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PRIORITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOURISM SECTOR ON MOHÉLI, UNION OF THE COMOROS



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Bungalows at Hoani

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Community Centred Conservation (C3) www.c-3.org.uk info@c-3.org.uk	Mohéli Marine Park (PMM) Nioumachoua, Mohéli pmm@comorestelecom.km
C3-Comores BP 8310, Iconi, Grande Comore tel. +269 73 75 04 GSM +269 36 75 06	Association d'Intervention pour le Développement et l'Environnement (AIDE) B.P. 1292 Moroni, Grand Comore www.aide.africa-web.org
Maison de l'écotourisme de Mohéli Bandar es Salam, Mohéli www.mohéli-tourisme.com	The BP Conservation Leadership Programme http://conservation.bp.com/ http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org



PRIORITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOURISM SECTOR ON MOHÉLI, UNION OF THE COMOROS

*PRIORITES POUR UN DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE ET
EQUITABLE DU SECTEUR TOURISTIQUE DE MOHÉLI,
UNION DES COMORES*

**P.Z.R. Davis¹, C.N.S. Poonian¹, J. Nice¹, M.D. Hauzer¹,
Z. Moindjie², C. Moussa Iboura³ and H. Issouf³**

¹Community Centred Conservation (C3)

²Association d'Intervention pour le Développement et l'Environnement (AIDE)

³Mohéli Marine Park «Parc Marin de Mohéli (PMM)»

**Moroni
2008**



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View from Baobab Restaurant, Nioumachoua

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mohéli, Union of the Comoros is a small developing island with a unique and relatively unspoilt natural environment. Local communities hope to transform the island into an ecotourism destination and it currently receives an average of 390 tourists per annum.

This work, conducted in 2006, aimed to (i) assess the success of current tourism initiatives on Mohéli and (ii) identify priorities for sustainable development of the sector based on both tourist and local communities' perceptions. All available secondary data concerning the tourism sector on Mohéli were collected from relevant organizations and literature reviews. Questionnaires (n=74) completed by tourists were analysed to provide information regarding their experiences on Mohéli and their opinions regarding future initiatives. In addition, eight village focus groups were consulted to ascertain perceptions of the sector and aspirations for its future development.

In general, the level of satisfaction (96% 'good' or 'excellent') and willingness to return to Mohéli (80%) were high. However, tourism development priorities perceived by local communities varied from village to village and did not always correspond with tourists' main concerns. Waste management and increased access to information were clear needs identified by both groups. Hiking was the most popular activity and consequently, the development of self-guided hiking trails is a priority from tourists' perspectives although this had not been recognized as a priority by communities. Tourist satisfaction with existing accommodation was high (average rating 3.8/5) thus the need to repair and extend existing accommodation (a priority for 5/8 villages) appeared to be a major misconception of local communities. Another priority cited by villagers was the development of dive facilities (6/8 villages) but this was not rated as important by tourists. Tourists expressed a willingness to pay a fee to enter Mohéli Marine Park, as long as the money was well-spent; thus these funds could potentially provide a means to fund local, sustainable conservation initiatives.

The recommendations of this report can be used to assist local communities in focusing their limited financial resources into developing key tourist services and facilities which will concur with tourists needs, thus benefiting both parties in the long-term and ensuring sustainability. There are also important recommendations for local government regarding the improvement of transport routes and services and immigration procedures on the island, which were both identified by tourists as major obstacles to their visits.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

- 1.1 New ecoguides should be trained and existing ecoguides should receive refresher courses*
- 1.2 The Maison de l'Ecotourism (MEM) should be better publicized*
- 1.3 Existing information centres must provide more comprehensive information*
- 1.4 The Mohéli tourism website (www.Mohéli-tourisme.com) should be updated and easily accessible*
- 1.5 Mohéli should be advertised in travel agencies overseas*

2. WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

- 2.1 Village Associations must start their own waste management programmes*

3. IMPROVED TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 Rental vehicles should be coordinated by the MEM*
- 3.2 Road repair and construction by the government is a priority*

4. MOBILIZATION OF MOHÉLI MARINE PARK (PMM)

- 4.1 Conservation of Mohéli's natural resources must be a priority*

5. DELIVERY OF VISAS

- 5.1 Visas should be issued on arrival at the airport*

6. DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST ACTIVITIES

- 6.1 Development of self-guided hiking trails is a top priority*
- 6.2 Historic and archaeological sites should be maintained and signposted*
- 6.3 Cultural and artisanal activities should be promoted to tourists*
- 6.4 Boat tours should be better organized by village associations*

7. TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

- 7.1 Bungalow development should be limited*
- 7.2 Simplicity and authenticity of tourist accommodation must be maintained*

8. FEES

- 8.1 An entrance fee and permit system for PMM should be implemented*
- 8.2 Existing mooring fees should not be increased but greater transparency must be provided to tourists as to where this money goes*

RÉSUMÉ EXECUTIVE

Mohéli, l'Union des Comores est une petite île en développement possédant un environnement naturel unique et relativement intact. Les communautés locales souhaitent transformer cette île en une destination écotouristique. Actuellement, cette île reçoit environ 390 touristes chaque année.

Ce travail, effectué en 2006, a pour objectif (i) d'évaluer le niveau de réussite des initiatives touristiques actuelles à Mohéli et (ii) d'identifier les priorités pour un développement durable de ce secteur sur la base des perceptions des touristes et des communautés locales. Toutes les données secondaires disponibles concernant le secteur du tourisme à Mohéli ont été recueillies auprès des organisations concernées et à partir des revues de littérature. Les questionnaires (n=74) remplis par les touristes ont été analysés afin d'obtenir des informations sur leurs expériences de Mohéli et leurs opinions concernant les initiatives à venir. En outre, huit groupes de discussion communautaires ont été consultés dans le but de vérifier les perceptions de ce secteur et les aspirations pour son développement futur.

En général, le niveau de satisfaction (96% 'bon' ou 'excellent') et la volonté de revenir à Mohéli (80%) étaient élevés. Toutefois, les priorités de développement touristique perçues par les communautés locales variaient d'un village à l'autre et elles ne correspondaient pas toujours aux principales préoccupations des touristes. La gestion des déchets et l'accroissement de l'accès à l'information constituaient des besoins clairs identifiés par les deux groupes. Les randonnées pédestres étaient l'activité la plus populaire et par conséquent, le développement des sentiers pédestres à guidage autonome constitue une priorité selon les touristes bien qu'il n'ait pas été reconnu comme une priorité par les communautés. La satisfaction des touristes concernant les installations d'hébergement existantes était élevée (taux moyen de 3,8/5), par conséquent la nécessité de réfectionner et d'étendre les installations d'hébergement existantes (une priorité pour 5/8 villages) apparaissait comme une importante idée fausse des communautés locales. Une autre priorité citée par les villages était le développement des installations de plongée (6/8 villages), mais pour les touristes cela ne constituait pas une priorité. Les touristes ont exprimé la volonté de payer des droits d'entrée au Parc marin de Mohéli, à condition que ces fonds soient bien gérés; par conséquent ces fonds pourraient permettre de financer des initiatives de conservation communautaires soucieuses de l'environnement.

Les recommandations de ce rapport peuvent être utilisées pour aider les communautés locales à allouer leurs rares ressources financières au développement des services et installations touristiques clés qui satisferont les besoins des touristes, ce qui permettrait aux deux parties de profiter sur le long terme et d'assurer la durabilité. Ce rapport comporte aussi des recommandations importantes destinées à l'administration municipale concernant l'amélioration des routes et services de transport et des procédures d'immigration dans l'île, deux domaines identifiés par les touristes comme étant des obstacles majeurs à leurs visites.

RESUME DES RECOMMANDATIONS

1. DISSEMINATION DES INFORMATIONS

- 1.1 De nouveaux écouidés doivent être formés et les écouidés existants doivent recevoir des cours de recyclage*
- 1.2 La Maison de l'Ecotourisme (MEM) doit faire l'objet de plus de publicité*
- 1.3 Les centres d'informations existants doivent fournir des informations plus complètes*
- 1.4 Le site Web du tourisme à Mohéli (www.mohéli-tourisme.com) doit être actualisé et facilement accessible*
- 1.5 Mohéli doit faire l'objet de publicité dans les agences de voyage à l'étranger*

2. PROGRAMMES DE GESTION DE DECHETS

- 2.1 Les associations de villages doivent démarrer leurs propres programmes de gestion de déchets*

3. AMELIORATION DU TRANSPORT ET DE LA COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 Les véhicules de location doivent être coordonnés par la MEM*
- 3.2 Les travaux de réparation et de construction de routes par le gouvernement doivent constituer une priorité*

4. MOBILISATION DU PARC MARIN DE MOHÉLI (PMM)

- 4.1 La conservation des ressources naturelles de Mohéli doit constituer une priorité*

5. DELIVRANCE DES VISAS

- 5.1 Les visas doivent être délivrés à l'arrivée à l'aéroport*

6. DEVELOPPEMENT DES ACTIVITES TOURISTIQUES

- 6.1 Le développement des sentiers pédestres à guidage autonome doit constituer une haute priorité*
- 6.2 Les sites historiques et archéologiques doivent être entretenus et comporter des signalisations*
- 6.3 Les activités culturelles et artisanales doivent être présentées aux touristes*
- 6.4 Les excursions en bateau doivent être mieux organisées par les associations de villages*

7. INFRASTRUCTURES TOURISTIQUES

- 7.1 Le développement des bungalows doit être limité*
- 7.2 La simplicité et l'authenticité des hébergements touristiques doivent être maintenues*

8. DROITS ET FRAIS

- 8.1 Les droits d'entrée et un système de permis pour le PMM doivent être imposés*
- 8.2 Les frais d'amarrage actuels ne doivent pas être augmentés, mais une transparence accrue doit être instaurée de manière à montrer aux touristes la destination de leur argent.*

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Hoani Conservation Centre

I INTRODUCTION

I.1 'SUSTAINABLE TOURISM' AND 'ECOTOURISM'

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (WTO 2004) **sustainable tourism** should achieve the following three objectives:

- 1) make optimal use of environmental resources that constitute a key element in tourism development, maintaining essential ecological processes and helping to conserve natural heritage and biodiversity;
- 2) respect the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities, conserve their built and living cultural heritage and traditional values, and contribute to inter-cultural understanding and tolerance;
- 3) ensure viable, long-term economic operations, providing socio-economic benefits to all stakeholders that are fairly distributed, including stable employment and income-earning opportunities and social services to host communities, and contributing to poverty alleviation.

Sustainable tourism development requires the informed participation of all relevant stakeholders and strong political leadership to ensure wide participation and consensus building. Equally, it should also maintain a high level of tourist satisfaction and ensure a meaningful experience to the tourists, raising their awareness about sustainability issues and promoting sustainable tourism practice amongst them.

