDE experts, 3,564 linear meters of anti-erosion structures were built in the plots of farmer trainers at the intervention sites. These developments helped retain soil and limit water runoff, preserving the quality of arable land. Greenhouses were also established to promote off-season cultivation and centralize best practices for climate change adaptation. While some greenhouses faced operational difficulties due to water shortages, the initiative aimed to encourage wider dissemination of effective practices.

Support for agricultural entrepreneurship targeting youth and women

UCCIA enhanced the skills of technicians across three CRDEs regarding agricultural entrepreneurial support. The establishment of Sangani farm allowed trained technicians to guide 75 young entrepreneurs, focusing particularly on youth and women. The project also supported women and women's associations in Pomoni, who were notably impacted by the economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, 287 women benefited from initiatives that included constructing infrastructure for raising goats, rabbits, ducks, turkeys, and geese, helping them diversify their income sources and improve their economic conditions.

Maintenance of composters

The maintenance of 204 compost bins and the production of humus contributed to improving soil fertility in intervention areas. This initiative helped combat erosion and reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers, promoting more sustainable agricultural practices. According to testimonies from beneficiary farmers, the participatory methods employed for anti-erosion developments and composter maintenance encouraged them to adapt their agricultural practices to local conditions, enabling them to tackle challenges posed by climate change. They reported that moving away from slash-and-burn techniques, using organic fertilizers, and adopting new agricultural practices have restored their soils and significantly increased their yields.

Reviving Ginger as a Resilient Cash Crop

The project initiated a pilot program to revive ginger cultivation, recognized as a high-potential cash crop, to reduce import dependency. Funded by UNDP resources, this initiative

aimed to stimulate the Comorian entrepreneurial ecosystem and leverage opportunities linked to regional integration. The CRDE of Diboïni – Hamalengo supported 145 farmers, including 58 women, in this innovative approach. The goal was to locally produce 73 to 80 tonnes of ginger for the 2022-2023 campaign, effectively doubling current imports and contributing to national economic development. The project also facilitated a physico-chemical and nutritional study of ginger at MAKERERE KAMPALABUGANDA University, confirming its superior nutritional values compared to others in the Indian Ocean region. However, farmers have reported challenges in selling their produce, with the CRDE of Diboïni currently being the main buyer. A project to transform ginger into oil, in collaboration with INRAPE and the University of the Comoros, is underway to promote exports. In summary, the project largely succeeded in structuring, building capacity, developing infrastructure, and supporting women. However, efforts in large-scale extension and commercialization remain partially achieved and require continued focus to ensure broader adoption of techniques and the sustainability of initiatives.

iv. Qualitative assessment of Result 4

Outcome 4: The CRDEs and beneficiaries produce and distribute plant material resilient to climate change (food, market gardening and fodder crops) in the areas of the 6 CRDEs where the project intervenes

The strategy implemented aimed to widely propagate local varieties suited to the specific conditions of the regions, ensuring their preservation and enabling farmers to cultivate and pass them on to future generations.

With the technical and methodological support of project experts at the CRDE, farmers were able to access five varieties of sweet potatoes from Réunion, two varieties of taro from the Fiji Islands, nine cassava varieties from Anjouan, and three fodder species. These varieties, characterized by their shorter growing cycles (six months compared to nine to twelve months for local varieties) and higher yields, were successfully introduced to farms.

Simultaneously, the CRDEs multiplied and distributed five food crops to 220 farmers, including 80 women. These crops included banana shoots from the FIHA, Dzou, and Mnalouki varieties, sweet potato vines from the Bombay variety, BAMARIE vines, red taro seedlings, and cassava cuttings from the H52, Chihawoiti, and Lokossa varieties.

The project also established a system for the production and distribution of plants, leading to the production and distribution of 15,900 cash crops, including ylang-ylang, pepper, clove, and vanilla. In the Diboïni-Hamalengo area, the construction of two shade houses facilitated the production of cash crops (ylang-ylang, pepper plants, vanilla, and clove trees) as well as agroforestry plants. Additionally, the project supported seedling production in Sidjou, Idjikounzi, Mibani, and Pomoni, distributing these plants to many farmers, notably a significant number of women, thereby enhancing the economic empowerment of rural women.

Farmers reported that this production and distribution system significantly boosted their harvests and incomes. Thus, it contributes to improving food security, preserving biodiversity, and fostering economic development in the intervention areas.

In conclusion, the project has largely achieved its goals, demonstrating significant progress in the multiplication and dissemination of resilient varieties and farmer support. However, further actions could be considered to ensure a broader and more sustainable adoption of the introduced technologies

v. Qualitative assessment of Result 5

Outcome5: The CRDEs and breeders have the necessary capacities to ensure the rational management of breeding infrastructures and the management of animals in compliance with the partnership agreements made with the farmer breeders.

Building on the work completed and the partnerships established with breeders identified in the previous project, the goal was to finalize the ongoing efforts and sustain the achievements. The following activities were undertaken:

Genetic improvement of cattle and goats:

The project supported crossbreeding operations between imported bulls and local cows, along with artificial insemination initiatives. In 2022, this resulted in 335 natural matings and 230 artificial inseminations, leading to 138 births. For goats, the CRDEs in Fomboni and Sidjou recorded 37 matings resulting in 29 births. Additionally, veterinary care was enhanced in Diboini, where a veterinarian was made available to assist other CRDEs on the island. As a result, 1,925 cattle belonging to 523 breeders received preventive treatments. All stakeholders, especially the breeders consulted, acknowledge that the genetics of cattle and goats have improved in the intervention areas and beyond. However, they expressed concern that the issue of livestock diseases is not sufficiently addressed, which hampers the expansion of these new breeds. The sole veterinarian supported by the project currently operates only in Hamalengo-Diboini.

