



# Tourism as a Tool for Economic Development in Poor Countries: The Case of Comoro Islands

**Ingy A. Shaaban**

**Yasmine H. Ramzy**

**Azza A. Sharabassy**

*Arab Academy for Science and Technology,  
College of Management and Technology*

## **Abstract**

Tourism is clearly of great significance to developing countries. But is it important in those countries with the highest proportion of poor people? The small island economies which are most dependent on tourism tend to be middle income and contain few of the world's poor. Nevertheless, analysis of tourism data shows that in most countries with high levels of poverty, tourism is significant or growing. Tourism is therefore a fact of life for many of the world's poor. A reduction in world poverty is an internationally agreed priority and targets have been set to halve poverty by the year 2015. Achieving poverty reduction requires actions on a variety of complementary fronts and scales, but a prerequisite of significant progress is pro-poor growth – growth which benefits the poor. As an industry that is clearly important in many poor countries, can tourism can be one of the elements of economic growth and how?

This research aims to answering such questions using a case study methodology. The research conducts an in depth investigation on how can tourism help in developing and improving the economic situation of the Comoro Islands. It holds a situation analysis of the current situation of the islands and proposes tourism development strategies and their impacts on economic development of the islands.

**Key words:** economic development, pro-poor tourism, sustainable tourism, Comoro Islands

## **INTRODUCTION**

Tourism is clearly of great significance to developing and least developed countries (LDCs). For decades, it has been a leading export sector and source of foreign exchange for virtually all non- oil exporting LDCs. Additionally, tourism is a diverse and labor- intensive industry that provides a wide range of employment opportunities. It is well placed to contribute to poverty reduction: because it is consumed at the point of intervention, even low-skilled workers in remote areas can become tourism exporters. In



fact, it provides an important opportunity for LDCs to combat poverty, diversify their economies and pursue pro-poor inclusive growth strategies. The growing market trend of tourists seeking cultural and natural attractions in rural areas gives LDCs a strong comparative advantage (UNDP, 2011).

Tourism value chain and its significant connections to other sectors such as agriculture, construction, utilities and transport can contribute to poverty reduction. With regard to the supply chain in the sector, one job in the core tourism industry indirectly generates 1.5 additional jobs in the related economy. In 2010 the sector's global economy accounted for more than 235 million jobs, equivalent to about 8 per cent of the overall number of jobs (direct and indirect), or one in every 12.3 jobs. In 2010 travel and tourism were estimated to have generated about 9.3 per cent of global GDP, while tourism investments were estimated at 9.2 per cent of total global investments (ILO, 2011). In fact, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) estimates that by 2020 there will be 1.6 billion international tourist arrivals worldwide. Africa and Asia—the two regions with the most least developed countries (LDCs)—are expected to see 75 million and 416 million of these arrivals, respectively. Tourism destinations have diversified substantially and several LDCs are witnessing phenomenal growth in tourist arrivals and expenditure. Finally, international tourist arrivals in LDCs increased by an average of 11 percent a year between 1990 and 2010 (UNDP, 2011).

The topic of tourism as a tool for economic development and for poverty alleviation in less developed countries has been thoroughly discussed in literature with applications on many countries. Nevertheless, the Comoro Islands has been absolutely absent from literature of pro-poor tourism. Therefore, the current paper studies the Comoro Islands as a potential tourism destination, especially eco-tourism. Eco-Tourism requires relatively less investment as it uses available natural and cultural attractions, than other industries and the requisite infrastructure and superstructure can benefit both tourists and local populations. The paper also discusses the potential impacts of tourism in alleviating poverty and improving the economic conditions of the islands.

## **TOURISM AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

The UN Millennium Development Goals include specific commitments to reduce by one-half the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015. according to these goals a number of targets are set for some of the major dimensions of poverty hunger, access to drinking water, daily income, maternal mortality, education and a range or other priorities (World Bank, 2005) Poverty is a multi-faceted concept which embraces not only insufficient levels of income but a lack of access to essential services such as



education, water and sanitation, health care and housing. Indeed, poverty means a lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in the society. The concept of poverty is not limited to the previously mentioned elements; however it means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities (IMF and IDA, 1999). While these are the immediate causes of poverty, there are more global causes of poverty as well, which encompass issues such as national and regional economic growth, inequality of income distribution and instability in governance (Jameison et al, 2004). The common understanding is that with overall economic growth incomes increase and poverty is reduced.