Ecotourism is defined by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) as *"Environmentally responsible travel to natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and accompanying cultural features, both past and present) that promote conservation, have a low visitor impact and provide for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local peoples"* (IUCN 1997).

I.2 MOHÉLI

I.2.1 Demographics

The Union of the Comoros is situated at the northern end of the Mozambique Channel, equidistant (approximately 300km) from continental Africa and Madagascar (Figure 1). It comprises three volcanic islands: Grande Comore, Anjouan and Mohéli. Mohéli, at 290 km², is the smallest of the

islands, yet it faces some of the strongest demographic and environmental pressures. In 2003, the population of Mohéli was 35,751, 6.2% of the country's total population of 576,000 (Union des Comores 2005); however, the population growth rate is the highest of all three islands, at 3.6% (UNEP 2002). In 2005, the registered unemployment rate for Mohéli was 19.8%, compared to the national unemployment rate of 14.3%, with 36.8% of Mohéli's population employed in the primary sector (Union des Comores 2005).

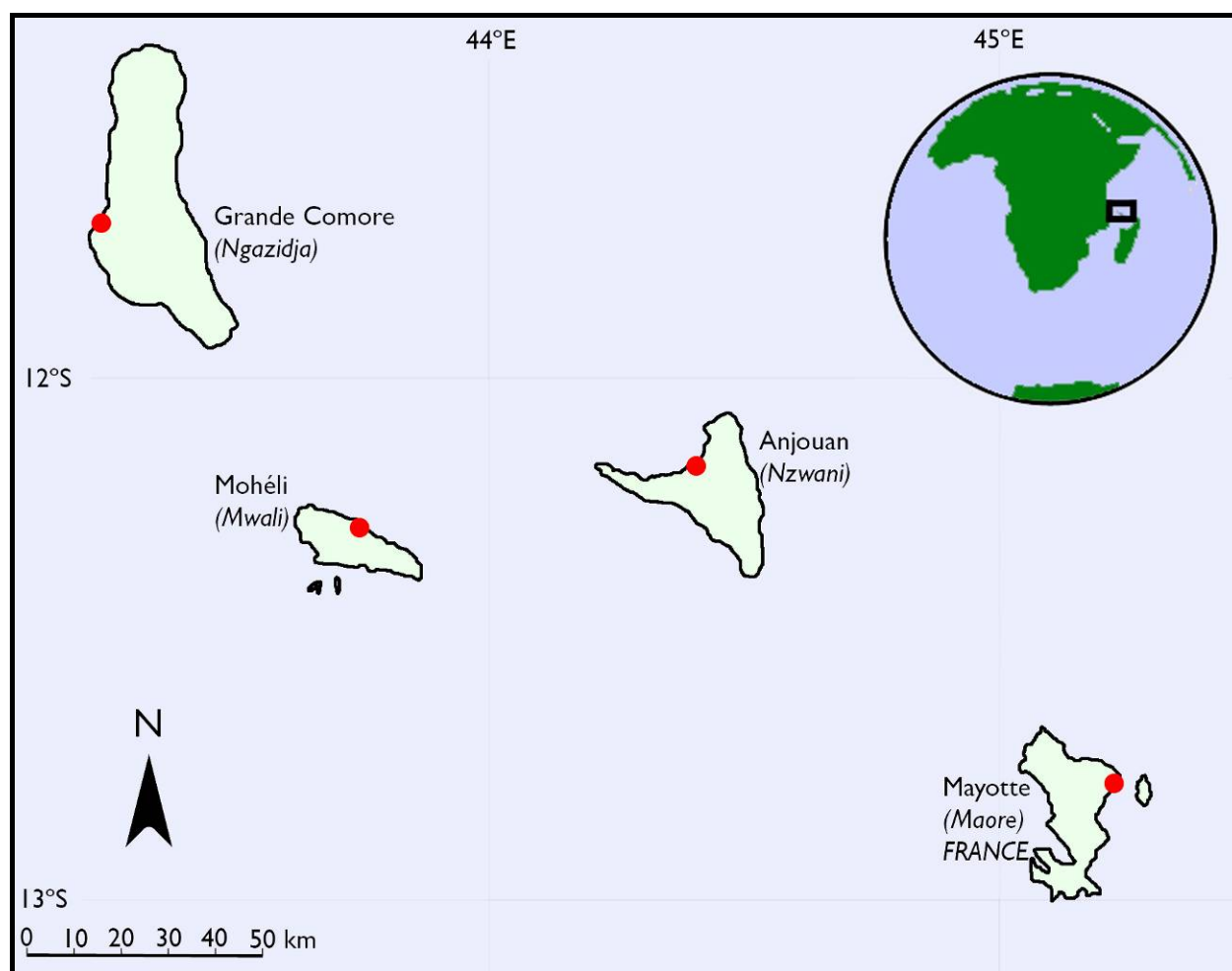


Figure 1. Union of the Comoros

1.2.2 Environment

Mohéli (Figure 2), with its beautiful natural environment and charismatic wildlife species, has the makings of an international ecotourism destination. Ecotourism initiatives, if carefully planned, could have the potential to promote local community development alongside protection of the island's biodiversity. For the adventurous tourist, Mohéli's highlights include: attractive beaches, eight uninhabited islands off Nioumachoua and several endemic and threatened species of wildlife (turtles (*Chelonia mydas* and *Eretmochelys imbricata*), dugong (*Dugong dugong*), humpback whales (*Megaptera*

novaeangliae), Livingstone bats (*Pteropus livingstonii*), mongoose lemurs (*Lemur mongoz*), dolphins and 74 species of birds including 10 endemic subspecies) (Paris 1999; UNEP 2002). The island is home to the most important mangrove stands in the country, located between Ouallah and Ndremeani (UNEP 2002). The remaining coastline is a combination of rocky cliffs, small caves, inlets and beaches of white coral sand or black volcanic sand. It is the only island within the Union of the Comoros with a partially-developed barrier reef.

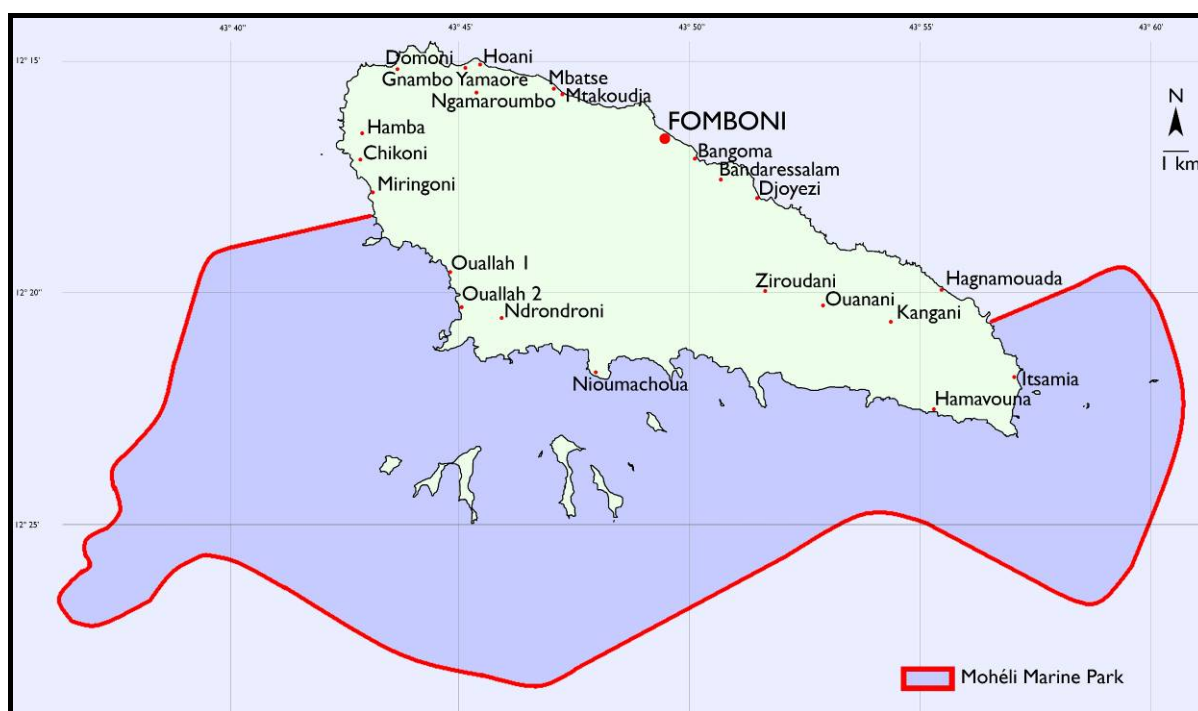


Figure 2. Mohéli, showing the Marine Park boundaries

Mohéli's climate is tropical with an average temperature of 25.6 °C and irregular rainfall (ranging between 1,500 to 5,000 mm). There are two seasons: the cooler dry season corresponds with the southern hemisphere winter (between May and October), whilst the hot and humid season is between November and April. Mohéli is the oldest island of the Comoros with a mountain chain running from east to west (highest point 790m). The island is largely covered by forest, and its landscape includes large valleys, numerous rivers, fertile soil and luxuriant and varied vegetation.

Deforestation is a serious issue on Mohéli: forest survives only above 600m and nearly 30% of native forests disappeared between 1983 and 1996 (Moulaert 1998). The problem of soil erosion has been exacerbated by agricultural practices (swidden) and intensive grazing by goats, which has resulted in high levels of runoff. Threats to coral reefs include bleaching due to the 1998 El Nino, land-based impacts such as sedimentation and destructive fishing (e.g. dynamite, trampling) (Ahamada et al 2005,

C3-Comores 2007, Hauzer et al in press). There are also threats to charismatic marine species, particularly poaching of green turtles and their eggs throughout the island and erosion of nesting beaches (Mortimer 1993, C3-Comores 2007, Hauzer et al in press).

The first Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the Comoros, Mohéli Marine Park (*Parc Marin de Mohéli PMM*) was established on 19th April 2001. The MPA covers 404km² off the southern coast of the island (Figure 2). The establishment of PMM was based on its rich biological diversity and the presence of key coastal habitats and endangered marine species including coral reefs, mangroves and the third most important nesting site for green turtles in the world. The Management Plan for PMM (Gabrie 2003) anticipated full involvement of local stakeholders through co-management. Initially regarded as a model for co-management of marine resources, PMM is now experiencing difficulties in ensuring its long-term sustainability and is operating at a vastly reduced capacity following an end to external funding sources (C3-Comores 2007, Hauzer et al in press).



