



ERA ENVIRONNEMENT



PRESS MATERIALS

Project: “STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF YOUNG WOMEN JOURNALISTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING IN COMOROS, THROUGH ONLINE RADIO PROGRAMMING”

PLACE: SAMBA M’BODONI’S VILLAGE

COMOROS ISLANDS

DATE: 18th to 30th November 2019

Do you understand climate change and sustainable development reporting?

An exciting announcement was made by the UNESCO’s 63rd session of its International Programme for Development and Communication (IPDC), held from 19 to 20 June 2019 in Paris, France, towards support of ERA ENVIRONNEMENT, the first online media with vocational training in Comoros, to strengthen capacities of journalists with skills to report on climate change and sustainable development through online media platforms in Comoros Islands.

ERA ENVIRONNEMENT’s project is funded by UNESCO under its Information Programme for Development and Communication (IPDC), through a special allocation of US dollars 11,000. This subsidy covers the cost of the two weeks training. The training will be held from 18th November to 30th November 2019. ERA ENVIRONNEMENT wishes to gratefully acknowledge UNESCO for funding this innovative initiative that will target 10 young women from the rural and coastal areas of Comoros, 8 months after cyclone Kenneth has affected Comoros’s agriculture and numerous households.

This training targets young women radio journalists and will be held in Samba M’bodoni, a village located in the centre of Grande Comore, in Bangaani Municipality.

Why this training is of interest?

This is an exceptional opportunity for the young women journalists to be at the forefront of the development of their communities through programming and



reporting of stories related to climate change and sustainable development in Comoros.

Why journalism is important for the understanding of the sustainable development ?

With the new technologies and social media accessible to more and more people in Comoros, WhatsApp and Facebook, for instance, the role of journalists has to be interrogated and revisited in Comoros, but also outside Comoros. As the African Climate Policy Centre noticed a few years ago during a conference on Climate Change and development in Africa, « *journalists are first and foremost concerned citizens, in reconfiguring state-society relations, and in advancing socio-economic transformation* ». Climate Change represents a significant opportunity to leverage the current wave of momentum to fast-track Africa's socio-economic transformation, the ACPC said. The Paris Agreement adopted in 2015 shows how it can help countries such as Comoros which are vulnerable to climate change. Therefore, journalists have to explained in a fair and accurate manner information related to climate change and sustainable development which are linked through the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement indeed aims of keeping global warming below 2°C and this is crucial for the the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). But it has to be explained through fair, accurate and transparent climate change and sustainable development stories.

The Paris Agreement emphasizes what the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change used to report. Recently, the IPCC has published a special report on the Ocean and the Cryosphere in a changing climate. It recalled that since the mid-20th century, the shrinking cryosphere in the Arctic and high mountain areas has led predominantly negative impacts on food security, water resources, livelihoods, health, and well being as well of culture of human societies, particularly for Indigenous People.

Africa is facing climate change. Comoros indeed is highly vulnerable to climate change as an African small island developing state. Water, agriculture, health sectors and the entire ecosystems are sensitive to climate change. Comoros has



recently experienced cyclone Kenneth and rural areas and coastal areas were among the most affected.

How UNESCO can help the understanding of environmental and climate change issues?

In 2013, UNESCO published a guidebook report on climate change reporting. It was before the Paris Agreement, but this guidebook can help the youth understand the background of climate change reporting and can help young journalists to have tools and understand climate change issues and solutions. In 2018, UNESCO published another handbook, the African guidebook's sister publication on reporting on climate change in Asia and the Pacific. Some elements might be useful for Comoros's training.

Why is it so important to organize this training in November?

This training will be held a few days before COP 25 and the conference of development of Comoros to be hosted in Paris in December. This training can help these young women understand how they can be important in the development of their villages and their localities, through journalism and can help Comoros vulnerable population understand how environmental issues and opportunities can be linked to the development of their localities.

Objectives of the training

There are several expected long term goals: to respect the journalist profession, to reflect and to represent the diversity of view related to the environmental issues and sustainable development, and also to respect the community, the village, the rural area (tradition, ancestral knowledge).

Overall view on the program

-There will be 3 kind of sessions :

- One session : Learn how to write environmental stories for radio
- Second session : Understand adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction
- Third session : Gender Equality and Social Inclusion



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About UNESCO and IPDC

<https://en.unesco.org/programme/ipdc>

Since 1986, UNESCO is used to finance projects related to the media in Comoros, through its International Programme for the Development (IPDC).

These projects are Building Modern News in Al Watwan, Development of Communication, Strengthening of production capacity and Media in Comoros, Capacity building by ERA ENVIRONNEMENT.

As the unique multilateral forum in the UN system designed to mobilize the international community to discuss and promote media development in developing countries, IPDC provides support for media projects but also seeks an accord to secure a healthy environment for the growth of free and pluralistic media in developing countries.

IPDC has mobilized some US\$ 120 million for over 2000 projects in more than 140 developing countries and countries in transition. IPDC's main goals are to realize more effective media projects that empower people to gain equitable access to knowledge and express themselves through free and pluralistic media.

About ERA ENVIRONNEMENT

www.eraenvironnement.com

ERA ENVIRONNEMENT, specialized on sustainable development and climate change is one the lead media in the world. Its vocation: informing and training. It was first an association based in Paris and it is now a Comorian company based in a rural area, Samba M'bodoni.

For many years, these well known journalists are travelling in Africa and the world in order to sensitize populations on sustainable development. Therefore, they educate rural communities on sustainable development and continue to report on sectors related to climate change, especially climate finance.

ERA ENVIRONNEMENT highlights a multicultural journalism without any complexe, by integrating local, regional, national, and international community in the information linked to climate finance.



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Contact: Houmi Ahamed-Mikidache

Publishing Director

ERA ENVIRONNEMENT

www.eraenvironnement.com

+ 33 6 20 49 55 54 (WhatsApp)

+ 269 459 14 13

+ 269 375 31 63