Tourism is the most viable and sustainable economic development option. If tourism is managed with a strong focus on poverty alleviation, it can directly benefit the poor groups through employment of local people in tourism enterprises, goods and services provided to tourists, or the running of small and community- based enterprises, etc., having positive impacts on reducing poverty levels (UNWTO, 2010). In fact, many activities in tourism are particularly suited to women, young people and disadvantaged groups such as ethnic minority populations. Many tourism jobs are potentially quite accessible to the poor as they require relatively few skills and little investment. However, for tourism to become an effective poverty tool there needs to be a paradigm shift in the way people think about tourism and the nature of the policies, plans and practices that are used in order to ensure the poor profit from the development process. Due to the strong relationship between tourism and poverty alleviation the concept of “Pro-Poor Tourism” emerged.

Pro-Poor Tourism is not a specific product or niche sector, but an approach to tourism development and management. It enhances the linkages between tourism business and poor people; so that tourism’s contribution to poverty reduction is increased and poor people are able to participate more effectively in product development.

Strategies for Pro-Poor Tourism focus specifically on unlocking opportunities for the poor within tourism, rather than expanding the overall size of the sector (Department for International Development, 1999). Indeed, it generates net benefits for the poor (i.e. benefits are greater than costs). Economic benefits are only one (very important) component – social, environmental and cultural costs and benefits also need to be taken into account. Pro-Poor tourism strategies are concerned specifically with impacts on poor people, though the non-poor may also benefit.



Mitchell and Ashley (2010) mentioned three key pathways by which the benefits (or costs) of tourism activity can be transmitted directly to the poor:

- Direct effects of tourism on the poor:
- These include both labour income and other forms of earnings from the tourism sector (i.e. jobs in hotels and restaurants, taxi rides, etc.). It also includes direct effects from tourism on the poor even if they are non- financial livelihood changes (improved infrastructure or reduced access to the beach for local residents)
- Secondary effects of tourism on the poor:
- This includes indirect earnings (and non- financial livelihood impacts) from non- tourism sectors that arise from tourist activity (crafters, construction workers, farmers, etc.). also included are induced effects from tourism workers who re- spend their earnings in the local economy.
- Dynamic effects: This broad category covers long- term changes in the economy and patterns of growth whether experienced in the macro economy, or limited to the local economy at the destination. Some environmental impacts, such as the erosion of natural assets from tourist development, can be conceived as dynamic effects.

Mitchell and Ashley (2010) state that eliminating poverty through tourism development differ from one country to another according to the levels of development of the country, the structure of the government and the political systems, the maturity of the tourism industry, the degree of empowerment at the local level are only some of the factors that affect how policy initiatives can be implemented. Indeed, UNCTAD (2001) mentions that countries that have been unsuccessful in integrating tourism as a tool for economic development have usually had inadequate or non- existent poverty- led tourism policy frameworks. This is exactly the case of the Comoro Islands; as there is no tourism policy frame work of tourism development in the country.

## **COMORO ISLANDS: CASE STUDY**

### **Geographic Location**

The Comoros Islands are an archipelago located in the Indian ocean to the southwest of Seychelles, and in between Madagascar and the African continent. Comoros islands are located about 480 kilometers (km) west of the northern tip of Madagascar and

320 km east of northern Mozambique. The Comoros archipelago consists of four islands: Grand Comore, Anjouan, Mohéli and Mayotte and are also known locally as Ngazidja, Nzwani, Mwali and Mahoré, respectively. Comoros is the southernmost member state of the Arab League. The islands derive the name from the Arabic word 'Qamar' meaning the 'moon'. The islands are known in Arabic as 'Juzur Al Qumur', which means 'Islands of the moon'.

**Figure 1: Como Islands Geographic location**



Source: United Nations (2009)

The total land area of the four islands is 2,236 square kilometers. The four islands were formed by volcanic activities 0.5 to 15 million years ago. Grande Comore has an active volcano, the Karthala, which is a key tourism destination in Comoros and located at the country's highest point (at 2,360 meters).

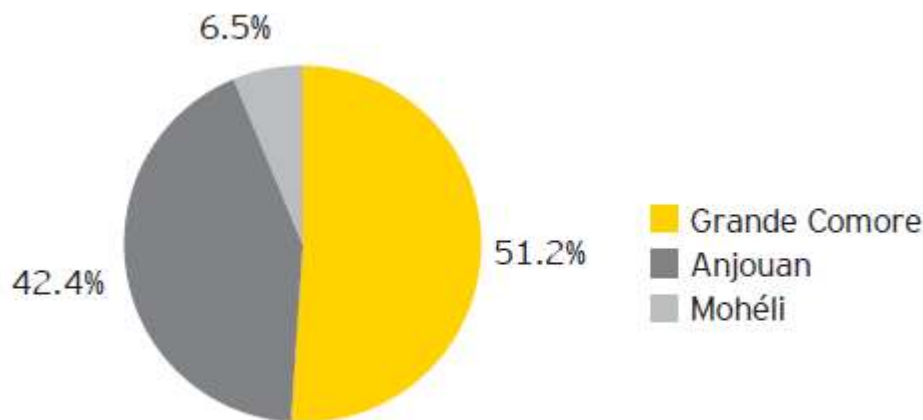
The climate is tropical, characterized by low variation in temperature; it averages between 28°C in March and 23°C in August. The mean annual rainfall is about 1,000 millimeters. Comoros is famous for the prehistoric deep sea fish known as the Coelacanth, thought to be long extinct, but discovered earlier this century in her waters. Some areas in the archipelago are protected zones due to the rare nature of the flora and fauna. Comoros has 'picture-postcard beaches' which remain practically untouched. Despite a potential 'holiday paradise with picture-postcard beaches', the tourism activity and the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow in Comoros is far below its neighboring islands; Seychelles and Mauritius.