Tourist bungalows in Hoani

1.2.3 Current facilities

Accommodation available on Mohéli consists of traditional bungalows made from natural materials in rural villages and six guest houses located in and around the capital, Fomboni (see Appendix I). The bungalow accommodation is basic, and managed by local village associations. Car hire facilities on the island are poor although there is an unreliable network of bush-taxis. Electricity is only available in Fomboni and in larger villages although power cuts are commonplace. Tourist attractions and activities at each village are given in Table I.

Table 1. Tourist attractions on Mohéli (source : Direction du Tourisme de Mohéli)

Village	Details
Hoani	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turtle nesting at Hoani beach • Archaeological site (Bwela voule)
Itsamia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turtle nesting site • Islands of M'chaco • Boundouni lake
Nioumachoua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islands • Mangroves • Archaeological site (Chiwani)
Ndrondroni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trandama and waterfalls
Ouallah I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ouallah beach • Forest (Livingstone's fruit bat habitat)
Ouallah 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanbadjou beach
Ouanani	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moihani and Sambia beaches
Miringoni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saint-Antoine historic site • Waterfalls

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This work aimed to (i) assess the success of current tourism initiatives on Mohéli and (ii) identify priorities for sustainable development of the sector through:

- A review of secondary data
- Assessment of tourists' perceptions using questionnaire surveys
- Assessment of local communities' perceptions using focus group interviews

3. METHODS

3.1 REVIEW OF SECONDARY DATA

Relevant ministries were consulted at the national and island level to obtain current tourism statistics. A thorough review of relevant literature available both within the Comoros and internationally was also conducted.

3.2 TOURISTS' PERCEPTIONS

A questionnaire was compiled (see Appendix 2) to assess tourists' perceptions of their experiences on Mohéli and their recommendations for improvement. The questionnaire was created to gather information on tourist profiles as well as perceptions on services and facilities, activities, fees and costs, and suggestions for future endeavours. Copies (in English and French) were distributed to all tourist accommodation facilities throughout the island and the airport from July to September 2006.

3.3 LOCAL COMMUNITIES' PERCEPTIONS

In order to assess local communities' perceptions of the tourism sector on Mohéli and priorities for its development, male and female village association representatives from eight communities were consulted during July and August 2006. The target villages were those with existing or planned tourist infrastructure; Hoani, Itsamia, Miringoni, Ndrondroni, Nioumachoua, Ouallah 1, Ouallah 2 and Ouanani (Figure 2). A semi-structured questionnaire (see Appendix 3) was used to guide the focus group interviews, which were conducted in the local dialect, *ShiMwali*. The villagers were questioned about their perceptions of current and proposed tourist infrastructure and services and problems or priorities for development of the sector in the future.



Watching humpback whales off Nioumachoua

4. RESULTS

4.1 REVIEW OF SECONDARY DATA

4.1.1. Tourism in the Comoros

Strategic Plan (Union des Comores 2005)

The Comorian government adopted a strategy for the development of the tourism sector in March 1997. The aim of this strategy was to promote ecotourism and thus preserve natural and cultural heritage; to involve local communities and to reduce poverty. The realization of this strategy required considerable support from donors and national and international investors; ten years on little has been achieved. The original objectives included:

- ecotourism circuits
- heritage centres of tourist interest
- interpretative hiking trails
- improvements to basic infrastructure
- training of personnel
- promotion and sale of tourist products
- centres for tourist information
- development of regional circuits

The strategy also identified the following constraints to the development of the sector:

- coastal sites degraded due to sand mining
- monuments and cultural sites remain unknown to the general public and are in a state of disrepair due to lack of protection, maintenance and development
- artisanal crafts lack a market and are in competition with imported products from Madagascar
- inter-island ferries are not adapted to tourist clientele
- poorly structured internal transport system (*taxi-brousse*)
- expensive international flights
- dilapidated airports
- lack of banking services
- costly boat tours

- lack of waste collection and treatment facilities
- insufficient infrastructure
- lack of tour guides

Current Status (Interface Tourism 2005; Union des Comores 2005; statistics from Direction Nationale du Tourisme de l'Union des Comores)

The tourism sector is still very much under-developed, although it has the potential to generate significant revenue. In 2005, it was estimated that 4 billion Comorian francs (approximately 8 million Euros) were generated from the tourism industry, with 450 Comorians benefiting from direct employment in the sector and 800 indirectly. Seven hundred and eighty beds were available throughout the country (2005) but the number had seen an increase of only 10% in 10 years. The sector is small and tourists arrivals fluctuate greatly (see Figure 3) being negatively affected by socio-political crises (resulting in very low numbers in 1999 and 2003), the periodic closure of the Galawa Hotel (which alone represents half of the island's accommodation capacity) and closures of international air services. Direct flights are currently only available from Mayotte, Reunion, Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar and Yemen.

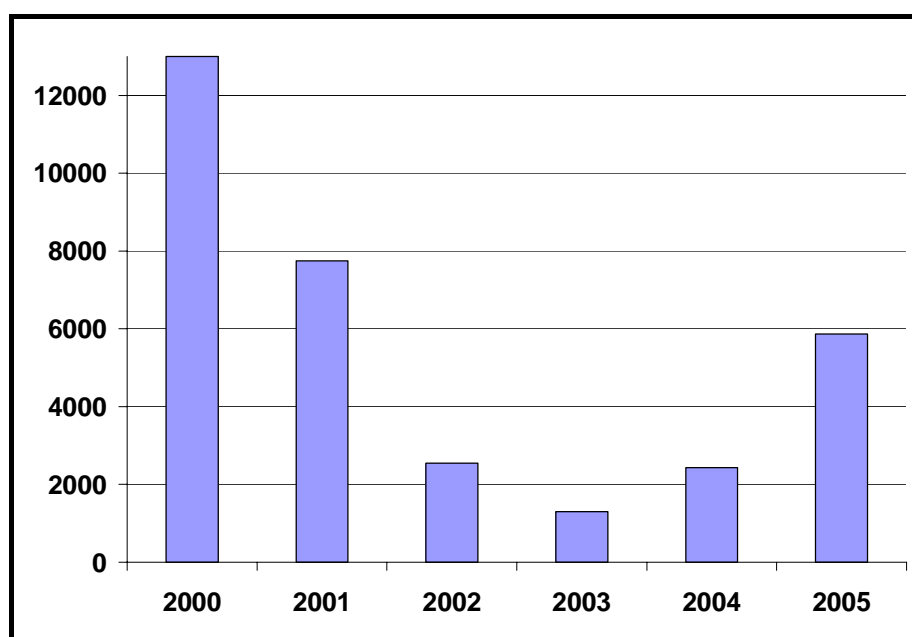


Figure 3. Annual tourist arrivals for the Union of the Comoros (source : Direction Nationale du Tourisme, Comores)

4.1.2 Tourism on Mohéli

Strategic plans

In September 2003, **Le Plan Directeur de Développement de l'Ecotourisme à Mohéli** (Master Plan for the Development of Ecotourism on Mohéli – Delmas-Ferre and Interface Tourism 2003)

was written to provide a framework for the development of the tourism sector and current strengths and weaknesses were identified (Table 2).

Table 2. Strengths and weaknesses of the tourism sector on Mohéli

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Natural sites and exceptional scenery</i> • <i>Observation of fauna</i> • <i>Marine Park</i> • <i>Local accommodation run by communities</i> • <i>Traditional villages with great hospitality</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environmental degradation</i> • <i>Difficulties for the Marine Park in conducting conservation work and monitoring</i> • <i>Difficult for local community to understand environmental problems and make the connection between their actions and the conservation of the environment</i>

In 2005, ***La Charte de l'Ecotourisme à Mohéli*** (Charter for Ecotourism on Mohéli) was produced to provide definitive guidelines for ecotourism activities to be co-ordinated by the ***Maison de l'ecotourisme de Mohéli*** (House for Ecotourism on Mohéli - MEM), a non-governmental centre for tourist information and focal point for all local stakeholders involved in the tourism sector. The role of the MEM was defined as follows:

- to provide quality information to visitors;
- to ensure the respect of all guidelines outlined in the charter and to play the role of a mediator between stakeholders when necessary;
- to participate in local activities and events;
- to promote artisanal crafts and local agricultural products;
- to survey numbers of visitors with a view to measuring impacts and designing communication campaigns.

Unfortunately, following its construction, a lack of financing mechanisms and work plans has led to a period of inactivity for the MEM and it is clearly suffering from a lack of funding and directed management. It was observed by Languillon (2005) that certain members of the committee of the MEM lacked motivation and interest in its objectives and that this did not bode well for its long-term

sustainability. However, it was also noted that village associations showed an active interest in the MEM and hoped to benefit from its promotion of their facilities and services in the future. Tourists were unwilling to pay a tax on arrival at the airport towards the running costs of the MEM and it seemed preferable to use revenues from its services (e.g. sale of artisanal crafts, organization of internal transfers) to fund its activities (Languillon, 2005). At the time of this study (2006), the MEM was fairly inactive, run by two local volunteers and it proved impossible to call the committee to a meeting to involve them in this research study.

Current status (statistics from: Direction du Tourisme de Mohéli)

When considered in the national context, Mohéli has an excess of accommodation available, with 13% of the total number of beds in the Comoros although it received only 7% of the total tourist arrivals in 2005. The number of visitors to Mohéli averages at only 390 per annum or 33 per month, thus there is a considerable over-capacity in terms of beds (102 beds in 2006). There has been a consistent peak in visitor numbers during May (average 55 tourists) between 2000 and 2005 but otherwise no clear seasonality.

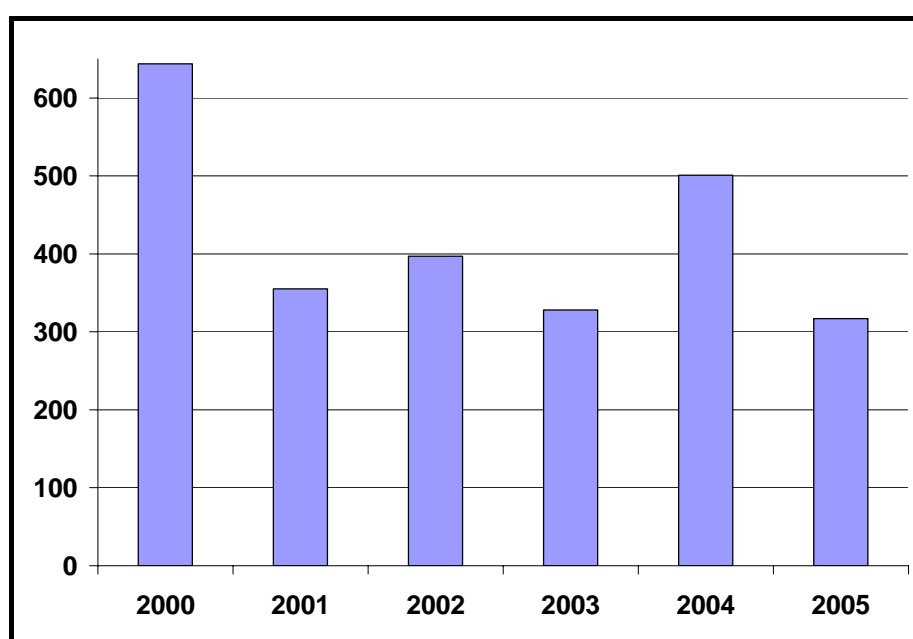


Figure 4. Annual tourist arrivals for Mohéli (source : Direction du Tourisme de Mohéli)

The highest numbers of tourists arrived on Mohéli in 2004 and 2000 (Figure 4), which does not correspond with the peaks in tourist arrivals at the national level. This discrepancy is due to the fact that the majority of tourists arriving on Grande Comore were South Africans on package holidays organised by the Galawa Hotel. In contrast, the majority of tourists arriving on Mohéli were French (76%), followed by other Europeans (12%) and regional tourists from Africa and the Indian Ocean islands (10%).