Collection of birth data:

The project established a monitoring system for cattle, goats, and poultry through the development of model sheets validated by stakeholders.

Improving supply and management of veterinary product depots:

The CRDE of Hamalengo-Diboini, with support from the previous project, set up a mini veterinary pharmacy to serve breeders in its area. The CRCCA aimed to use this depot as a supply hub for the other five pilot CRDEs, but this plan was not implemented.

Overall, outcome 5 has been achieved, demonstrating significant progress in animal genetics, veterinary care, and livestock data management. Nonetheless, challenges remain, particularly in managing animal diseases, ensuring geographic coverage of veterinary care, and expanding the supply of veterinary products. Addressing these issues is essential for optimal management of livestock infrastructure and the sustainability of project achievements.

vi. Qualitative assessment of Result 6

Outcome 6: The project successfully introduced Kuroiller racing roosters to benefit poultry farmers, alongside providing training for leading farmers in poultry farming management and animal health. Additionally, a monitoring system was established for the introduced breed to ensure effective management and performance evaluation

This activity was initiated at the request of the Moinakouhou association in Moili. An agreement was signed with the association, leading to the following actions:

- The introduction of 100 Kuroiller racing roosters, chosen for their adaptability to the local context and higher yield.
- Training for breeders.
- The establishment of a dedicated monitoring system for the breed.

Beneficiaries and the head of the CRDE of Fomboni report that the breed has proliferated throughout the island and has even spread to Anjouan and Grande Comores.

However, the initiative continues to face challenges due to periodic feed shortages.

Result 6: The introduction, training, and monitoring objectives have been largely accomplished, yielding significant positive impacts. Nonetheless, feed shortages pose a challenge that could affect the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of the initiative.

vii. Qualitative assessment of Result 7

Outcome 7: The CRDEs and beneficiaries ensure the sustainable management of hydraulic infrastructures (basins, spring heads, Ekotank, watering troughs, irrigation systems) and water resources

To achieve this result, the project facilitated:

- The organization of information sessions to raise awareness among users about the new hydraulic infrastructures.
- The establishment and promotion of water management committees.
- The setup of six water points in Mohéli, connected to the water networks of Djando, Fomboni, and Mbatsé, to ensure a consistent supply for crops.

However, it is important to note that these activities are still limited compared to the expressed needs in the areas. The CRDE Ecotank of Hamalengo-Diboini was filled 25 times to provide the necessary water supply for nursery activities and crops, especially during the dry season.

This outcome is partially achieved. While there has been progress in raising awareness, establishing water points, and managing water infrastructure, the activities remain insufficient relative to the needs and require further efforts for comprehensive and sustainable water resource management.

viii. Qualitative assessment of the results of Result 7a

Outcome 7 bis : The CRDEs have the technical and technological capacities required to support the marketing of agricultural products through digitalization so that it becomes competitive and resilient .

To achieve this result, the following actions were planned:

- Design and operationalize the digital communication strategy at the CRDE. UCCIA provided support to the CRDEs of Mibani, Diboini, and Pomoni for the implementation of this digital communication strategy. However, it became evident that the strategy could not be executed.
- Establish a system for collecting, preserving, and marketing agricultural products. With UCCIA's assistance, the CRDEs of Diboini, Mibani, and Pomoni developed a specific marketing strategy. These pilot CRDEs signed an agreement with UCCIA to facilitate

the marketing of their products in national and international markets, resulting in the organization of 14 agricultural fairs at the national level.

Result 7a is partially achieved. While efforts to establish a marketing system for agricultural products have yielded significant outcomes, such as the successful organization of agricultural fairs, the failure to implement the digital communication strategy limits the full realization of the digitalization objectives aimed at enhancing the competitiveness and resilience of agricultural products. Nonetheless, these initiatives have contributed to increasing the visibility of the CRDEs.

Other activities carried out by the project

The project played a crucial role in the aftermath of Cyclone Kenneth, which significantly affected farmers' livelihoods. In coordination with the ministry and UNDP, it was decided to realign the activities of the 2019 PTA to assist the affected farmers in their recovery. The implemented actions focused on:

- Providing seeds for vegetables and short-cycle food crops to facilitate a quick resumption of production in disaster-stricken areas.
- Reconstituting destroyed plant materials and establishing nurseries to ensure the regeneration of plantations.
- Rehabilitating essential agricultural infrastructure to support production.
- Installing greenhouses to protect crops and promote soilless cultivation.
- Introducing climate-resistant banana varieties to enhance farm resilience.

Additionally, the project supported the development of a major initiative for future recovery. To this end, small interventions were conducted at sites earmarked for inclusion in the new project.

4.3.4 Institutional framework analysis :

Initially, the overall management of the project was assigned to DNSAE, following the NIM modality, which allowed DNSAE to handle the national oversight of the project. However, after the 2022 HACT assessment classified DNSAE as high risk, the management of funds was transitioned to the DIM modality, managed at the UNDP level.

The project team included three Heads of Island Technical Units (RUTI) and experts assigned to the CRDEs. The RUTI were based within DNSAE in Moroni and the regional directorates in Moili and Anjouan, which facilitated activity monitoring by the supervisory authorities. However, the RUTI were intended to coordinate the project on each island, but the necessary arrangements for this coordination were not made, as the position was planned in the PTA but never filled. As a result, the RUTI of Ngazidja took on these coordination responsibilities, particularly since the RUTI of Moili and Anjouan were not operational for an extended period. This situation added to the workload of the RUTI of Ngazidja and limited the project team's ability to effectively monitor implementation activities. Some stakeholders noted that it hindered the capacity to respond uniformly to local needs.