## Demographic distribution and population

According to Comoros' General Commissariat of Planning (GCP), which is the agency in charge of economic planning for the country, the Union of Comoros had an estimated population of about 652,200 in 2008, up from 575,660 in 2003, i.e., at a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 2.5%. The distribution of population amongst the three islands for the year 2008 is shown in the chart below.

**Figure 2: Population by Island, 2008**



Source: Comoros' General Commissariat of Planning (2009)

## Economy

The country's economy is small and heavily dependent on the agriculture sector for its exports and employment. The main exported commodities are ylang-ylang and vanilla. The country's membership in the Franc Zone has been one of the elements of its stability. The country mainly depends on international aid, which ranged from 27.0% to 39.4% of the government revenue during 2006-08. In 2008, the GDP was €355.2 million and the per capita GDP was estimated at €544.7. Agriculture and fishing remain the principal economic activities for Comoros, with these two sectors contributing approximately 40% of GDP between 2001 and 2008. Inflation rates have remained stable, ranging between 3% and 5% during 2002-08 (Comoros General Commissariat of Planning, 2009).

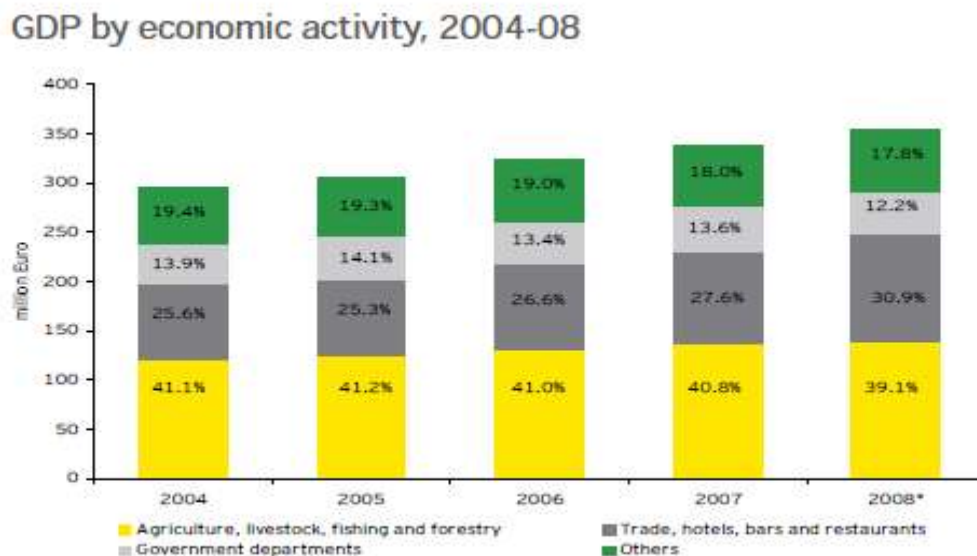
The limited sources of public revenues have made the country increasingly dependent on external loans, donations and remittances. In 2008, the Comorian government received €31.8 million in donations from various countries and international



organizations. The same donors have also allocated a budget of €61.5 million for financing multiple projects and services in 2009 (Comoros General Commissariat of Planning, 2009).

Agriculture and fishing remain the principal economic activities for Comoros, with these two sectors contributing approximately 40% of GDP during the past eight years. Trade and hospitality have been the fastest growing sectors at a compounded annual growth rate CAGR of 8.5% between 2001 and 2008. Together, the agriculture, fishing, trade and hospitality sectors ranged from 66.1% to 70.0% of GDP during 2001-08. The nominal GDP by economic activity from 2001-2008 is presented in the figure below:

**Figure 3: GDP by Economic Activity**



Source: Ministry of Planning

Unemployment is a major problem in the Comoros. The unemployed population was estimated by the IMF to be approximately 20,100 in 2005, representing 13.3% of the total labor force. IMF also stated that half of the unemployed population has never worked (Ministry of Planning, 2009).