4.2 TOURISTS' PERCEPTIONS

Of approximately 200 tourist questionnaires distributed to hotels and other tourist outlets on Mohéli, 74 completed questionnaires were analyzed (Table 3).

Table 3. Summary statistics of the group of tourists sampled on Mohéli

Sample size	n=74
Male	51%
Female	45%
Unspecified gender	4%
Return visitors	22%
Group size	mean=2.4 (range 1-11)
Length of visit	mean=6.1 days (range 1-21)

4.2.1 Sample group characteristics

All respondents were aged between 20 and 50, although their parties often included a wider range of ages (Figure 4). Most visitors had not visited the *Maison de l'ecotourisme* (MEM) (54%). The majority of respondents (87%) had arrived by plane; the remainder arrived in sailing boats or on the inter-island ferry. Tourists preferred independent travel (78%) as opposed to package holidays (8%). The majority of tourists were French and seven other nationalities were recorded (Figure 5).

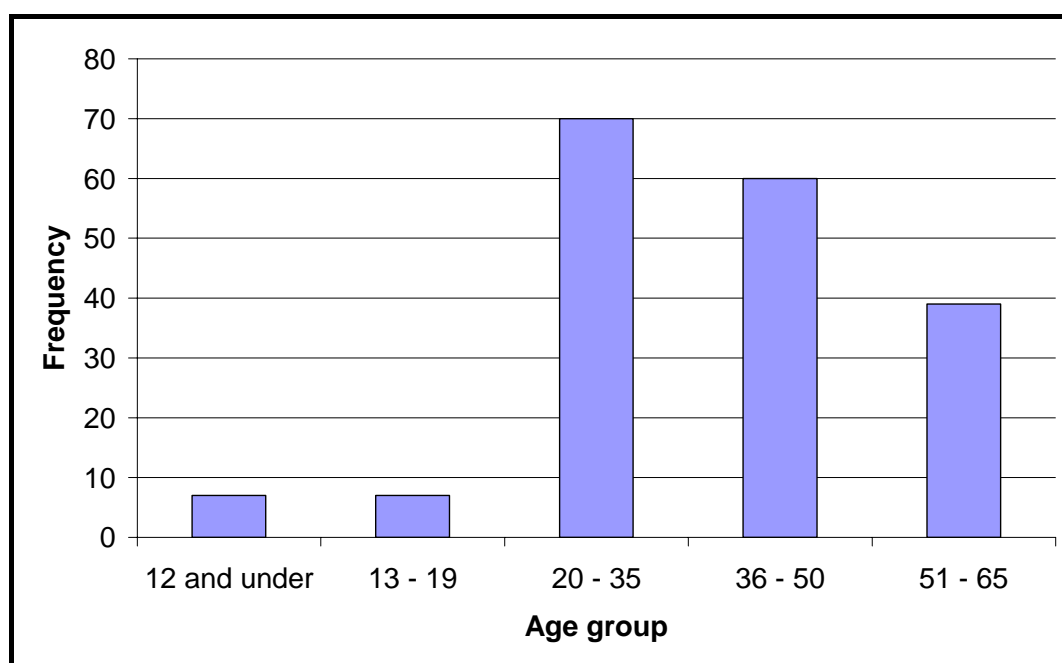


Figure 4. Age range of tourists on Mohéli

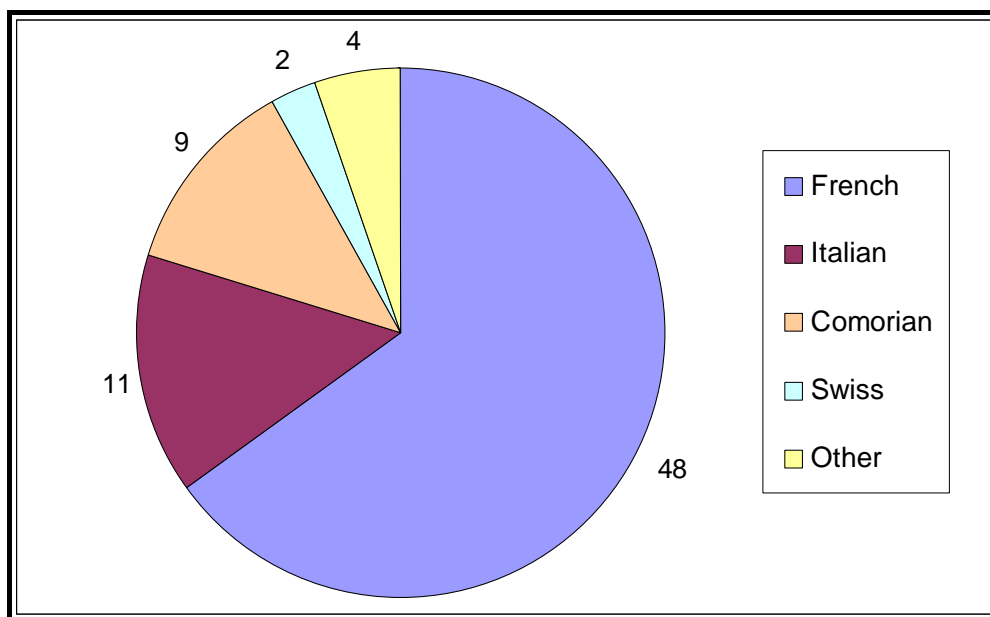


Figure 5. Nationalities of sample group of tourists on Mohéli

4.2.2 Tourist satisfaction

Almost all respondents rated their experience on Mohéli as 'excellent' or 'good' (96%). Most (80%) said they would return; the three top reasons for returning were the beautiful landscape ($n=18$), the tranquility ($n=18$) and the people ($n=15$). The most common reasons given for not wishing to return were that the respondent wanted to visit new places ($n=4$) and that Mohéli was too expensive ($n=3$). Highest satisfaction levels were recorded for food, accommodation, service of guides and boat drivers and value for money (See Figure 6). The greatest obstacle to enjoyment of holidays was poor transportation (see Figure 7).



Broken-down taxi-brousse

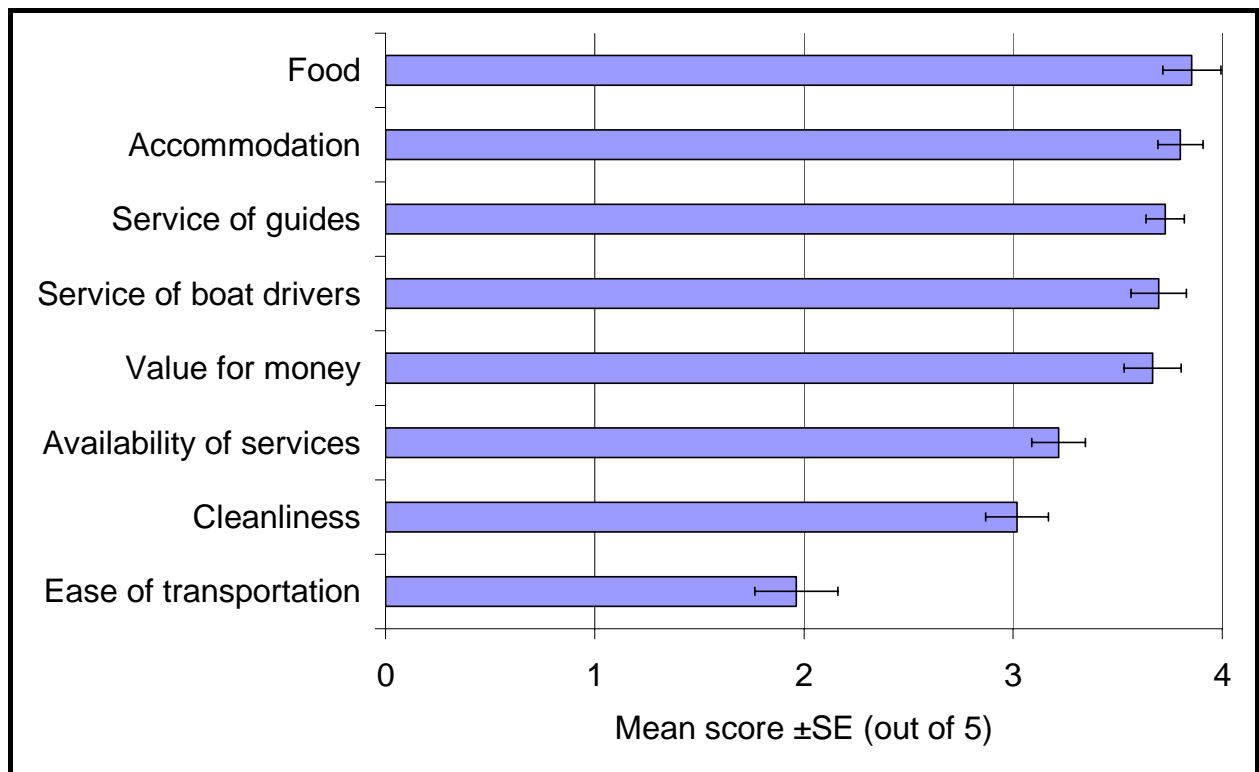


Figure 6. Tourists' satisfaction ratings for various aspects of their stays on Mohéli