The CRCCA coordination mechanism included a Steering Committee responsible for defining the project's strategic directions. In principle, this committee meets once a year or as needed, and it has adhered to this schedule. Consequently, the committee convened at least once each year in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 to review the annual reports and PTAs.

4.3.5 Guidance, advice and monitoring/coordination mechanisms:

To assess the frequency and effectiveness of meetings held at both the central and island levels, the mission reviewed the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation plan. This plan has been revised and streamlined to remove redundant elements.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY	OBJECT/FREQUENCY	OBSERVATIONS
Track progress to the results	<p><u>Purpose</u> : To assemble and review quantitative and qualitative data related to project key performance indicators.</p> <p><u>Frequency</u> : at least annually</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transmission to RUTI of annual data on the performance of their activities. - Lack of indicators therefore limited examination of data - DNSAE field missions on the 2 CRDEs of Ngazidja - regular monitoring of field work by the UNDP project manager on the 6 CRDEs - Absence of a process for consolidating and transmitting CRDE data
Track and manage the risks	<p><u>Purpose</u> : To identify specific risks that may threaten the achievement of planned results</p> <p>Half-yearly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not realized
Learn	<p><u>Subject</u>: Knowledge, good practices and the teachings</p> <p>At least annually</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No framework for dialogue allowing the exchange of experience and good practices by the CDREs
Quality assurance of the project	<p><u>Subject</u>: The quality of the project will be evaluated by report to UNDP quality standards to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the project and to inform decision-making</p> <p>Regularly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality assurance provided by the UNDP program manager on a regular basis (reading of all documents produced by the teams)
Project report	<p><u>Subject</u> Presentation to the steering committee of a half-yearly report, Annual and end of the project (report final) of project activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of annual activity reports for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 have been prepared and made available to the project. - . the final implementation report, focused on results, 3 months after the completion of the project has not been prepared .
Project review (steering committee)	<p><u>Subject</u>: The project governance mechanism (reviewed by the steering committee to assess performance and review the PTA and budget</p> <p>In the final year of the project, the committee identify lessons to be learned, examine the Annual</p>	<p>The steering committee met once a year.</p> <p>The final report review meeting because the report was not</p>

Final evaluation of the project	The process is underway with the support of an external consultant
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This table illustrates organized efforts in monitoring and managing the project, highlighting strengths such as consistent data collection at the CRDE level, the preparation of activity reports, regular steering committee meetings, and quality assurance by UNDP. However, it also identifies significant weaknesses, including the lack of performance indicators, data consolidation and dissemination, risk monitoring, a framework for sharing best practices among the CRDEs, and a clear definition of roles and responsibilities for monitoring.

4.4 Analysis of project efficiency.

The project's efficiency needed to be assessed by examining the following elements: potential deviations between the initial budget and actual expenditures, and the factors that contributed to these deviations. Additionally, the budgetary mechanisms in place were reviewed. In practice, the project did not have an initial budget. According to the project team, due to the nature of the funding, it was financed through annual allocations based on available funds from UNDP. Furthermore, the project did not generate a financial report. As a result, the mission compared the amounts allocated in the PTAs with the actual expenditures recorded in the UNDP financial system.

Years	Scheduled amount	Expenses	Execution rate
2019	659 932	705 923	106.97%
2020	437427.33	525 535	120.14%
2021	458017	452,839	98.87%
2022	172050	227 183	132.04%
2023	242240	301 731	124.56%
TOTAL		2 213 211	

Most of the execution rates exceeded 100%, indicating that actual expenditures were higher than the amounts initially programmed for those years. However, the mission observed that several planned activities were not completed. This could be due to the fact that the programmed amounts did not fully account for certain costs, or that changing execution conditions led to budget overruns. It is also worth noting that many activities were carried out using resources from other projects. The mission was unable to assess the frequency and quality of financial reports, as they were not produced.

4.5 Analysis of project sustainability.

To evaluate the sustainability of the project, the mission will identify:

- The factors that facilitated or hindered the implementation of activities, assess the impact of negative factors, and propose corrective measures to address them.
- The key areas for ensuring the sustainability and capitalization of the project's achievements, as well as potential avenues for intervention in a possible second phase.

4.5.1 Elements that supported or impeded the implementation of activities

Constraints encountered in the implementation of the project and corrective measures envisaged.

Factors	Impact on implementation	Corrective action
The weakness of the human and financial capacities of the CRDEs	Difficulty in implementing the activities planned in the PTA. Lack of veterinarians to support activities related to breed improvement Monitoring and evaluation of activities is not ensured Difficulty in ensuring awareness among all farmers in the identified areas -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide CRDEs with qualified human resources. - Provide training for this new staff in strategic planning and new agricultural techniques - Work to provide veterinarians in each island entity
Lack of predictability of financial resources	The team had to stop continuing its activities due to	- Review of activities
overly ambitious goals	Activities were planned when funding and technical capacity were not available	
The absence of a solid logical framework, with SMART indicators, coupled with dysfunctions within the institutional system, prevented the implementation of effective monitoring and evaluation of the project.		
The agricultural sector suffers from a lack of attractiveness among young people.	It is very difficult to get young people to invest in this priority sector and therefore to create jobs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish subsidies, low-interest loans, or tax incentives for young agricultural entrepreneurs. - Launch communication campaigns to change the perception of agriculture, presenting it as a dynamic, innovative and economically viable sector. - Develop specialized training programs in agriculture, focusing on new technologies and agricultural entrepreneurship. - Developing agricultural methods that reduce the arduousness of work