Poverty is widespread in the country and even more prominent in the rural zones of Anjouan. As per the latest statistics of the UN, more than 50% of the population is continually food insecure (Euro Monitor, 2008). Remittances from migrants represent the



largest source of external funding. As per a 2008 report by ADB, the annual inward remittances from Comorians working abroad are around €73 million. It is believed that about two-thirds of these transfers are routed into the country via unofficial channels. A 2006 report by the UN indicated that 70% to 90% of remittances were spent on domestic consumption (Euro Monitor, 2008).

### **Tourism in the Comoros**

The Comoros may be considered as an ideal tourism destination with the perfect sandy beaches, turquoise waters hemmed by coral reefs, scenic sunsets, and air scented with the tropical blossoms of ylang ylang, jasmine and vanilla, all of which forms a perfect paradise for tourists. However, Comoros has not received the same tourist attention as its regional competitors such as Seychelles, Réunion Islands and Mauritius. Comoros offers an interesting holiday destination for those seeking ethnic tourism. The islands possess a practically untouched natural environment, including, water filled with corals and fish, a variety of unique animals and birds, diverse terrain from volcanic craters to undisturbed beaches.

The islands have rich diverse resources suitable for leisure tourism and especially eco-tourism and sports tourism; as they have magnificent and rare natural resources. The islands' vegetation is rich and diverse: two-thirds of the world's perfume essence comes from Comoros, being processed from the blossoms of ylang-ylang, jasmine and orange. The islands are of volcanic origin and are surrounded by coral reefs. Some of the interesting tourism spots/activities include:

#### **The Karthala**

The crater of Mount Karthala is one of the largest active volcano patches in the world that is still active. The volcano has erupted about 20 times in the last century and minor eruptions still occur on a biennial basis. The Karthala forest has diversity with the presence of animals, vegetal species and several protected ecosystems.

#### **The Coelacanth**

The coelacanth that was thought to have been extinct about 65 million years ago, have been found in the coast of Comoros Islands. This caused a sensation throughout the scientific community. Comoros is thought to be the only region where this fish can still survive. In addition, cetaceans like whales and dolphins also swim in this area.

Other tourism attractions are distributed among the three islands as presented below.

#### **Grande Comore**





- The capital, Moroni, is a charming town with diverse architectures
- Itsandra, a fishing village about 6 km from Moroni, has a beach, royal tombs and a fortress
- Mitsamiouli, a town in the north of the island, is known both for its diving facilities and a stretch of some scenic beaches
- Hot Sulfur springs can be found at Lac Sale near Mitsamiouli
- Iconi is a 14th century village surrounded by the sea.

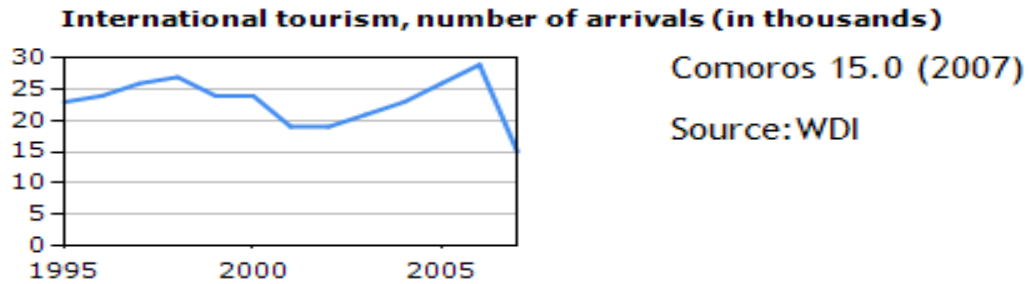
### **Anjouan**

- Anjouan has a rich bio-diversity of marine and coastal areas and is surrounded by mountains and valleys, which offer great possibilities for walks and trekking activities
- Mutsamudu is the second largest city in Comoros and is located in Anjouan. It is built in Swahili-Shirazi style, with 17th-century houses with carved doors, twisting alleyways, mosques and a citadel
- There are perfume distilleries at Bamboo and eye catching beaches in the Bimbini area.

### **Mohéli**

- Dhows (Arab sail boats) in Mohéli are a favorite tourism destination
- Mohéli's marine park: A natural landmark site in the Indian Ocean, which is the a natural reserve for protected green turtle
- Hikers may also travel to Dziani Boundouni, a sulfurous crater lake at the center of Mohéli.