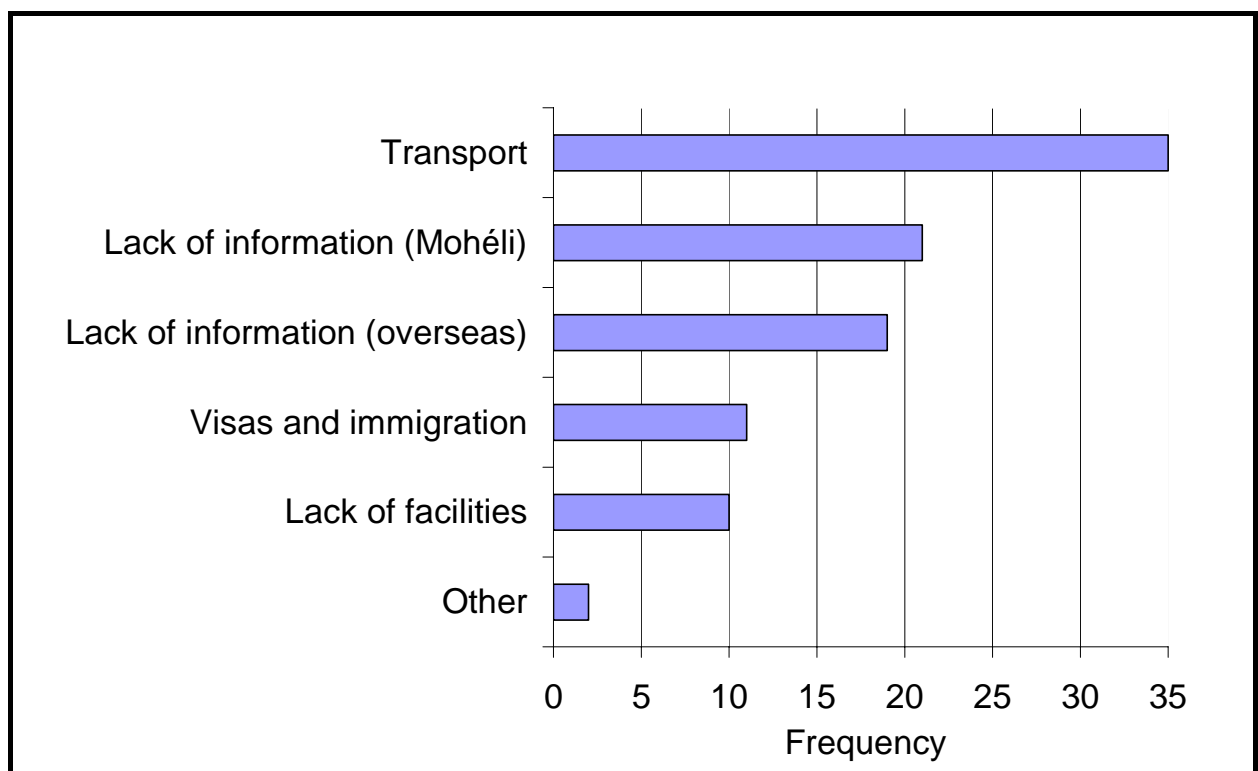


Figure 7. Obstacles reported by tourists on Mohéli

4.2.3 Locations and activities

When asked which villages they were planning to visit or had visited during their stay, Nioumachoua was by far the most popular followed by Ouallah 2 whereas Hoani and Miringoni were the least popular (Figure 8). When asked how many nights they were planning to stay or had stayed in particular villages, Nioumachoua, operational base of Mohéli Marine Park (PMM), was the village with the highest number of nights per visit (mean=2.26 \pm 0.31).

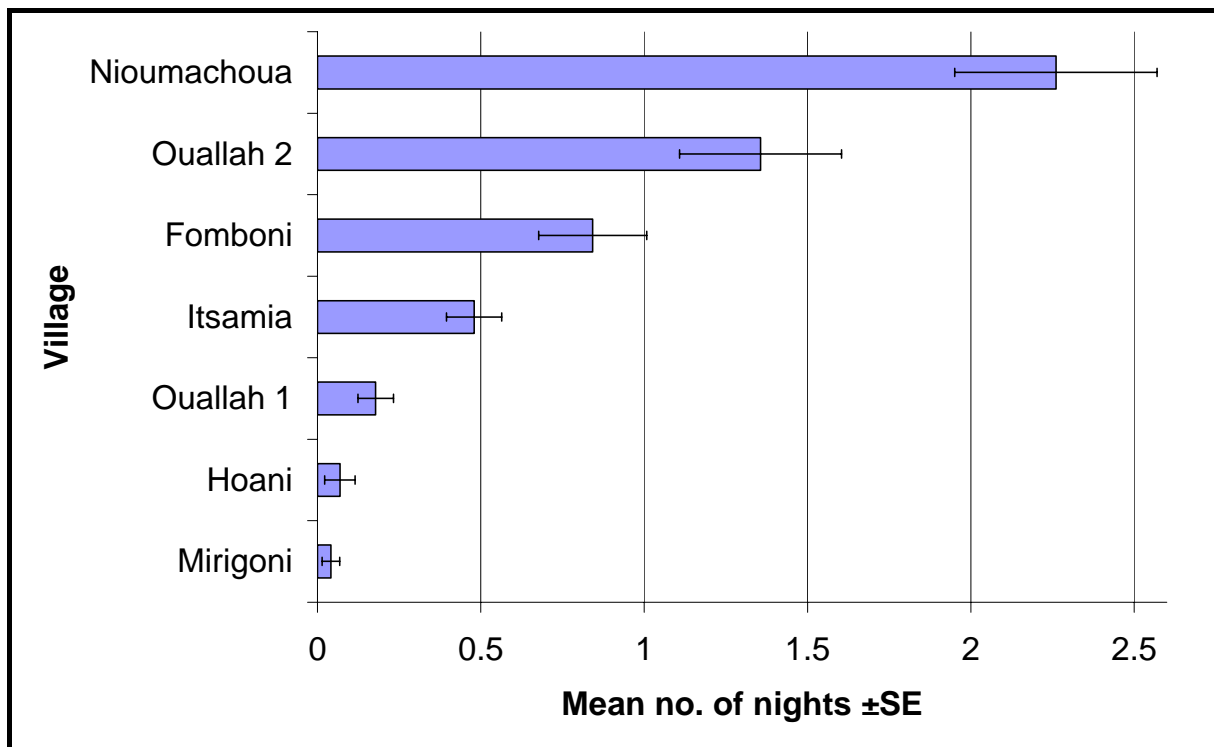


Figure 8. Mean no of nights planned / spent at each village on Mohéli

The most popular activities planned or already engaged in by tourists were hiking (n=71), and beach activities (n=70). Viewing wildlife such as turtles and the Livingstone fruit bat were also popular but artisanal crafts, cultural attractions and archaeological sites were the least mentioned (Figure 9).

Nioumachoua was the most popular location for marine-based activities (snorkelling, beach activities and boat tours) as well as artisanal crafts; Ouallah 2 for hiking; Ouallah 1 for bat-viewing; Itsamia for turtle-watching and Fomboni was the focus of cultural attractions and visits to archaeological sites.

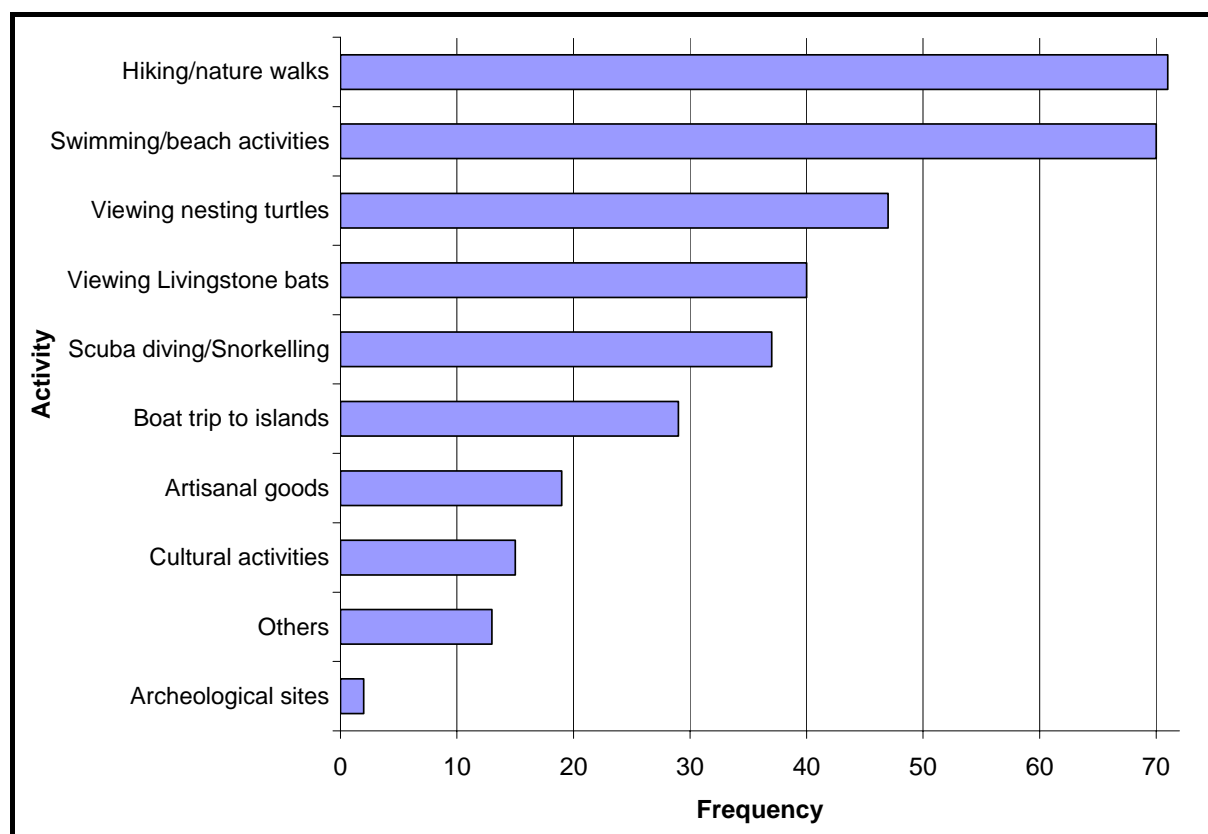


Figure 9. Frequency of activities planned / participated in by tourists on Mohéli

4.2.4 Willingness to pay fees

When questioned about paying fees, the majority of respondents were willing to pay an entrance fee to PMM (60%); boaters already paid a mooring fee although they had concerns about its usage and the current lack of services offered in return. The majority (54%) said they were not sure about paying a daily fee to scuba dive, the question was not applicable or provided no response, suggesting they were not divers or were not interested in participating in this activity (there is currently no diving facility on Mohéli). Of those that provided a response, the majority were not willing to pay. In general, people commented that if fees were to be charged, there would need to be transparency regarding the usage of these funds and ideally they would benefit the social and economic development of villagers and protection of the environment.

4.2.5 Future tourism priorities

Tourists were asked to identify the most important aspects of tourism development on Mohéli, rating these from 1 to 5, with 5 being the most important. Environmental preservation, waste management, boat tours and access to information all had an average rating of 3 or higher (Figure 10).