		- Support the development of agricultural product processing and marketing activities
The institutional system compromised by the prolonged absence of the RUTI of Anjouan and Mohéli and the work overload of the RUTI of Ngazidja, in the absence of a coordinator.	Delay in the execution of works Coordination and monitoring of evaluation activities were difficult to ensure	Strengthen the coordination and monitoring and evaluation capacities of the DNSAE which would take ownership of the project and ensure coordination
Lack of water in selected agricultural areas	The lack of water has impacted the realization of many activities	Invest in infrastructure to improve the supply of water access points. Strengthening the capacities of management committees for more responsible and efficient use of water access points.

4.5.2 Factors that facilitated the implementation of the project:

- i. The project team and CRDE managers were able to build trust with local communities, enabling smoother intervention at the grassroots level. This close relationship with the populations ensured that project activities were better received and had a more lasting impact.
- ii. The presence of experts trained during the first project, who possessed in-depth knowledge of the intervention areas and were familiar with farmer trainers, provided high-quality technical support to the project.
- iii. The National Director of Agricultural Strategies played a key role in the project's success due to his deep understanding of the project and his active participation in activity planning within the team.
- iv. The successful partnership between the Ministry and the UNDP, recognized as productive by both parties, was instrumental in driving the project forward.

4.5.3 Sustainability, capitalization of project achievements, and future prospects:

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the project's outcomes and identify future directions, it is essential to build on the established foundations while tackling the remaining challenges. The proposed areas for action focus on reinforcing the results achieved, enhancing the capacities of the CRDEs, upgrading infrastructure, promoting resilience and climate change mitigation practices, and improving agricultural and livestock productivity.

GOALS	ACTIVITIES
RESULT 1	
Ensure that CRDEs have qualified personnel for the implementation of PTAs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment of specialized staff in agricultural project management and rural development to fill skills gaps - Establish continuing training programs for existing staff - Explore partnerships with training institutions to offer internships or specific training. - Ensure that experts trained by the 2 projects are maintained
Ensure the financial autonomy of CRDEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a sustainable financing plan for each CRDE including potential sources of financing - Apply to the government for the granting of the planned subsidies - Put in such as the sale of services or agricultural products - Promote CRDE activities among private stakeholders interested in sustainable agriculture and climate resilience.
Implementation of a monitoring and evaluation system to ensure the monitoring of action plans and guarantee regular reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design and implement a structured monitoring and evaluation system with performance indicators - Establish regular reporting processes and review of action plans based on the results obtained
Ensure regular consultation between stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reactivate or create a consultation platform to facilitate exchanges between the Ministry, the DNSAE and the CRDEs. - Implement digital communication tools to facilitate ongoing interactions.
: Ensure the sustainability of CRDE sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop land management solutions to secure CRDE sites, involving local authorities and exploring legal options for site protection. - Continue security initiatives such as plant fences, and study their extension to other CRDE sites.
RESULT 2	
Reactivation and operation of GTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each GTP member to ensure effective collaboration. - Formalize the group - Establish a detailed work plan with clear objectives and deadlines for producing the bulletins - include a specific budget line for activities related to the production and dissemination of agro-meteorological bulletins in future projects. - Seek additional funds or partnerships to financially support these activities
Ensure the regular production of agro-meteorological bulletins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen partnerships with relevant ministries (agriculture, livestock, environment, meteorology) to ensure regular contribution and validation of bulletins
maintenance of infrastructure	Provide ongoing technical support for the maintenance and improvement of weather stations and data collection systems.
RESULT 3	
Structuring and strengthening the capacities of agricultural cooperatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to provide training and support to cooperatives, with emphasis on extension techniques and cooperative management. - Extend outreach activities to areas where they were limited, such as the CRDE in Sidjou, by finding solutions to access problems. - Encourage the exchange of experiences between cooperatives to disseminate successful agricultural techniques and practices