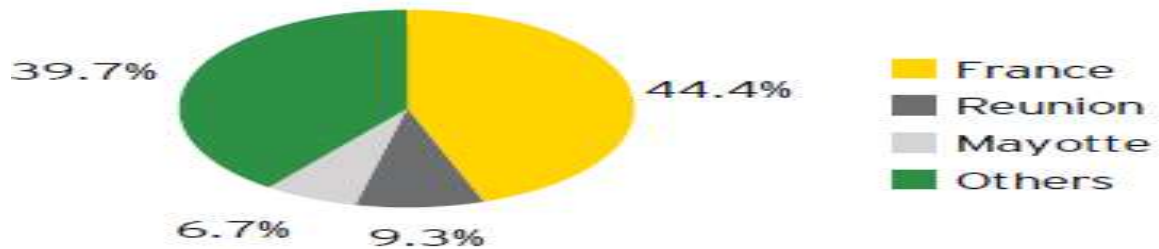
From 1995 to 2005, the tourism sector experienced a significant growth in the Indian Ocean, with an average growth rate of 5.4 % per year compared to the world tourism growth rate of 3.6% (UNWTO, 2006). In 2005, the 22 countries of the Indian Ocean area welcomed around 55.4 million international tourists. With the highest increases between 1995 and 2005, Madagascar, Malaysia and Mauritius, with respectively 11.8%, 8.2% and 6.1% as CAGRs, were the emerging tourist destinations. During the same period, only 2 countries from the Indian Ocean experienced a CAGR decrease in term of tourist arrivals; Eritrea (-12.5%) and Comoros (-2.4%). The following figures show the international tourism arrivals by number of arrivals 1995 – 2005 and their classification by country of origin and by purpose of travel (UNWTO, 2006).



**Figure 5: International Tourism Arrivals**

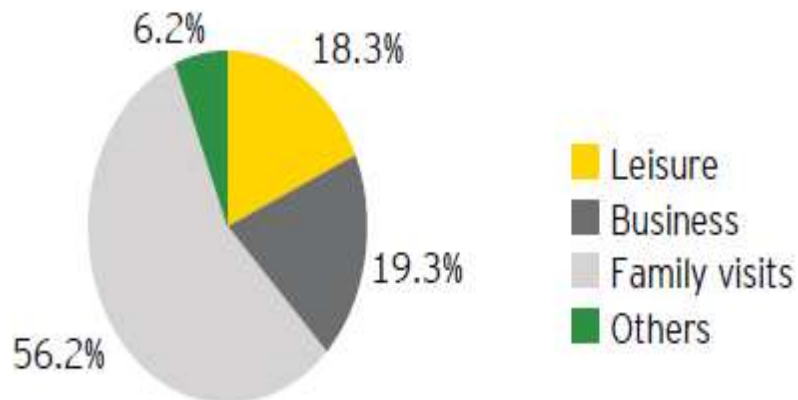
Source: World Bank (2007)

**Figure 5: Arrivals by country of Origin**



Source: Comorian Ministry for Transport and Tourism (2008)

**Figure 6: Arrivals by Purpose of travel**

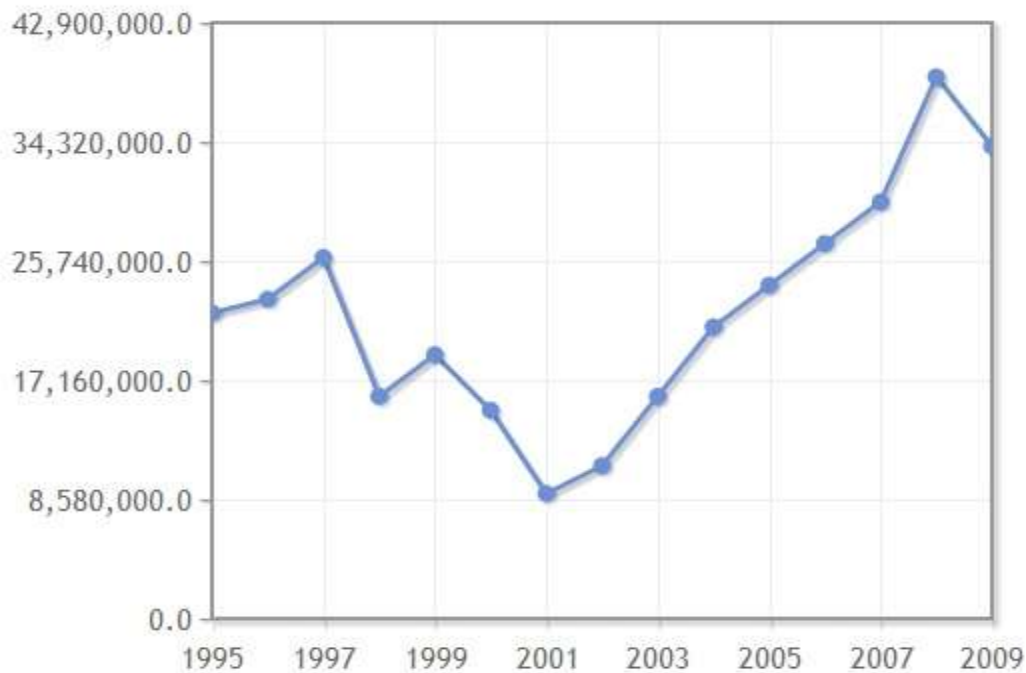




Source: Comorian Ministry for Transport and Tourism (2008)

