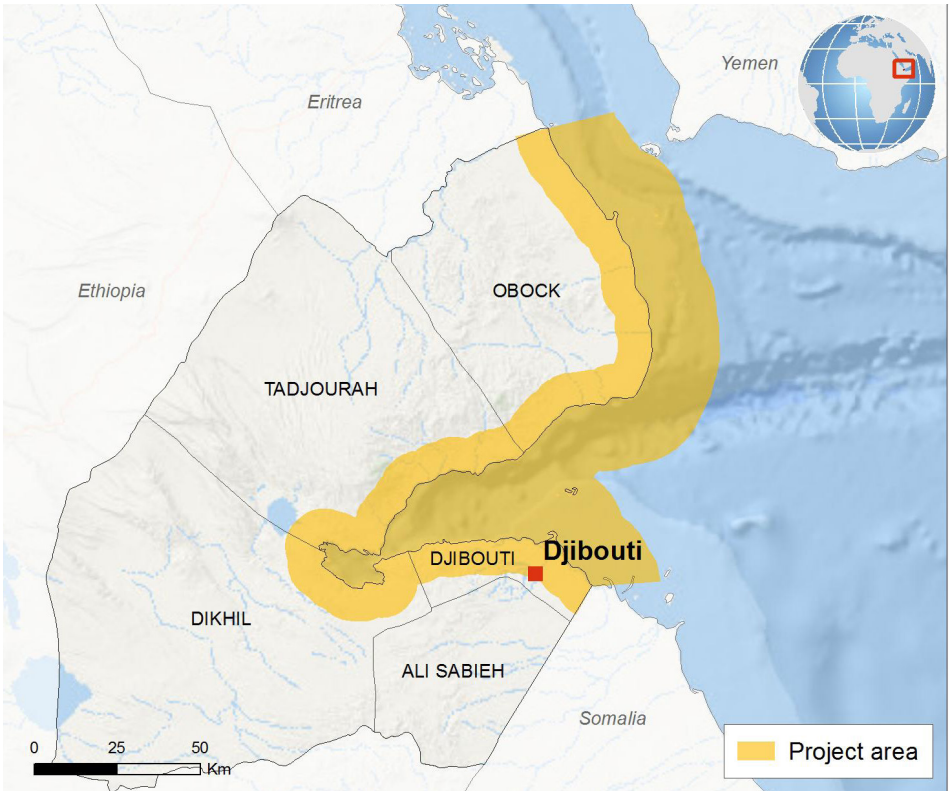
DJIBOUTI

Programme to reduce vulnerability to climate change and poverty of coastal rural communities (PRAREV)



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ISSUES

An ASAP-supported vulnerability assessment carried out in Djibouti used a new methodology for coastal multi-hazard assessment and management, the 'coastal hazard wheel'. Key findings indicate that large stretches of the coastline face significant ecosystem disruption, mainly related to coral reefs and mangroves. Other stretches are exposed to gradual inundation and salt water intrusion.

Climate change is affecting water temperature and ocean currents, which adversely impact fishery resources. The rise in sea temperature is causing fish migration further from the coast. Fishers do not have the equipment and skills to maintain their incomes from this sector. Ecosystems and coastal habitats such as coral reefs and mangroves, which are vital for fish stocks, show considerable degradation. Furthermore, sea-level rise and extreme weather events, such as storms and floods, are impacting on coastal infrastructure, including production and post-production equipment. Extreme erosion of the coast is also a challenge.

Climate change is causing long periods of drought and reduced rainfall, as well as increasing temperatures along the coastal region. This affects groundwater recharge, which is the main source of freshwater in the country. The combination between rising sea levels and reduced groundwater recharge is leading to an increase in the intrusion of seawater, again affecting the quality of water resources.

Communities lack infrastructure, equipment and knowledge appropriate to these new conditions and their livelihoods are becoming more precarious.

IFAD
Investing in rural people

Adaptation for
Smallholder
Agriculture
Programme

ASAP

Launched in 2012, the **Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP)** channels climate and environmental finance to enable smallholder farmers who participate in IFAD projects to increase their resilience. Through ASAP, IFAD is systematically integrating climate resilience into the overall IFAD portfolio.

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Total cost: US$13.3 million

Approved IFAD loan: US$4.1 million

ASAP grant: US$6.0 million

Cofinancing: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) US$0.1 million; World Food Programme (WFP) US$0.3 million

Other contributions: Republic of Djibouti US$2.6 million; *Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Scientifiques de Djibouti* US$0.2 million; *Caisses populaires d'épargne et de crédit* US$0.08 million; beneficiaries US$0.04 million

Programme period: 6 years (2015-2021)

Executing agency: Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries and Livestock

ASAP beneficiaries: 88,000

Programme objectives: increase incomes, enhance food security and reduce vulnerability for smallholder farmers, particularly women and young people.

ACTIONS

The programme will support the design and implementation of participatory management plans for ecosystem conservation to alleviate stresses and increase the resilience of fragile habitats. It will focus on integrating climate change adaptation within national policies and strategies, and enhance knowledge management, education and communication. In addition, PRAREV will help communities diversify their livelihoods options so they can take advantage of opportunities presented by climatic changes.

ASAP support is integrated with the following components of PRAREV:

- **Improving the resilience of coastal habitats and co-management of natural resources.** Participatory natural resource management will engage communities in conservation work. PRAREV will finance the restoration of 200 hectares of mangroves and the preservation of 100 square kilometres of coral reefs, which are vital for fish stocks. The programme will work with WFP to deliver 'food for work' for local communities engaged in the conservation of mangroves. Various technical studies of coastal waters and water resources will be carried out. PRAREV has a provision to cofinance civil works on water supply infrastructure with various donors.
- **Reducing the vulnerability of coastal resources and value chains.** This component will focus on protecting fisheries value chains affected by climate change. PRAREV will invest in renewable energy equipment, ice plants and coolers/insulated containers to improve the conservation of fish products. This is expected to benefit about 1,000 fishers and 500 fish sellers, many of which are women.
- **Enhancing institutional and community adaptive capacities.** Climate change will be integrated into the national policy framework and provide institutional support to the Fisheries Directorate as well as professional organizations.

PRAREV will help local communities, which are currently highly dependent on fisheries, to diversify their livelihoods. Long-term changes in sea surface temperatures are bringing about more auspicious conditions for the proliferation of algal blooms. While this is a potentially harmful phenomenon in the case of toxic algal species, the propagation of red and brown algae can have market potential as livestock feed and for the cosmetic market. This represents an uncharted economic opportunity for vulnerable groups, especially women. Despite the economic potential, seaweed farming is not practiced in Djibouti. The programme will pilot this activity and train local people, who will then continue farming to improve their incomes.

EXPECTED IMPACTS

The programme is expected to reduce the vulnerability, poverty and food insecurity of 88,000 people. Specifically, by programme end, PRAREV will have contributed to:

- 50,000 people trained and organized to carry out more climate-resilient activities and natural resource management – at least 1,000 fishers have access to climate-resilient infrastructure.
- 200 hectares of mangroves rehabilitated and 100 square kilometres of coral reefs protected.
- 30,000 cubic metres of freshwater per day mobilized to meet the needs of communities affected by climate change.
- Climate change adaption strategies integrated into three national policy areas (poverty reduction strategy paper, national adaptation programme and fisheries policy).

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