Construction and maintenance of anti - erosion facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure regular maintenance of anti-erosion facilities to guarantee their long-term effectiveness. - Solving water issues to improve greenhouse operation and the possibility of implementing water harvesting systems
Support in agricultural entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote the creation of networks between young entrepreneurs to share resources, information and opportunities and promote successes - Facilitate access to finance, modern agricultural technologies and techniques and entrepreneurial support networks,
Maintenance of compost heaps and fertilization of soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide continuing training to CRDE experts on the maintenance of composters and the use of organic fertilizers. - Generalize the promoting the benefits of organic fertilizers to farmers to encourage their adoption.
Documentation and Monitoring of Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Document successes and challenges encountered to inform future projects and interventions
RESULT 4	
Ensure that CRDE teams and farmer trainers maintain and develop their skills in managing plant material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize continuing training sessions for CRDE staff on techniques for producing, managing and distributing resilient plant material.
Improving the production and distribution of plant material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop partnerships with research institutes and agricultural companies to benefit from
Increase the reach and impact of released plant varieties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a large-scale dissemination plan to include more geographic areas and beneficiaries. - Establish seed and plant exchange programs between farmers to facilitate the dissemination of resilient varieties.
Promote the benefits of new varieties and techniques.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launch awareness campaigns to inform farmers about the benefits of resilient varieties and sustainable growing practices. - Organize demonstrations and open days to present the results obtained and the recommended techniques
Support and expand dissemination and production initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish partnerships with NGOs, rural development organizations, and academic institutions to support and enrich CRDE activities. - Collaborate with producer associations to facilitate the adoption of new varieties and promote sustainable agricultural practices.
Improving veterinary management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand geographic coverage by training or recruiting more veterinarians to ensure better distribution of care. - Provide regular training to veterinarians and farmers on animal disease management and best care practices.
Improving the management of diseases affecting cattle and goats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement disease surveillance and early detection programs in collaboration with INRAPE to react quickly and limit the impacts on livestock. - Develop regular and accessible vaccination programs to prevent common diseases.
Create veterinary product repositories at all CRDEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand the network of veterinary mini-pharmacies to cover the needs of breeders in all intervention areas.
Improving data collection and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve and expand the livestock monitoring system to include more detailed data on health and disease management.
Sharing best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote the successes of genetics programs to other breeders and regions to encourage the adoption of best practices.
Feed stock management:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and develop multiple feed suppliers to reduce the risk of stockouts.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish storage systems to maintain feed reserves and avoid interruptions in supply. - Consider local feed production
Strengthening awareness and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide regular training sessions for water management committees and users to strengthen their skills in sustainable water resources management. - Conduct additional awareness campaigns to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable water management and infrastructure maintenance.
Partnerships and funding:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek partnerships to obtain funding and/or the involvement of other projects in the process. - Establish programs to support local water management initiatives and encourage community contributions.
Operationalization of the digital communication strategy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out an in-depth assessment of the needs and capacities of CRDEs in terms of digital communication to design an appropriate strategy. - Train CRDE staff in the use of digital tools and best practices in digital communication.
Network expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand distribution and marketing networks to access new national and international markets international
Promotion and visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to organize agricultural fairs and other events to highlight agricultural products and strengthen relationships with trading partners

4.5.4 Future prospects

The consolidation of acquired knowledge could be significantly enhanced through greater State involvement, particularly in strengthening the capacities of CRDEs. The DNSAE has indicated that, given the increasing importance the government places on CRDEs, there is an ongoing process to bolster these structures by improving their human resources. At this stage, the priority should be to ensure that the recruited staff possess the necessary skills to address challenges related to agricultural system resilience and climate change adaptation.

Additionally, due to their strategic positioning, the CRDEs play a key role in the implementation of agricultural projects funded by development partners. Their success in this area will largely depend on the DNSAE's ability to effectively articulate and present national priorities to various donors. Therefore, it will be crucial to establish strong coordination between CRDE actions and partner projects to ensure that interventions adequately address the actual needs on the ground.

PART V - CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 – Conclusion

In conclusion, the CRCCA project has demonstrated its relevance in ensuring the sustainability of the achievements from the initial project aimed at strengthening agricultural resilience to climate change. Its alignment with the national strategic priorities of the Union of the Comoros and its responsiveness to beneficiary needs underscore this relevance. The National Directorate of Agricultural Strategies played an active role in its implementation, affirming the project's compatibility with national policies and strategies.

The project enhanced the knowledge and skills of beneficiaries, improving the resilience of their production systems. It addressed government concerns by consolidating achievements through the maintenance of trained experts on intervention sites, expanding actions to other CRDEs, and promoting agricultural techniques among farmers.

The strengthening of the Hamalengo-Diboini CRDE was effective, encouraging the involvement of additional projects in the region. The initiative also integrated gender equity considerations, primarily benefiting women, and fostered youth entrepreneurship, aligning with local priorities. The introduction of local varieties and the intensification of production in agroforestry and cash crops significantly boosted agricultural productivity and food security. In the livestock sector, the introduction of new species, training for livestock farmers, and the utilization of infrastructure established by the project had a considerable impact.

With the support of CRDE experts, the new project “Strengthening the Resilience of Climate-Smart Agricultural Systems and Value Chains in the Union of the Comoros” was developed. The objective of this project is to “Increase the climate resilience of key agricultural value chains through innovation, diversification, and capacity building to sustainably improve smallholder livelihoods and contribute to the national economy.”

However, several factors hindered the implementation of the project. The lack of qualified personnel in the CRDEs, dependence on external resources, funding instability, overly ambitious objectives, institutional dysfunction, and the absence of a solid logical framework complicated the monitoring of progress and the evaluation of project impact. Additionally, the lack of attractiveness of the agricultural sector and the effects of degraded infrastructure compromised some project achievements.

5.2 Recommendations

These recommendations aim to consolidate the achievements of the CRCCA project and enhance the resilience of agricultural production systems in the face of climate change.

- Strengthening monitoring and evaluation capacities at DNSAE: It is essential to establish a rigorous monitoring and evaluation system within the DNSAE. This will enable effective oversight of CRDE activities, foster project ownership, facilitate rapid identification of challenges, and develop skills to define priorities and adjust strategies. This enhancement will improve agricultural project management and increase responsiveness to encountered obstacles.

- Development of a knowledge consolidation strategy: Implementing a strategy dedicated to consolidating past project achievements under DNSAE supervision is crucial for strengthening the institution's capacity to manage agricultural initiatives. This strategy should focus on improving the adaptation and resilience of the Comorian agricultural sector to climate hazards. Establishing effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, training local stakeholders, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and developing strategic partnerships will enable DNSAE to capitalize on past successes and proactively address the impacts of climate change.
- Strengthening partnerships and strategic collaboration: Collaboration with research institutions, NGOs, and international organizations should be enhanced to leverage their expertise and resources. Such collaboration, along with a platform for experience exchange among CRDEs led by DNSAE, will ensure more coherent activity implementation, encourage the sharing of best practices, and facilitate the continuous improvement of agricultural interventions.
- Ensuring activity implementation: It is vital to implement activities, particularly those related to the establishment and strengthening of cooperatives and product marketing, in collaboration with the new Chamber of Agriculture, to leverage the networks it has already developed in this area.

