

International Urban Planning Workshop in **Mayotte**, France
29 January – 7 February 2023

A desirable future for Mayotte

Balance and resilience of the Mahoran space



International call for applications
open to professionals from all disciplines and all nationalities

This workshop is organized by the «Conseil Départemental de Mayotte» and Les Ateliers Internationaux de Maîtrise d’Oeuvre Urbaine. It takes place after the international workshop «The adaptation of island territories facing climate change (Actions for island resilience)» which was held in La Réunion in October 2021, and the roundtable in Mayotte « Emergence of new polarities in the mahoran space» in March 2022. A field mission was also organized in Mayotte in last August 2022 to prepare this call for application.

The topic of the workshop

Mayotte is an exceptional territory. A small volcanic archipelago, it is home to a verdant and flowery environment. It is a concentration of biodiversity to be discovered — particularly within the lagoon, one of the largest in the world. Mayotte also has an exceptionally rich cultural heritage due to the intermingling of the populations that have lived there for centuries. A French overseas department located at the entrance to the Mozambique Channel, it is a strategic territory in the Indian Ocean.

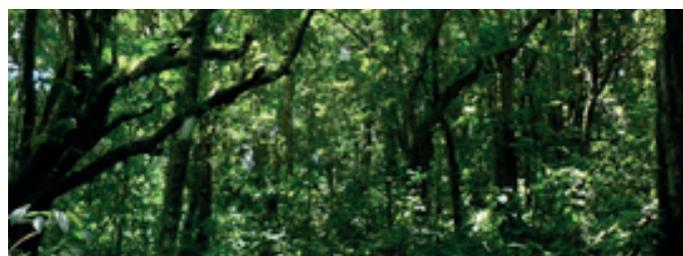


Nevertheless, Mayotte also has its share of difficulties. The future of the Mahoran territory is confronted by a twofold challenge:



- On the one hand, a recent demographic growth with uncertain social and environmental effects;

- And on the other hand, a need to adapt to climate change and natural risks, not least the decline in biodiversity.



The population growth is increasing the pressure on already saturated infrastructures and ecosystems threatened by human activities. The population is struck by poverty and insecurity. The ever-increasing scale of the capital city of Mamoudzou is the source of multiple cases of congestion and environmental risks, and contributes to the vulnerability of the population. This is particularly evident in terms of mobility problems, e.g. time spent in traffic between home and work spaces.



Faced with this situation, planners and inhabitants feel that they are out of their depth, that they are suffering from the effects of sprawl and congestion rather than accompanying or organizing development. They find themselves playing catch-up, with no means of anticipation. Local actors are defining the necessary long-term visions for the territory, but the situation calls for rapid action in order to initiate change.



In response to the major issues identified, the reflections and proposals that emerge from the workshop will aim to generate — starting now — a desirable future for Mayotte.

Above: Lake Dziani
Debaa, traditionnal dance and singing
Mayott foreste
Traffic jam in Mamoudzou
Vulnerable informal housing

How can existing urban areas be strengthened, rehabilitated and made denser to support the emergence of new centres of balance in Mayotte?

What dialogue should be built between the formal and the informal to collectively create the Mayotte of tomorrow?

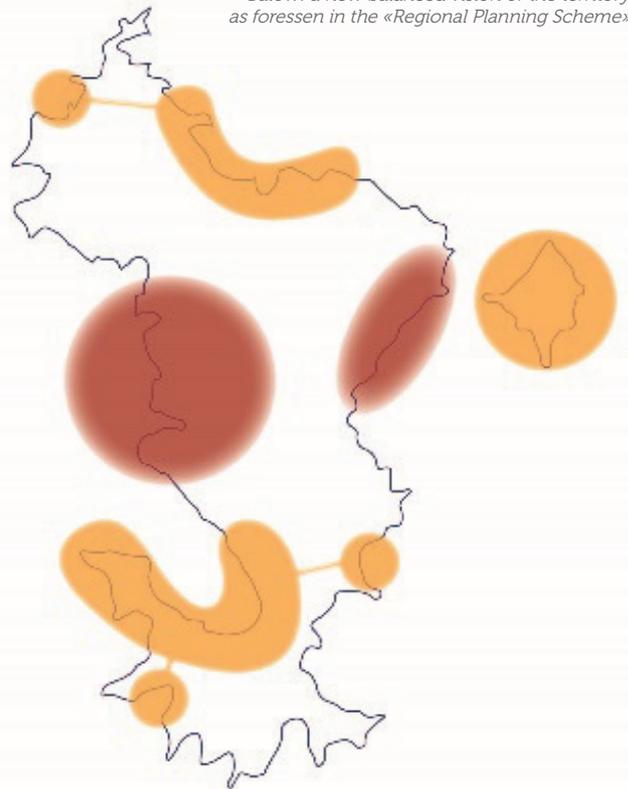
How can a modern development plan be defined that is adapted to the specificities, savoir-faire and practices of the territory?