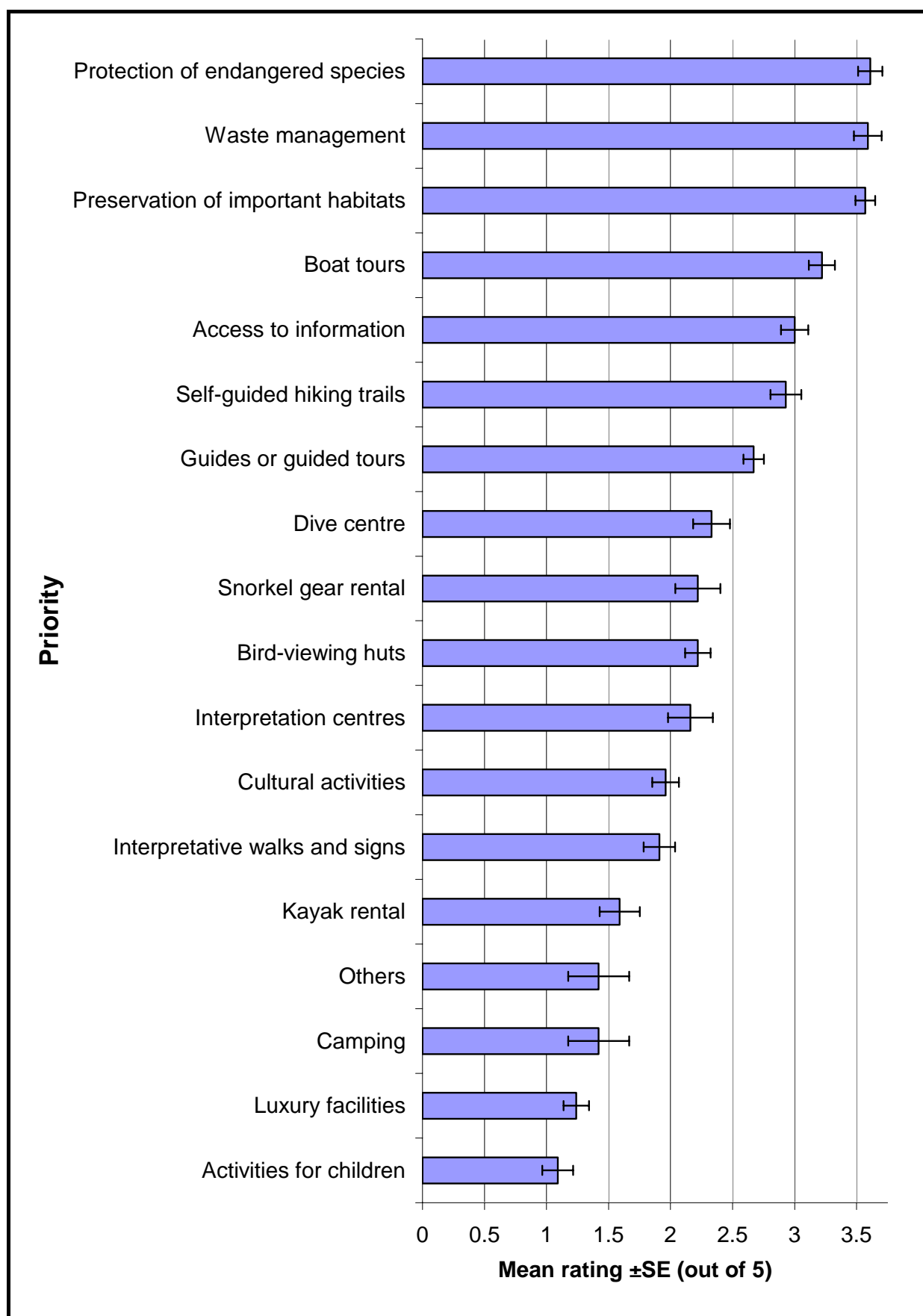


Figure 10: Priorities for future tourism development on Mohéli according to tourists

4.3 LOCAL COMMUNITIES' PERCEPTIONS

4.3.1 Current services and facilities

Following consultations with the village associations it was found that a wide range of tourist activities were on offer across several villages on Mohéli, (see Table 4) including wildlife-viewing, beach activities, boat trips to the islands, hiking, cultural events and historical sites.

Table 4: Number of rooms available, current (X) and proposed (P) activities and services for each village on Mohéli in order of number of activities currently available

	Nio	Ou1	Its	Ou2	Hoa	Mir	Oua	Ndr
No. of rooms	3	4	2	7+P	2	2+P	P	P
Beach	X		X	X	X		X	
Turtles	X	X	X		X			P
Whales	X	X	X	X				
Artisanal crafts	X	X	X		P		P	
Bats	X	X		X				P
Mangrove	X	X		X			P	
Offshore island visits	X		X	X				P
Waterfall		X		X		X		P
Lemurs	X	X						
Pirogue trips		X		X				
Info centre		X	X		P			
Boat tours	X		X		P			
Hiking	P				P	X		
Historic sites	X				P		P	
Birds			X					
Culture	X							
Medicinal plants		X						
Lake			X					
Scuba	P		P	P	P		P	P
Camping	P							

4.3.2 Future priorities

Training of new and re-training of existing ecoguides were identified by all villages as a priority for development of tourism activities. In terms of future proposed activities, scuba diving featured

prominently (6/8 villages). The majority of villages wanted to develop new bungalows and repair existing ones (5/8). Waste management (4/8) was also important as well as better advertising of existing tourist services (4/8) and English language training (4/8). Other priorities identified are displayed in Table 5. Village associations cited finance, infrastructure and capacity as the current limiting factors for effective ecotourism development.



Village consultation, Hoani



Artisanal crafts, Hoani

Table 5. Priorities for future tourism development on Mohéli according to local communities

	Ou1	Ou2	Ndr	Nio	Oua	Its	HoA	Mir	No. of villages /8
Ecoguide training	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Diving		X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Repair to buildings	X	X		X	X	X			5
Bungalows		X	X		X	X		X	5
Advertising	X			X	X		X		4
English language training				X	X	X		X	4
Waste management	X	X		X			X		4
Artisanal centre					X	X	X		3
Communication and safety equipment	X	X		X					3
Hospitality training	X					X		X	3
New boat	X	X							2
Cybercafe	X			X					2
Ecoguard training						X	X		2
Electricity	X	X							2
Improvement of info centre	X					X			2
Running water for bungalows	X					X			2
Understanding of ecotourism			X				X		2
Road repairs/access						X		X	2
Boat repairs					X				1
Erosion control		X							1
First aid training	X								1
Flood prevention	X								1
Freezer	X								1
Infrastructure for historic site							X		1
Marine research							X		1
Camping equipment								X	1

5. DISCUSSION

It has been predicted by the World Tourism Organization (2000) that by 2020 Africa will receive an estimated 77.3 million tourists per annum, with the number of international tourists increasing by 4.2 per cent between 2000 and 2010, and 4.5 per cent between 2010 and 2020. Eastern Africa is set to experience the largest increase in growth. This is clearly a timely opportunity for Mohéli and the Union of the Comoros to develop and benefit from its tourism industry.

Mohéli's tourism sector is at present very small and under-developed. However, despite the low number of arrivals, visitors report high satisfaction levels because they are primarily attracted by the tranquillity and absence of mass tourism. Since they are seeking a relatively 'wild' destination, there is a certain degree of tolerance when they encounter problems due to lack of infrastructure and communications, in fact some see this as an intrinsic part of Mohéli's charm. A high proportion are return visitors, who will continue to return as long as endangered species and habitat preservation are priorities, perceiving these to be the most important assets of the island. The genuine hospitality of local people is an important factor in visitor satisfaction and must be retained through careful and participatory development of the tourism sector, including prevention of mass tourism and/or inappropriate hotel development.

Problems encountered by tourists were primarily associated with transport (an absence and/or disorganization of services.). This problem was also noted by village associations and could be relieved through co-ordination of official vehicles for hire by the *Maison de l'Ecotourisme (MEM)*. At present it is difficult for tourists to take *taxi-brousses* around the island as their schedules are irregular and they are usually over-filled with local people. Boat tours need to be better organized, prices standardized and official skippers nominated by each village association. Logistics relating to boat trips, such as procurement of the boat itself and purchase of petrol, need to be organized well ahead of the scheduled departure time (ideally the day before) and basic safety guidelines drafted and adhered to by all operators.

Waste management was another problem identified by both parties which needs to be addressed urgently with support from the local government. Tourists complained, in particular, about Nioumachoua, the operational base of Mohéli Marine Park (PMM), where rubbish and faeces are routinely dumped on the beaches, spoiling the scenery and making it both unpleasant and unsafe for tourists to walk or swim in the area.

Increased access to information on Mohéli has been identified by tourists as a priority and with only a minority of them aware of the existence of the MEM, it clearly has not fulfilled its role as the central tourist information centre for the island. Existing information centres such as the *House of the Turtle* (Itsamia), *House of the Bat* (Ouallah I) and *Hoani Conservation Centre* need to be re-decorated and opened regularly. Tourist attractions, in particular archaeological sites, should be signposted and promoted through their respective village associations. All village associations consulted during this study explained that ecoguides and ecoguards require refresher training so they are able to provide detailed, accurate and up-to-date information regarding the natural and cultural riches of the island. Increased advertising, also suggested by the majority of village associations, will help to fill the current information gap. As hiking is the most popular activity on Mohéli, there is a need for self-guided hiking trails with associated maps and signposting or well-trained local hiking guides.

Based on 2000-2005 arrival figures, there is an average of 390 visitors per year to Mohéli. Income generated by charging a Marine Park entrance fee would thus provide only a minimal contribution to operating costs. Using an estimate of 5 full days out of the average 6-day stay spent in PMM and a potential entrance fee of 5 Euros, this would generate a maximum of 9,750 Euros per year. It appears from this study that tourists would be happy to pay a Marine Park entrance fee, if reasonably priced and with the assurance and evidence that the money was utilized for conservation activities. The funds could be used to finance specific long-term programmes managed by local communities, for example, boat patrols 5-6 nights a week for surveillance of turtle nesting beaches and illegal fishing activities or beach cleanups. The collection and administration mechanisms for this funding would need to be transparent and information brochures produced to explain its application to Marine Park management. An official entrance permit would also need to be issued from the PMM office on presentation of the fee.

Many village associations wanted dive centres created and training in diving. It needs to be accepted that the installation and operation of dive facilities is logistically complex and would not be feasible without significant improvements in transport and communications systems to ensure rapid evacuation of a diving casualty from the island. As village associations are currently struggling to maintain buildings and boats, it is clear that the rigorous maintenance and servicing required by a safe diving facility would not currently be possible on Mohéli.