ANNEX 1: Terms of reference of the mission

TERMS OF REFERENCE FINAL EVALUATION CRCCA

1. Context and justification

The project is part of the perspective of consolidating the achievements of the initial phase of the project "Strengthening the adaptation and resilience capacities of the agricultural sector to climate change in the Comoros" and of preparing a large-scale program to scale up the results and strengthen the resilience of the value chains of agricultural systems. Indeed, the activities carried out within the framework of the project "Strengthening the adaptation and resilience capacities of the agricultural sector to climate change in the Comoros" focused in particular on: 1) the popularization of technologies and techniques for adaptation to climate change, through the transfer of knowledge from producers to producers, the approach of which consists of training farmer trainers in the project concentration areas who, in turn, train other producers; 2) access to techniques and technologies related to agriculture, through the implementation of good agricultural adaptation practices (animal production and plant production); and 3) the use of resilient plant material and animal seeds, through the system of Rural Economic Development Centers (CRDE), set up with the support of the project.

The activities carried out during this consolidation phase contributed to the achievement of the following seven results.

- Result 1: The CRDEs have the technical and operational capacities required to promote dialogue and internal and external communication with their partners and to interact with them.

- Result 2: CRDEs and farmer trainers have adequate technical capacities to exploit and disseminate agro-meteorological information developed by ANACM for the benefit of field actors.

- Result 3: CRDEs and farmer trainers integrate and popularize crop and livestock technologies and techniques to increase the resilience of production systems to climate change and variability in the 6 convergence zones of the project.

- Result 4: CRDEs and beneficiaries produce and distribute resilient plant material (food crops, market gardening and fodder) in the project intervention areas.

- Result 5: CRDEs and breeders have the necessary capacities to ensure the rational management of livestock infrastructure and the management of animals in compliance with the partnership agreements entered into with peasant breeders.

- Result 6: Introduction of breeding roosters of the Kuroiller parent stock for the benefit of poultry farmers and training of leading farmers in poultry farming management and animal health and monitoring of the introduced breed.

- Result 7: The CRDEs and beneficiaries ensure the sustainable management of hydraulic infrastructure (basins, spring head, Ekotank, watering trough, irrigation systems) and water resources.

After more than 4 years of implementation, and in accordance with UNDP rules and procedures, the progress recorded in the field is captured during a final independent evaluation of the project. The objective of this evaluation is therefore to assess the performance of the project in achieving the expected results. The evaluation will therefore generate useful information on the methods of project implementation and the achievement of products by highlighting the direct cause and attribution based on the close cause-and-effect link between the initiatives and the products.

To this end, the UNDP Office intends to recruit a national consultant to carry out the final review of the project.

2. Mission objective

The overall objective of the mission is to carry out a global evaluation of the project "Consolidation of the achievements of the strengthening of adaptation capacities and resilience of the agricultural sector to climate change in the Comoros" with regard to the achievement of targets for each of the indicators of the logical framework on the one hand and compliance with deadlines and the quality of the interventions of the technical implementing partners on the other hand.

The exercise must:

- assess UNDP performance in relation to the objectives and expected results; More specifically, the mission will have to assess:

- ✓▪ The relevance and coherence that make it possible to assess the accuracy of the project in relation to the diagnosis or the problem identified in relation to the priorities in terms of economic development, as well as the arrangement of actions, or even the strategy implemented taking into account the objectives and the context. The mission will have to verify the concordance of the project with the needs and requests of the beneficiaries, as well as its conformity with the strategic and general orientations of the country;
- ✓▪ Effectiveness to assess the extent to which project activities have achieved the expected results;

✓ Efficiency to measure the results or effects obtained in relation to the material, financial and human resources implemented, in accordance with the required standards;

✓ Sustainability, i.e. the viability and reproducibility of the actions undertaken by the project and the representation of the different groups of beneficiaries in the bodies.

3. Mandate of the Consultant

In accordance with the management procedures for projects under national execution, the final evaluation of the project "Consolidation of the achievements of strengthening the adaptation and resilience capacities of the agricultural sector to climate change in the Comoros" will be carried out by an independent national consultant and under the coordination of the National Directorate of Agricultural and Livestock Strategies (DNSAE) and the UNDP.

Specifically, the assessment will focus on the following:

- ✓▪ Design: provide an opinion on the relevance of the project as a response to the problems to be solved. In short, it is necessary to say whether the objectives of the project and its expected results as translated into the logical framework have been clearly, explicitly and logically expressed in the project document in verifiable terms. At the same time, it will be necessary to assess the degree of framing of the expected results of the project "Consolidation of the achievements of strengthening the adaptation and resilience capacities of the agricultural sector to climate change in the Comoros";
- ✓▪ The institutional framework: assess the consistency of the project assembly with the principles of national execution, considering the institutional framework, in particular the anchoring of the project;
- ✓▪ The development of annual work plans: assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the process of planning activities for the project "Consolidation of the achievements of

strengthening the adaptation and resilience capacities of the agricultural sector to climate change in the Comoros” (Annual Work Program);

