

FROM COMOROS

# CONTACTS

AEHEYC Association des Exportateurs d'Huiles Essentielles d'Ylang-Ylang des Comores

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## An ethical and sustainable production

### A natural treasure from the heart of Comoros

Between Tradition & Modernity

Situated between Africa and Madagascar, in the Mozambique Channel, the Comoros archipelago is historically the leading producer of essential oil from Ylang-Ylang, the flower of flowers, an essential oil prized by the world's greatest perfumers and used in the composition of the most famous fragrances.

Imported during the colonial period from South-East Asia, Ylang-Ylang and the art of distillation have become a precious resource for the country's economy and for Comorian rural populations since independence in 1975, who have appropriated both the production of the flower and its transformation into essential oil in artisanal, family-run distilleries.

Around 3,000 tonnes of flowers are distilled each year to produce between 50 and 60 tons of essential oil.

### **Unique Terroir** And natural heritage

Ylang-ylang essential oils from the Comoros draw their exceptional quality from the volcanic terroirs of these islands bathed in Indian Ocean sunshine and tropical winds.

The Comorian production systems into which ylang-ylang trees are integrated are diversified agro-forests where breadfruit trees, banana trees, fruit trees, clove trees, coconut palms, manioc, vanilla and pepper vines and many other plant species intermingle. It is undoubtedly this floral biodiversity, and its benefits for the soil, that give Ylang-ylang essential oils their unique character.

1 EXTRA SUPERIOR Restance Rest condes Extra Superior and Extra are two fractions you won't find anywhere else in the world. They reflect the biodiversity and richness of the Comorian terroirs.

### **The Production Process**

Artisanal Distillation & Authenticity



Working on small plots of less than 2 hectares on average, it is estimated that there are more than 10,000 growers (50,000 people included their families) who depend on income from the sale of flowers.

Hand-picking, mainly by women, takes place in the early hours of the morning. Each flower must be carefully selected when fully ripe. In one morning's work, a picker can collect up to 20 kilos of flowers.

The flowers are then transported to hundreds of distilleries set up on mountainsides in the heart of agro-forests and Ylang-Ylang plots.

Distilled for over 15 hours, in batches of 100 to 300 kg of flowers of flowers, the flowers will yield around 2% essential oil.



Since 2020, a concerted effort has been underway to promote the industry in the interests of all its operators. In 2021, the ylang-ylang industry interprofession was created, bringing together elected representatives from all the trades in the 16 production zones in the Comorian islands.

In partnership with the Exporters' Association and the Comorian Cash Crops Office, the interprofession will organize the first national ylangylang conference at the end of 2023. This will be an opportunity for all stakeholders to put in place a common strategy to further improve quality, strengthen the professionalization of players and promote this unique industry.

### **Ethical Partnership** And Local Empowerment

Most distilleries are family-run, owned by artisan distillers who invest in their own stills. Over the last ten years or so, there has been a move to modernize stills. There are now over a hundred stainless steel stills with wood-saving fireplaces in the region. In addition to preserving forest resources, wood-saving reduces production costs and increases distillers' revenues.

### Varieties & Gift Set

### Discover the Palette of essential oils



EXTRA

#### ① Distillation: one hour

Specific to the Comoros Islands, it is the rarest, most expensive and most prized by perfumers, used as a heart note in floral, oriental and gourmet compositions. Its floral, suave scent with floral and spicy notes brings femininity, sensuality and voluptuousness. It can also be used in cosmetics for its regenerating, toning and balancing properties on skin and hair.

#### ① Distillation: between 2 and 3 hours

Highly appreciated in perfumery, it can be used as a heart or base note in floral, woody or balsamic compositions. It adds softness, warmth and depth to fragrances. It can also be used in cosmetics for its relaxing, anti-stress and anti-inflammatory properties on body and mind.



#### ① Distillation: between 3 and 5 hours

Highly appreciated in perfumery, this intermediate essential oil can be used as a top or heart note in floral, green or herbaceous compositions. It adds freshness, liveliness and lightness to fragrances. It can also be used in cosmetics for its purifying, astringent and antiseptic properties on the skin and scalp, in soaps, shampoos and massage oils.

#### Distillation: between 5 and 8 hours

It can be used as a base or trail note in floral compositions, animalic or camphoraceous compositions. It adds heaviness, intensity and power to fragrances. It can also be used in cosmetics for its stimulating properties, aphrodisiac and antispasmodic properties on the nervous and reproductive systems. In household household products, it brings a floral freshness to your home and linens.

5 THIRD

SECOND

COMPLETE

#### ① Distillation: between 8 and 16 hours

Extracted by hydro-distillation, after water has been added to the still, it is used as a base note or fixative in floral, resinous or smoky compositions. It can also be used in cosmetics for its healing, antifungal and insecticidal properties on wounds. It can also be used in cosmetics for its healing, antifungal and insecticidal properties on wounds, mycoses and parasites.

#### 0 Distillation: from the first to the 15th hour without splitting

Extracted without fractionation, this multifaceted essential oil is considered the most balanced and versatile in aromatherapy, and can be used in all types of fragrance or cosmetic compositions. It brings all the nuances and virtues of ylang-ylang to the final product: calming, relaxing and sedative for the nervous system, antispasmodic and anti-inflammatory, hypotensive and heart-rate regulator, aphrodisiac and sexual tonic, antibacterial and antiparasitic, skin regenerator, hair tonic and beautifier.

### Témoignages & Expériences

### Les voix de la communauté



«I have always been enthralled about Ylang for more than 20 years, my family and I have been in this sector. With my partner, we decided to create a company on the transformation process of this flower into essential oil and cosmetic products.»

Sittina Farate Ibrahima

Managing Director of BIOZEN company

«This harvest is what enable us to earn our living and that of our children. We can ensure the education of our children thanks to the collection of ylang flowers.»

Comorian woman picker



«As President of the Comorian Ylang-Ylang Interprofession (ICFY) since 2021, I would like to bear witness to the efforts made by all those involved in the industry to improve the quality of the oils, professionalize the players and initiate a consultation process to revitalize ylang-ylang in the Comoros.»

> Mohamed Mahamoud Moudirou Distiller since 1981