It is also important to dispel expectations of further external funds being secured to construct new bungalows. The majority of communities cited repairs and maintenance of their current tourist bungalows as a priority and yet wanted to build more accommodation, which would only increase

the amount of maintenance work necessary. An emphasis needs to be put on quality rather than quantity and current structures need to be kept in a presentable state. As noted by Languillon (2005), there is a clear need for objective evaluation of the success of current community ecotourism projects before additional bungalows are constructed. The statistics available on arrivals versus accommodation available on Mohéli clearly show that the current number of beds far outweighs the demand. The current misconception is that if more bungalows are built, more tourists will visit. A good example of this mentality can be witnessed at Ouallah 2, which already has seven rooms available and the community is proposing to build more. The site is now starting to resemble a miniature village and there is a danger of destroying the location's original allure of tranquillity and solitude by overcrowding and excess infrastructure. This situation has previously been noted in ecotourism initiatives, where communities begin to feel entitled to benefits such as new buildings and facilities regardless of whether the tourism enterprise is succeeding or conservation objectives are being met (McShane and Wells 2004).

While the acquisition of electricity, running water, new boats and buildings are aspirations of villagers, these aspects are not considered important to tourists visiting Mohéli, in fact they detract from the 'natural' experience they are seeking. This paradox needs to be reconciled somehow as villagers understandably want to transform economic benefits into development of local services for their own use, but this should be planned so as not to affect the tourists' experience. For example, while they use finances generated to improve their own homes by introducing running water and electricity, locals need to ensure that tourist accommodation maintains its 'rustic' charm, e.g. comprised of natural materials and lit with oil lamps. In addition, the increasing popularity of concrete as a building material and numerous half-built houses will soon mean that Mohéli resembles one continuous building site. Planning laws need to be developed throughout the island and each village needs to allocate and conserve picturesque areas for tourist accommodation, with a buffer zone to ensure that inappropriate buildings are not built within a certain distance from these areas.

Following a one-day preliminary stakeholder workshop, organized by Community Centred Conservation (C3) in April 2007, it is recommended that a feedback session is held with village associations, existing ecoguides, ecoguards, representatives from the Ministry of Tourism, relevant tourist authorities, PMM and the MEM in order to explain the results from the study and recommendations for future plans. It is only through a thorough appreciation of the similarities and differences between villagers' and tourists' aspirations for the future of Mohéli that the tourism sector can be developed in a successful and sustainable manner.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

I. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

1.1 New ecoguides should be trained and existing ecoguides should receive refresher courses. Aside from ecological training, English language skills are essential as increasingly there are more tourists visiting from countries other than France.

1.2 The Maison de l'Ecotourisme (MEM) should be better publicized to actively fulfil its role as an information centre for tourists. Information should be posted at Hahaya airport and in the arrivals section of Mohéli airport to ensure that tourists are aware of the MEM's presence prior to or on arrival.

1.3 Existing information centres must provide more comprehensive information on the natural, cultural and historical aspects of Mohéli and be opened on a regular basis (Ouallahl 'House of the Bat', Hoani Conservation Centre and Itsamia 'House of the Turtle'). Some of these buildings are in need of basic maintenance and repairs, money for which could be sourced through fees currently charged to tourists by the associations for food, accommodation and tours.

1.4 The Mohéli tourism website (www.mohéli-tourisme.com) should be updated and easily accessible on the internet, providing more detailed information on the island and tourist activities. Online reservations need to be easy and efficient and a system put in place for informing relevant village associations of bookings made by the MEM.

1.5 Mohéli should be advertised in travel agencies overseas, particularly on the islands of Mayotte and Reunion and further afield, as a priority. Village associations should submit advertisements to the MEM for formatting, printing and display at this central information centre so that tourists may make informed choices as to which villages they wish to visit (this will reduce the current perception that the staff at the MEM express favouritism and promote their own home villages over others).

2. WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

2.1 Village Associations must start their own waste management programmes (with financial and logistical support from the government) in order to address the problem of unsightly and unhygienic rubbish, including human waste on the beaches and in other visible locations. Local

communities can learn from one another as to the best ways to dispose of waste (some villages have more successful programmes than others and some have none at all). The general consensus on Mohéli is that aid agencies will provide funding to help them resolve this issue, but in reality, considering the small population, it is something they need to find a sustainable solution to themselves. If it requires foreign aid and equipment, it will be unsustainable as previous attempts to introduce dump trucks and rubbish collection programmes have failed in the past. The government could use the existing nightly tourism tax to fund such programmes.

3. IMPROVED TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 Rental vehicles should be coordinated by the MEM to ensure standardized rates for car hire and increase the reliability of services (e.g. if there are complaints, the driver will be struck off the list). The MEM can also take commission from drivers registered on the scheme.

3.2 Road repair and construction by the government is a priority. A road between Miringoni and Ouallah I needs to be built and telephone services need to be extended and improved throughout the island. An additional logistical problem is the frequent breakdown in telephone services so that calls cannot be made to or from Mohéli by fixed line or mobile telephones for days on end; this obviously has serious implications for tourist safety.

4. MOBILIZATION OF PMM

4.1 Conservation of Mohéli's natural resources must be a priority if there is to be any future for the tourism industry on the island. The Mohéli Marine Park (PMM) is the most frequently cited reason for tourists visiting the island. Conservation activities must be re-instated and be evident to tourists. Not one tourist visited the PMM office during the period of this study (or indeed for the six months during which the research team was based at the office), it needs to be clearly signposted and provide information on the key species and habitats present within PMM. Surveillance and protection of turtle nesting beaches and seagrass beds as well as the forest utilized by the Livingstone's Fruit Bat are of the highest priority.

5. DELIVERY OF VISAS

5.1 Visas should be issued on arrival at the airport to cover the full duration of a tourist's stay in order to minimize delays and stress arriving on Mohéli. The current requirement to leave

passports with an official and subsequently visit the immigration office in Fomboni within 24 hours of arrival is a considerable hindrance for those spending only a few days on the island.

6. DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST ACTIVITIES

6.1 Development of self-guided hiking trails is a top priority as hiking is clearly the most popular tourist activity. Well-maintained trails with annotated maps (e.g. issued at the MEM) and informative signs need to be created, preferably focusing on Miringoni, Ouanani and Hoani villages which are currently under-visited by tourists and in need of further attractions.

6.2 Historic and archaeological sites should be maintained and signposted as there is currently a dearth of information regarding archaeology and history on Mohéli. A brochure with information about each site needs to be produced in conjunction with the government ministries responsible for tourism for all such sites. Ecoguides need to be well-versed in historical aspects of their village, not solely the flora and fauna.

6.3 Cultural and artisanal activities should be promoted to tourists. 'Tam tams' (traditional dances) remain expensive for tourists (charged at about 50 Euros per dance). The price needs to be reduced and tourists invited to spontaneous dances and other cultural events for a small fee. Although not one of the primary reasons for visiting the island, the culture of Mohélians is an important asset which could be incorporated into tourist activities.

6.4 Boat tours should be better organized by village associations. Boats belonging to the village association cannot be used by fishers when tourists request trips to visit whales or the islands. More fishers need to be trained as guides to avoid this problem in the future. Fair and consistent prices need to be set by the MEM to ensure that all tourists have the opportunity to take boat tours on request for less than 40 Euros per day.

7. TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

7.1 Bungalow development should be limited with a focus on maintaining the buildings that already exist. Other villages with no existing accommodation can focus on the development of tourist attractions and artisanal craft-making instead.

7.2 Simplicity and authenticity of tourist accommodation must be maintained. Although priorities for villagers themselves, electricity and running water are not priorities for the average

tourist, who is looking for a simple 'back-to-nature' experience. If these services are improved for the villagers themselves, it is important that the tourist accommodation should remain natural and simple.

8. FEES

8.1 An entrance fee and permit system for PMM should be implemented to fund long-term conservation activities such as surveillance patrols and beach clean-ups. However, such a system needs to be well designed to ensure transparency of monetary flow and a maximum price of 5 Euros / day. Since the Park is currently suffering from financial and managerial problems, these problems must be overcome before introducing a fee system. The funds will have to be clearly used for conservation activities, details of which should be communicated to tourists by means of information displayed at the PMM office, MEM and other information centres.

8.2 Existing mooring fees should not be increased but greater transparency must be provided to tourists as to where this money goes. Ideally the fee would support PMM activities as most boats moor within the Park. Perhaps a leaflet could be provided to boaters in order to explain where their money goes and the PMM rules and regulations.

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8. APPENDICES

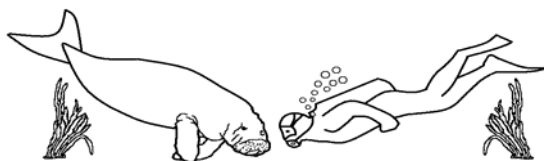
8.1 Tourist accommodation on Mohéli, by village (source: Direction du Tourisme de Mohéli)

	Establishment	Category	Village	No. rooms	No. beds
1	Relais de Singani	Hotel - Resto	Fomboni	10	22
2	Banga Lodge	Hotel - Resto	Fomboni	7	10
3	Les Abouts	Hotel - Resto	Bandaressalam	4	4
4	Royal Ashley	Hotel - Resto	Bandaressalam	4	4
5	La Grande Plaine	Hotel - Resto	Djoiezi	3	8
6	Laka Lodge	Bungalows - Resto	Nioumachoua	10	10
7	Akmal Resto	Bungalows - Resto	Fomboni	8	12
8	Itsamia Bungalows	Bungalows - Resto	Itsamia	2	2
9	Nioumachoua Bungalows	Bungalows - Resto	Nioumachoua	3	3
10	Sambadjou Bungalows	Bungalows - Resto	Ouallah II	7	7
11	Mirereni Bungalows	Bungalows - Resto	Ouallah I	4	4
12	Hoani Bungalows	Bungalows - Resto	Hoani	2	2
13	Saintatoine Bungalows	Bungalows - Resto	Miringoni	2	2
14	Pension des Iles	Pension	Fomboni	4	4
15	Pension Farsifa	Pension	Fomboni	4	4
16	Pension Baobab	Resto	Nioumachoua	4	4
TOTAL				78	102

8.2 Tourist questionnaires (English and French)

Questionnaire #:

Date _____

**Mohéli Ecotourism Questionnaire**

This questionnaire has been designed and administered by the British NGO, Community Centred Conservation (C3) and Mohéli Marine Park. The purpose of the survey is to understand Tourists' perceptions and experiences on Mohéli. We are currently exploring options for developing ecotourism as a means to generate income for the local population as well as ensuring conservation of the island's natural areas. The information and suggestions you provide will be highly useful in creating a sustainable ecotourism programme on Mohéli. Please take the time to fill out the survey.