- ✓▪ Implementation of activities and results obtained:
 - assess the relevance of the strategies developed in the field and the initiatives taken by project managers to implement the planned activities.
 - also assess the degree of achievement of targets set by the project over the period 2019-2023;
- ✓▪ Financial execution: assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the project in terms of financial management. It will examine the budget monitoring mechanism (financial reports, etc.);
- ✓▪ The project reporting system: assess the delivery times of the various reports. The mission will take stock of the quality and promptness of the reports (annual reports);
- ✓▪ Guidance, advice and monitoring/coordination mechanisms: assess the regularity of meetings/encounters of the various bodies both at central and island level;
- ✓▪ The assets/constraints encountered: identify all the factors that have favored or hindered the implementation of the activities. It will establish the consequences of the negative factors and identify the corrective measures to be undertaken;
- ✓▪ Communication/visibility of the project and consideration of issues related to gender and poverty reduction: assess the relevance of the means of communication used for better visibility of the Project as well as the integration of the gender dimension in the implementation of the project;
- ✓▪ Beneficiary assessment: collect the opinions of beneficiaries on the various aspects relating to the Programme (approach strategy, targeting, results achieved, level of approval, etc.)
- ✓▪ Project prospects: identify the areas for sustainability and capitalization of the project's achievements as well as the prospects for intervention for a possible second phase

4. Expected Products/Deliverables

The mission is expected to deliver three (3) hard copies and Word format files of the following products:

- ✓▪ A methodological guidance note, five (05) days after signing the contract. This note will include, among other things, a detailed methodology indicating the different tools and methods that will be used, the presentation of the approach to be adopted which will be based on the elements of the project (logical framework, targets, etc.), the timetable for conducting the evaluation as well as any difficulties. This note will be validated by the Steering Committee of the evaluation mission (DNSAE and UNDP).
- ✓▪ A provisional report at the end of the third week, by:
 - drawing specific conclusions concerning the progress of the project;
 - making detailed and targeted recommendations which may provide new directions;
 - presenting the provisional report to the Evaluation Steering Committee which will validate it;

- ✓▪ A final report in French at the end of the fourth week, taking into account the observations of the Steering Committee;
- ✓▪ A final report in English

5. Mission Supervision

The consultant's work will be supervised by a Steering Committee co-chaired by DNSAE and UNDP. It is composed of the following structures:

- DNSAE

- **Beneficiary representatives** - **CRDE**
 - CGP- UNDP

This committee will be responsible for monitoring and validating the results of the evaluation. It will organize at least two meetings during the mission. However, a restricted committee (DNSAE and UNDP) may replace the Steering Committee for the close monitoring of the work, the examination of the methodological guidance note, the selection of the consultant, etc.

A site visit will be organized during the mission and the costs of the mission are included in the project budget.

The documentation necessary for the smooth running of the final evaluation will be made available to the mission (electronic version, documents printed in "hard copies"). It should be noted that before the start of the work, the members of the mission will be able to have access to the basic documents (project description, half-yearly and annual reports, technical documents, etc.).

APPENDIX 2: List of Persons Interviewed

Individual interviews

First and last name	- Function/Institution	Contact details
Dr. Fouad Mohamed Youssouf	- Director General of DNSAE	377 28 06
Ahamada Younoussa	- RUTI Ngazidja	344 26 43
Vera Hakim	- Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP	356 99 67
Khitami Said Soilih	- The UNDP Programme Officer	334 41 74
El Moustafa Oubeid	- Director CRDE Diboini – Hamalengo	377v28 06
Hodari Mze Issa	- CRDE Pilot Director Sidjou Idjikoundzi	
Ben Djadid	- Director CRDE Fomboni Moili	387 09 02
Assad	- CRDE Director Moili	3452288
Andhuime	- CRDE Pompon Anjouan Expert	
Farid Hassane Ahmed	- A gent of ANACM	334 03 00
Said Hachim Fouad	- Project manager at UCCIA	340 38 40
Bianrifi Youssouf	- Farmer trainers Moili	334 21 40
Nabhane Ahmada	- Beneficiary of a stable - Moili	332 29 66
Soultoine Anasse	- Secretary General of the Moinakouhou Moili Association	339 23 37
Fatima Youssouf	- Peasant trainer – Diboini Hamalengo	337 85 71
Mohamed Mbae	- Stable Beneficiary – Diboini	343 13 22

List of participants: 2 Focus groups: Beneficiaries – CRDE Diboini staff Hamalengo

Names and Surnames	Function	Contact
EL-Moustoifa Oubeid	Manager CRDE Diboini	377 28 06
Amiridine Soule	PDL Manager	321 96 74
Ibrahim Youssouf	veterinarian	346 29 60
Nahbate Abdou Ahamada	GDL	327 89 07
Omar Ahamada	Biochemist	495 60 16
Ahamada Youssouf	Farmer trainer	335 02 57
Hassanati Mlahayili	C onseiller .agricolle	428 07 07
Mounira Mohamed Dhoifir Said	CTA	391 05 20
Chanfi Youssouf	Agricultural technician	486 17 08
Soule Assoumani	Sales Manager	334 40 28
Ismael Mohamed	economist in charge of CRDE product collection	321 95 31
Nassabiya	Peasant Trainer	
Said Ahamada	Farmer Trainer	383 23 83
Abdou El Anzizi Hamadi	Farmer Trainer	331 77 43
Fatima Youssouf	Data Manager	337 85 71
Darouèche Moindjie	Farmer Trainer	331 69 57
Mohamed Ali engeria	Agricultural Advisor	348 52 54