The value for International tourism from 2001 to 2008, receipts (current US\$) in Comoros was \$34,000,000 as of 2009. Over the past 14 years, the value for this indicator has fluctuated between \$39,000,000 in 2008 and \$9,000,000 in 2001 as shown in the following figure (IMF).

**Figure 7: Comoro Islands International tourist receipts 1995-2009**



Source: World tourism Organization (2010)

In 2011 the WTTC estimated the direct contribution of Travel & Tourism to GDP was KMF6.9bn (3.2% of GDP). This is forecast to rise by 5.3% to KMF7.3bn in 2012. This primarily reflects the economic activity generated by industries such as hotels, travel agents, airlines and other passenger transportation services (excluding commuter services). But it also includes, for example, the activities of the restaurant and leisure industries directly supported by tourists.

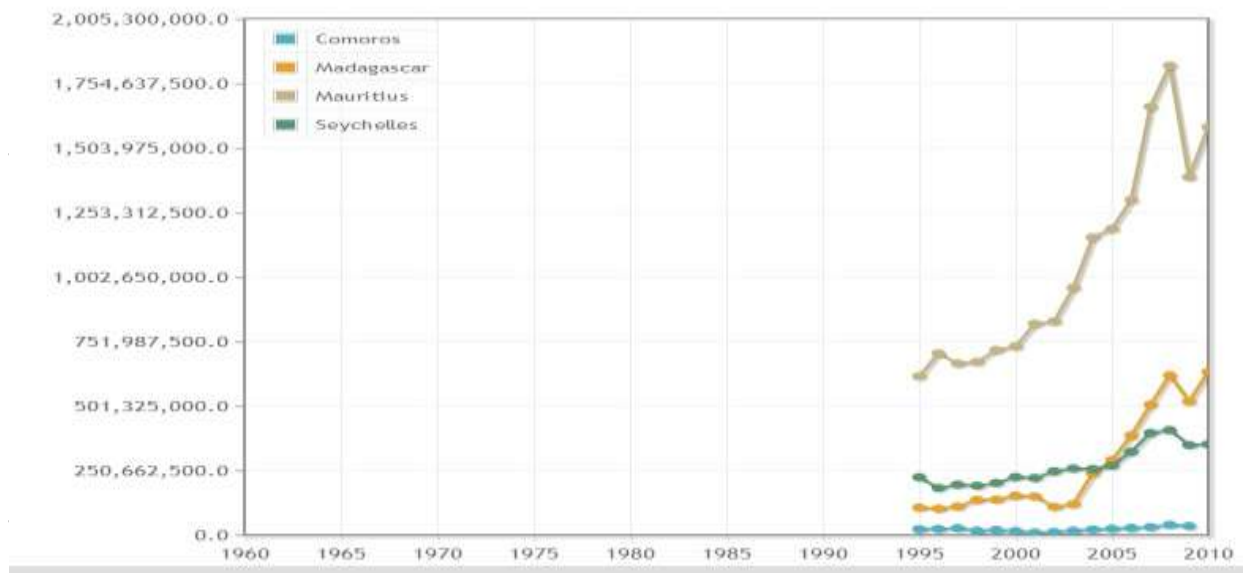
Travel & Tourism generated 5,500 jobs directly in 2011 (2.7% of total employment) and this is forecast to grow by 9.2% in 2012 to 6,000 (2.8% of total



employment). This includes employment by hotels, travel agents, airlines and other passenger transportation services (excluding commuter services). It also includes, for example, the activities of the restaurant and leisure industries directly supported by tourists.

Despite its touristic potentials, Comoros has attracted lesser tourists compared to its neighboring islands such as Mauritius and Seychelles. Mauritius attracted 1.3 million tourist arrivals in 2008. Seychelles attracted 159 thousand in 2008. From 2000 to 2008, tourism arrivals in Mauritius and Seychelles increased at a CAGR of 4.3% and 2.5% respectively. The increase in tourist arrivals in these countries is attributed to quality hotels, direct and reliable air services and high-quality supporting infrastructure. The following figure shows a comparison in tourist receipts 1995-2009 between Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar and Seychelles, which are considered neighbor destinations that share the same touristic features:

**Figure 8: International tourism, receipts 1995-2009**



port is expected to be 7%.