How can the actors of the archipelago be involved in the definition and consultation of actions aimed at improving development and mobility to meet the challenges of demographic growth?

How can an economic development based on job-creating sectors be designed to valorize and preserve Mayotte's many assets?

And how can the challenges of climate change be integrated in the development plan to prepare and present a desirable future for the territory's youth?

Below: a new balanced vision of the territory as foreseen in the «Regional Planning Scheme»



A desirable future for Mayotte: Balance and resilience of the Mahoran space

In order to envisage a desirable future for this territory with its many challenges, Les Ateliers and its international urban planning workshop will take on the dual challenge of population growth and global warming. Faced with the urgent need to identify solutions for today and tomorrow, the teams will propose resilient actions that are anchored in and adapted to the territory on different temporal and spatial scales.

Ensuring the rebalancing of the territory in a context requiring urbanization to accommodate population growth will not be without risks to natural areas. Therefore, such a balance will have to be expressed in the articulation between the different scales and the real needs of the island's population so as to build a sustainable and resilient future.

Workshop team:

Scientific pilots

Ning Liu, architect and urban planner, China/France

Céline Rouy, urban planner, France

Les Ateliers team

Véronique Valenzuela, projects director, geographer, Chile/France

Simon Brochard, coordinator, geographer, France

Conseil Départemental de Mayotte

Moussa Abdou, Director of Planning and Urbanism

Kassuda Lesur-Abdallah, Head of the Planning and Urbanism Department

Soulaimana Balahache, Planning and Urbanism Department

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Participating in the workshop

Les Ateliers

Les Ateliers de Cergy is a non-profit association created in 1982 at the initiative of the urban planners of the New Town of Cergy-Pontoise. Today, it is an international net-work of professionals, academics and decision-makers in urban planning. Focused on the practice of urban project management, the association organizes workshops conceived as spaces for collective design and creativity.

In France and abroad, these workshops provides project managers with an international perspective and illustrated proposals for territorial strategies and urban development projects. Through the convergence of different professions and cultures, they also serve to question learning process-es and exchange at the highest level.

Format of the workshop

The workshop is organized following the original method of Les Ateliers. 12 volunteers from a variety of countries and professions will be brought together and divided into multidisciplinary teams during the time of the workshop in Mayotte island, from 29 January to 7 February 2023.

The first days are devoted to field visits and meetings with local actors.

The teams will then start working in teams. After a few days, the exchange forum will take place: the teams will present their analyses and first project ideas to the other teams and to a local committee who will openly react and enrich these proposals.

At the end of the workshop, a jury composed of local and international professionals and local decision-makers is gathered for the final presentations from the teams. The jury will deliberate, not to choose a project, but to identify important and strategic elements that will give continuity to the work and create complementarities between the different proposals for the future of Mayotte.

How to apply?

This workshop is open to professionals of all ages and nationalities, practicing a profession or with experience in urban planning. All disciplines are welcome: architects, sociologists, geographers, landscape designers, engineers, economists, environmentalists, artists, etc. English fluency is a plus, since some teams will work in English.

Two online round tables will take place in January 2023 to start discussing the topic of the workshop. A document introducing the topic, the context and current projects in Mayotte will be sent before the start of the workshop, and maps and documents will be made available during the workshop.

Participants will be accommodated and will work in the premises provided. Participants will not be paid, but the following costs are covered: travel, accommodation, food, visits and working materials. The selection of the participants is made by the workshop's pilot committee on the basis of each candidate's professional skills, experience with similar topics, approach to the subject, communication skills (languages, graphic expressions) and motivation!

Applying is easy:

Apply with a few clicks through [the online form](#):

- Fill the online form : <https://forms.gle/Y8TMGFJWawKLBZF19>
- Attach your CV (in one page, in PDF)
- Finally, enclose a note/motivation letter of one or two pages explaining the nature of your interest in participating, and the skills/experience you can bring to the workshop.

Applications submitted by the 1st of December will be given priority.

You have questions, you would like to apply by email? Please write to mayotte@ateliers.org