Mohamed Abdoulatoufou	Farmer Trainer	339 05 57
Andinane Hassane Idjihadi	Farmer Trainer	349 53 05
Fahad Mohamed	CTA	456 62 33
Ichata Assoumani	Peasant trainer	
Ismaila Mohamed	Farmer Trainer	321 95 31
Mohamed Mbaye	Breeder - Stable beneficiary	343 13 22
Mlanana oundro Ali	Farmer Trainer	384 40 54

address by the National Director of Agricultural and Livestock Strategies at the final evaluation workshop of the project: “Consolidation of the achievements of strengthening the adaptation and resilience capacities of the agricultural sector to climate change in the Comoros”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear members of the Steering Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this **final evaluation workshop** of the project entitled "**Consolidation of the achievements of the strengthening of adaptation capacities and resilience of the agricultural sector to climate change in the Comoros.**" Your presence here today is a strong testimony to your commitment to addressing the major challenges facing our country, and more particularly to supporting the agricultural sector in its adaptation to the increasing impacts of climate change. This sector, as we all know, constitutes the backbone of our economy and the source of livelihood for our rural communities.

The project that we are gathered to evaluate today is the culmination of several years of collective and concerted efforts, involving a multitude of actors engaged in the field. It aimed, from its launch, to strengthen the resilience of our agricultural systems in the face of increasingly frequent and unpredictable climate disruptions. But beyond this technical objective, this project had a profound social impact by mobilizing local communities and transferring essential skills to them to face environmental challenges. **The Rural Economic Development Centers (CRDE)**, like the **farmer trainers**, were at the heart of this transformation. Their role in the dissemination of technological innovations and good agricultural practices was crucial to the success of the project.

The results achieved to date are not only encouraging, but also provide hope for the future. I would like to highlight a few of them, as they perfectly illustrate the concrete impact of this project on the ground:

- **The dissemination of reliable and precise agro-meteorological information**, enabling farmers to adapt their practices to increasingly

unpredictable climatic conditions, and to better anticipate periods of water stress or bad weather;

- **The introduction of plant material resilient** to local conditions, as well as the training of breeders in modern breeding techniques, adapted to our island reality;
- **Sustainable management of water infrastructure** , such as basins, spring heads and irrigation systems, vital infrastructure to ensure sustainable and equitable access to water, a crucial resource for agriculture and food security.

Today, we are gathered to learn from these advances and to ensure that the efforts made in recent years will not be in vain. The evaluation that will be conducted during this workshop is a key step in this process. It will not only be limited to analyzing the results obtained, but it will also allow us to question our methods, identify good practices, and propose ways to strengthen the sustainability of the achievements. **The effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability** of the actions carried out will be reviewed, in order to ensure that the resources mobilized, whether financial or human, have been used optimally to maximize the impact of this project.

Allow me to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of all of us, our most sincere thanks to the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** . With their continued support and unwavering partnership, we have not only been able to complete this project, but also raise **US\$10 million** to fund a nationwide initiative that will scale up the successes of this project. This new project, which will be launched in **December 2024** , will aim to further increase the resilience of our agricultural sector by leveraging value chains. This is a significant step forward that will ensure that the gains made under this project can benefit a greater number of our fellow citizens, particularly in the most vulnerable rural areas.

I would also like to thank each of you for your commitment, and in particular **the project team** , as well as the representatives of the **DNSAE** , the **CRDEs** , and the **beneficiaries** . Your contribution has been essential to the implementation of this project, and your expertise will continue to play a key role in the rigorous evaluation that we are beginning today. You are the guarantors of the quality of the work that will be carried out, and I am convinced that the conclusions of this workshop will be valuable in guiding our future actions.

This project has demonstrated one important thing: when we work together, when we pool our knowledge and mobilize local resources, we can not only overcome the challenges imposed by climate change, but also create new and sustainable opportunities. The lessons we learn today, together with the recommendations from this evaluation, will lay a solid foundation for the upcoming value chain project that should further expand the impact of our actions.

I therefore invite you to actively participate in the discussions, share your ideas and contribute fully to this crucial exercise. Together, we must ensure that the achievements of this project will continue to benefit our rural communities and the entire Comorian nation.

I wish you all a workshop rich in exchanges and lessons.

Thank you.

ANNEX 4: List of participants in the validation workshop

Names and surnames	Function/Institution	Contact
El Moustoifa Oubeid	CRDE – Diboini	377 28 06
Said Hachim Fouad	UCCIA	340 38 40
Mouhdine Kaambi	CGP	3334217
Mounira Mohamed Dhoiffir Said	CRDE – Diboini	3910520
Abdoul Elhakim Youssouf	CRDE – Diboini	3409013
Amerdine Soule	CRDE Cembenoi	3219674
Thakfiou Achiraf	CRDE Diboini	3387207
Ahmed Gamao	UCAEP	3344134
Vera Hakim	PNUD Comores	3569967
Docteur Fouad Mohamed Youssouf	DNSAE	3611944
Youssouf AHamada	CRDE CEMBENOI	3676636
Nadhirati Ali Ahamada	CRDE CEMBENOI	3371576
Ahamada Younoussa	RUTI CRCCA/PNUD	3442643
Shunta Kosaki	Volontaire PNUD	3387851
Seifou - Dine Aliane Toilha	DTM/ANACEM	3343924
Abdillah Msaidié	UCAEP	3330471
Hodari Mze Issa	Directeur CRDE Sidjou	3878351
Alfeine Siti Soifiat	Consultatnte	3387134
Khitami Said Soilih	AP PNUD	3344174