### SITUATION ANALYSIS

Everyone agrees that improving the economic situation of the Comoros through the development of its tourism. Indeed, the country has rich tourist exceptional unfortunately are not exploited. Aware of its tourist potential, the various successive governments of the Comoros have made statements of good intentions to make tourism



the main economic activity in the country, like the countries of the region. Currently tourism represents just 2.2% of Gross National Product (GNP). Targets are set but the actions do not follow. The study was conducted on the basis of data from the World Bank report of 2007 on "Tourism, Environment and Infrastructure" and data from the World Tourism Organization.

Nevertheless, tourism in the Comoro Islands involves some strength in its resources that should be utilized as well as some weaknesses that should be dealt with from the government. The strength points encompass the natural and cultural heritage, potentially important discovery and sports activities, etc. A large number of natural species such as; flora that include over 100 species of orchid. Also, it has some of the most remarkable marine fauna species (coelacanths, sea turtles, and dugongs). The historical heritage of the Comoros is rich and varied, with archeological sites, religious buildings, buildings related to the former sultanates, fortifications, and burial sites. Comorian craftsmen are best with wood sculptures and traditional jewelry.

The Comoros possess a rich cultural and natural heritage. It could provide a powerful boost for the development of ecotourism. It is important for the government that its development partners support a revival of the tourist sector.

Indeed, this sector could make robust contribution Comorian economic conditions in various ways such as:

**1. Improvement of the living conditions of the population by:**

- Creating jobs (direct, indirect and induced)
- Establishing a market that would stimulate local activities such as truck farming, livestock farming, fishing, and crafts;
- By facilitating access of the local population to tourist accommodation and leisure activities.

**2. Activities that respect the natural and cultural environment by:**

- Safeguarding and upgrading natural sites;
- Organizing cultural activities such as: 1) restoration and upgrading of the cultural and historical heritage; 2) developing traditional entertainment; and 3) developing the crafts industry.

It is also suggested that tourism development is conditioned by concrete actions of the State such as:



- The identification of land for tourist activity,
- The establishment of the adequate infrastructure that supports tourist activities, especially, airports, ports and road networks
- The introduction of unique advantages in the Investment Code.
- Build a greater International awareness of Comoros
- Market Comoros attractions to all stakeholders (investors, tour operators, hotel companies, etc.)

The strategy proposed is to develop tourism to improve the living conditions of the population and boost economic growth. It promotes tourism, not mass but which operate as natural sites while respecting the ecological balance and the National Environmental Policy. This strategy is based on "ecotourism" or tourism "sustainable development".

The development of ecotourism may stimulate economic activity nationally and locally in the country (creation of local jobs, increase tax revenue...), increasing passenger and commercial links Interstate islands, opening up the national space tourism, facilitate the access of the national population to forms of tourist accommodation and leisure activities, safeguard and enhance natural sites, organize cultural activities in the country.

Moreover, there is an urgent need to modernize the country's transport infrastructure. There is a significant weakness detected in Comoros' transport and logistical systems, such as widespread inefficiencies, severe underinvestment, uncompetitive monopolies and prohibitive costs. Comoros should prioritize investment in transport.

Tourism development strategy would very much benefit from increasing direct routes to Comoros. Direct flights from South Africa will help Comoros capitalize on South Africa's booming tourism industry. Travel retail would benefit from direct flights from South Africa as they can offer packages to Europeans that contain a few days in South Africa and a few days in Comoros to break up the long flight.

Competition will call for the necessity of developing niche tourism, not already intensively exploited by the other islands. Using Comoros' natural and economic primary resources is one option. Promoting the production and export of vanilla and ylang-ylang as a tourist attraction is also another example of tourism stimulation. The same model has proved successful in Zanzibar and Sri Lanka, with the introduction of "spice tours" around the island and tea tours respectively.



Furthermore, it is important to mention that in 2010, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in cooperation with the government in Comoros prepared an action plan for implementation of the 2010–2014 Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy. This strategy states the following:

- The government in Comoros will continue its current policy to look actively for international investors to implement large-scale tourism projects meeting international standards. The future projects should be located on the islands of Mwali and Ndzuwani to balance development between the islands.
- The current policy will be adapted to create tourism development centers that will include (i) a land improvement plan; (ii) actions to improve airports, ports, roads, and access to electricity; (iii) liberalization of the skies to introduce airline competition; (iv) promotion of supply contracts between hotels and the rural communities; and (v) support for the development of microenterprises and income-generating activities required for sector development. To maximize the synergies, public private partnerships will be developed with economic transactors and local communities. Development of the business hotel trade in the cities will also be encouraged, along with micro-hospitality units in rural areas.
- Comorian tourism will be promoted as a product on the Internet (with the creation of an interactive website); a CD-ROM, brochures, prospectuses will be produced, and representatives from the hotel industry will participate in targeted tourism fairs. Where ecotourism developments are concerned, hiking trails will be developed and marked, monuments and historical sites will be rehabilitated and traditional and artisanal production will be encouraged. Plant and animal wildlife preserves will be created on the three islands and additional resources will be provided to maintain the Mwali sea park and to stop poaching.
- Substantial efforts should also be made to improve professional training in the hotel and restaurant trades. While the local training capacities are geared up, training will be organized in nearby countries to recycle existing hotel staff and to train young people. Language training, particularly Arabic and English, should also be provided.