*If more than one person in your group is filling out a questionnaire, please indicate their questionnaire number here: ____ _

How would you rate your overall experience on Mohéli?

Excellent ☐Good ☐Neutral ☐Fair ☐Poor ☐**Personal Information**

What is your country of origin? _____

Are you: Male ☐ or Female ☐

What is your age range?

13 – 19 ____ 20 – 35 ____ 36 – 50 ____ 51 – 65 ____ 65+ ____

Excluding yourself, how many people are travelling in your group? ____ Please indicate the number of people in your group that fall under each age range (e.g., if you are travelling with 3 young children, write 3 for "12 & under"):

12 & under ____ 13 – 19 ____ 20 – 35 ____ 36 – 50 ____ 51 – 65 ____ 65+ ____

Is this your first visit to Mohéli? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, how many times have you visited Mohéli, and what years?

How many days did you spend or are you planning to spend on Mohéli? _____

How many days did you spend or are you planning to spend in the following locations?

Hoani _____

Fomboni _____

Nioumachoua _____

Itsamia _____

Ouallah 1 _____

Ouallah 2 _____

Miringoni _____

Others: _____

Not sure _____

Where did you find information on Mohéli? Please check all that apply:

Internet ☐Word of mouth ☐Travel Agent ☐Guidebook ☐

Others: _____

Have you visited the Maison de l'ecotourisme during your visit? Yes ☐ No ☐

What was your motivation in visiting Mohéli? Please check all that apply:

Mohéli Marine Park ☐

Family vacation ☐

Remote ☐

Marine environment ☐

Terrestrial environment ☐

Recommended ☐

Culture ☐

Tranquillity ☐

Others: _____

Did you encounter any obstacles in planning your trip, upon arrival, or during your stay?

Transportation ☐

Visa/Immigration ☐

Lack of information on Mohéli ☐

Lack of facilities ☐

Lack of information abroad ☐

Others: _____

Where are you arriving from?

Did you arrive on Mohéli via boat ☐ or plane ☐?

Please list previous countries visited on this trip:

Would you return to Mohéli? Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure ☐ Please Explain: _____

Services and Facilities

How satisfied were you with the services and facilities available on Mohéli? On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being Not Satisfied At All and 5 being Very Satisfied) please rate your satisfaction levels of the following:

	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ease of transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cleanliness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service of guides	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service of boat drivers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any additional comments or suggestions. In particular, how did the services and facilities on Mohéli meet your expectations?

What other services and/or facilities would you like to see on Mohéli in the future?

Activities

Which activities did you/will you partake in at each of the following locations?

	Fomboni	Itsamia	Nioumachoua	Ouallah 1	Ouallah 2	Miringoni	Hoani
Viewing nesting turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Viewing Livingstone bats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hiking/Nature walks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming/beach activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scuba diving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boat trip to islands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archaeological sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In general, do you prefer to engage in package tours ☐ or self-guided tours ☐? Please explain:

Fees and Costs

In order for Mohéli Marine Park to maintain conservation efforts it is necessary to charge an entrance fee (environmental management tax). Would you be willing to pay such a fee to visit the park?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure ☐

As a boater, would you be willing to pay a mooring fee per night?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure ☐ Not Applicable ☐

As a diver, would you be willing to pay an additional fee per day to dive in the marine park?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Comments:

Future Endeavours

We are currently exploring options for expanding facilities, activities, and programmes on Mohéli to support the development of sustainable ecotourism. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being Not Important At All and 5 being Very Important) please rate how important the following are to your experience on Mohéli:

	1	2	3	4	5
Bird viewing huts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dive Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kayak rentals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snorkel/mask/fin rentals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-guided hiking trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boat tours (e.g., to islands)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interpretation centres	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waste management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protection of endangered species (e.g., dugong)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preservation of important habitats (e.g., turtle nesting sites)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luxury facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guides or guided-tours	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interpretive walks/signs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camping Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments and Suggestions

Please provide any additional comments or suggestions. In particular, which was the most and least enjoyable aspect of your stay? Please explain.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. Your contribution is extremely valuable.

Enjoy the remainder of your trip!!



Questionnaire #:

Date _____



Questionnaire de l'Ecotourisme de Mohéli

Ce questionnaire a été conçu par l'ONG britannique C3 (*Conservation Centrée sur la Communauté*) et le Parc Marin de Mohéli. Il permettra de connaître l'avis des touristes sur leur séjour dans l'île. Nous cherchons actuellement des pistes pour le développement écotouristique de l'île, afin d'amener des profits pour les habitants et assurer la protection des zones naturelles de l'île. Vos réponses et suggestions nous seront très utiles pour créer un programme écotouristique durable sur Mohéli. Merci de bien vouloir consacrer un peu de votre temps pour remplir aussi soigneusement que possible ce questionnaire.

Si une personne de votre groupe remplit également un formulaire, merci d'indiquer son numéro ici :

____ _

Comment se passe votre séjour à Mohéli jusqu'à maintenant?

Excellent ☐Bon ☐Moyen ☐Mauvais ☐Très mauvais ☐

Informations personnelles:

Quelle est votre nationalité? _____

Etes-vous: un homme ☐ une femme ☐

Dans quelle tranche d'âge êtes-vous?

13 – 19 ____ 20 – 35 ____ 36 – 50 ____ 51 – 65 ____ 65+ ____

Veuillez indiquer le nombre de vos accompagnants pour chaque tranche d'âge?

Je voyage seul(e) ____ 12 et moins ____ 13 – 19 ____ 20 – 35 ____ 36 – 50 ____ 51 – 65 ____ 65+ ____

Est-ce la première fois que vous vous rendez à Mohéli? Oui ☐ Non ☐

Si vous avez déjà séjourné ici, pouvez-vous indiquer le nombre de fois et quelles années ?

Quelle est la durée prévue de votre passage ici?

Combien de jours avez-vous\allez-vous passer dans les endroits suivants?

Hoani _____

Fomboni _____

Nioumachoua _____

Itsamia _____

Ouallah 1 _____

Ouallah 2 _____

Miringoni _____

Autres: _____

Je ne sais pas exactement _____

Où avez-vous trouvé des renseignements sur Mohéli ?

Internet ☐Bouche à oreille ☐Agence de voyage ☐Guide ☐

Autres: _____

Avez-vous visité la maison d'écotourisme à Mohéli ? Oui ☐ Non ☐

Qu'est-ce qui vous a décidé à venir à Mohéli?

Son Parc Marin ☐

Vacances en famille ☐

L'exotisme ☐

La faune et la flore du lagon ☐

La faune et la flore terrestre ☐

Recommandation ☐

La culture locale ☐

Le calme ☐

Autres: _____

Avez-vous rencontré des difficultés durant la préparation de ce voyage, l'arrivée ou le séjour?

Transports ☐

Visa/Immigration ☐

Manque d'informations sur Mohéli ☐

Manque d'infrastructures ☐

Difficultés à vous informer à partir de l'étranger ☐

Autres: _____

Quelle était votre escale avant Mohéli ?

Avez-vous pris : le bateau ☐ l'avion ☐

Pourriez-vous nous indiquer les pays visités durant ce voyage ?

Aimeriez-vous retourner sur cette île? Oui ☐ Non ☐ On verra ☐

Expliquer nous pourquoi en quelques mots?

Services et Infrastructures

Veuillez indiquer votre niveau de satisfaction à propos des services, infrastructures et équipements disponibles à Mohéli, sur une échelle de 5 (1 pour « Pas du tout satisfait » jusqu'à 5 pour « Très satisfait » :

	1	2	3	4	5
Etendue des services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disponibilité des transports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Logement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Propreté	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pouvoir d'achat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nourriture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services des guides	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services des pilotes de bateau	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ici vous pouvez noter tout commentaire sur la manière dont les prestations touristiques à Mohéli vous satisfont ?

Quelles facilités aimeriez-vous voir développées à l'avenir sur Mohéli?

Loisirs

A quelles activités avez-vous/voulez-vous participer dans ces différents endroits?

	Fomboni	Itsamia	Nioumachoua	Ouallah 1	Ouallah 2	Miringoni	Hoani
Observation de la ponte des tortues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observation des chauves-souris de Livingstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Excursions /randonnées naturel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nage, jeux de plage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snorkeling, plongée	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sorties culturelles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Artisanat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Autre: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

D'une manière générale préférez-vous, pour l'organisation de vos activités, utiliser un tour opérateur ☐ ou tout organiser vous-même ☐? Pouvez-vous donner des détails ?

Frais et Coûts

Pour maintenir ses efforts dans la conservation du lagon, le Parc Marin de Mohéli a besoin d'appliquer un droit d'entrée. Seriez-vous prêt à payer ce droit d'entrée pour visiter le parc?

Oui ☐ Non ☐ Je ne suis pas sûr ☐

En tant que plaisancier, seriez-vous prêt à payer un droit de mouillage pour chaque nuit?

Oui ☐ Non ☐ Je ne suis pas sûr ☐ ce n'est pas applicable ☐

En tant que plongeur, seriez-vous prêt à payer un droit supplémentaire journalier pour plonger sur les sites du parc?

Oui ☐ Non ☐ Je ne suis pas sûr ☐ Ce n'est pas applicable ☐

Commentaires éventuels:

Projets futurs

Nous regardons actuellement les possibilités de développer les installations, les activités et les programmes à Mohéli, liés à l'écotourisme. Quel avis avez-vous pour chacun: sur une échelle de 5 (1 Sans importance jusqu'à 5 Très important).

	1	2	3	4	5
Observatoires d'oiseaux	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Centre de plongée	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Location de Kayak	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Location de masques/palmes/tubas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parcours pour les randonnées	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sorties en bateau (pour les îlots)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Centres d'interprétation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gestion des ordures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protection des espèces menacées (e.g. le dugong)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Préservation des habitats remarquables (e.g. sites de ponte des tortues)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accès à l'information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accès au confort	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activités culturelles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guides	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loisirs pour les enfants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sentiers d'interprétation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Autres: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Commentaires et Suggestions Supplémentaires

Voudriez-vous nous écrire toute remarque sur ce que vous avez trouvé de plus agréable et désagréable lors de votre séjour à Mohéli.

Encore Merci et bonne fin de séjour !



8.3 Village Focus group Discussion Outline for Ecotourism Development

- 1) What are your current ecotourism program and future plans/needs?
 - a. Infrastructure
 - b. Activities
 - c. Advertising
 - d. Training
- 2) What problems have you encountered in trying to develop ecotourism?
 - a. Finances
 - b. Management
- 3) What problems are you currently encountering with your ecotourism program?
 - a. Payment (charges for activities and bungalows)
 - b. Tourists
 - c. Management
 - d. Training
 - e. Advertising
- 4) What ideas or vision do you have for an ecotourism program in your village?