- Finally, Tourism development is one of the key priorities of the Comorian government. A series of actions should be planned in order to assist the industry to exploit its full potential and increase the number of visitors to match what has been forecasted by the WTO. WTO (2005) has stated that the 22 destinations of the Indian Ocean will welcome more than 179 million international tourists in 2020. It is also anticipated by the WTO that Comoros would see its share of international arrivals almost doubling between 2010 and 2020. The annual growth rate of tourist arrivals for Comoros for the same period, as per this report is expected to be 7%.

## **CONCLUSION**

It has been widely agreed that improving the economic situation of the Comoros through the development of its tourism is an essential action. Indeed, the country has rich tourist exceptional unfortunately are not exploited.

It is clear from the previous figure that tourists' arrivals to Comoros Islands are mainly from nearly two regions only: Africa and Europe, especially France, which shows that Africa and Europe could be considered very well as potential markets to the Comoros if marketed well to the world as new undiscovered destination with great tourist potential.

In Comoros, it is suggested the establishment of a public partnership to sustain small-scale poverty reduction projects financed by the biggest tourism resorts. The projects would target sectors along the tourism value chain, including agriculture production and souvenirs and artifacts. The objective is to provide training for future entrepreneurs accompanied by microcredit lines.

Finally, it is evident that tourism development in the Comoros would contribute to poverty alleviation in the Comoro Islands, through drawing foreign exchange into the country and reducing unemployment of local people, in addition to attracting investors to invest in tourism projects in these islands to be the pioneers in utilizing its abundant natural resources.

## **REFERENCES**

Comorian Ministry for Transport and Tourism (2008) in Doing business in Comoros Islands 2009, [www.comoros-islands.com](http://www.comoros-islands.com) (accessed November 2012)





- Comoros' General Commissariat of Planning (2009) in Doing business in Comoros Islands 2009,[www.comoros-islands.com](http://www.comoros-islands.com) (accessed November 2012)
- Department for International Development (1999) Sustainable Tourism and Poverty Elimination Study, A report to the Department for International Development, London
- Doing business in Comoros Islands (2009),[www.comoros-islands.com](http://www.comoros-islands.com) (accessed November 2012)
- Euro Monitor (2008) in Doing business in Comoros Islands 2009,[www.comoros-islands.com](http://www.comoros-islands.com) (accessed November 2012)
- IMF and IDA (1999) Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper: Operational Issues, Washington DC.
- ILO (2011) Toolkit on Poverty Reduction through Tourism, International Labour Organization, Geneva
- International Monetary Fund (2010) Union of the Comoros: Action Plan for Implementation of the 2010–2014 Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy, IMF Country Report No. 10/191
- Jameison, W., Goodwin H. and Edmunds C. (2004) Contribution of Tourism to Poverty Alleviation Pro Poor Tourism and the challenge of measuring impacts transport policy and tourism section, Transport Division UN ESCAP.
- Ministry of Planning (2009) in Doing business in Comoros Islands 2009,[www.comoros-islands.com](http://www.comoros-islands.com) (accessed November 2012)
- Mitchell J. and Ashley C. (2010) Tourism and Poverty Reduction: Pathways to Prosperity, Tourism, Environment and Development Series, London
- UNCTAD (2001), Unctad Annual Report, United Nations Conference on Trade And Development, Geneva
- UNDP (2011) Tourism and Poverty Reduction Strategies in the Integrated Framework for Least Developed Countries, Discussion Paper, United Nations Development Program, Trade and Human Development Unit, Geneva
- United Nations (2009) in Doing business in Comoros Islands 2009,[www.comoros-islands.com](http://www.comoros-islands.com) (accessed November 2012)



UNWTO (2006) Tourism can help in Poverty Alleviation What can YOU do?, World Tourism organization, Madrid

UNWTO (2010), Tourism Highlights, 2010 Edition, Madrid

UNWTO (2011), Compendium of Tourism Statistics, (December 2010 update) and other sources [Annex 2]

World Bank (2005) World Development Indicators 2005, World Bank, Washington DC

World Bank (2007) World Development Indicators 2007, World Bank, Washington DC