

OCTOPUS FISHERY MANAGEMENT IN SOUTHWEST MADAGASCAR

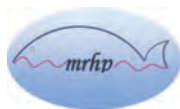


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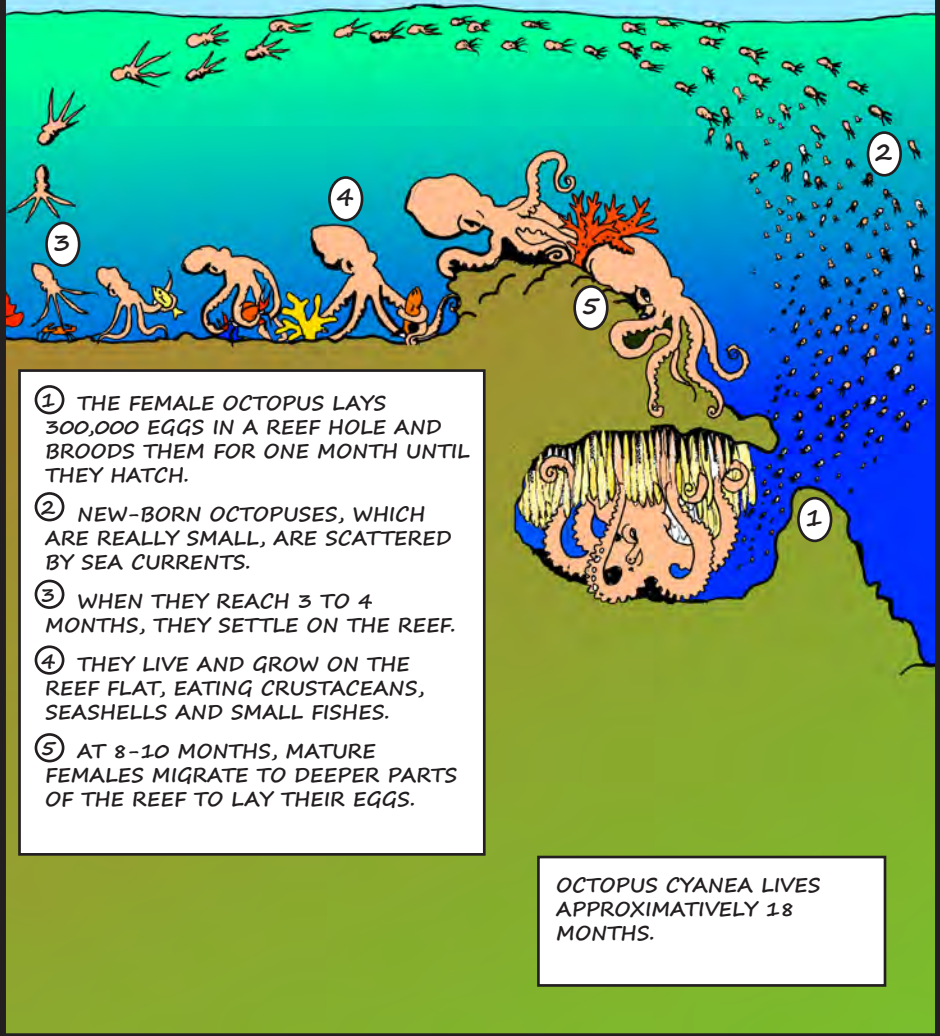
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THE LIFECYCLE OF OCTOPUS CYANEA



OCTOPUSES HAVE HIGH FERTILITY

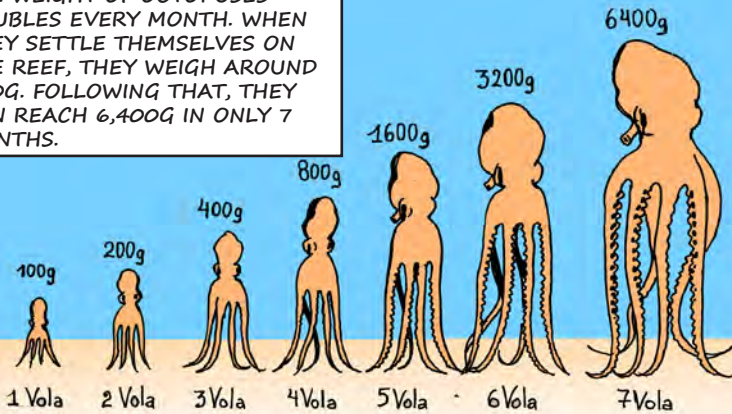


FEMALE OCTOPUSES LAY
APPROXIMATIVELY 300,000 EGGS.
THEY BROOD THEM FOR ONE MONTH,
UNTIL THE EGGS HATCH.

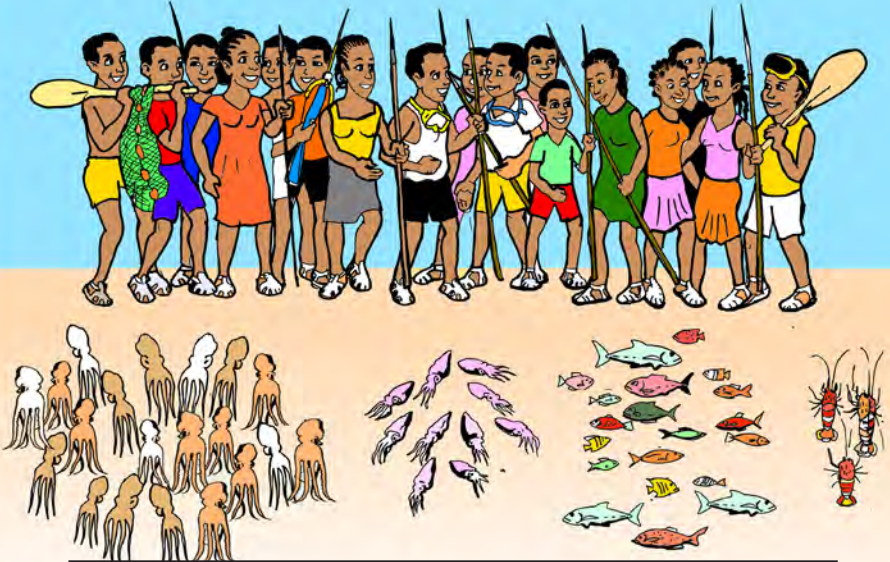


OCTOPUSES GROW QUICKLY

THE WEIGHT OF OCTOPUSES DOUBLES EVERY MONTH. WHEN THEY SETTLE THEMSELVES ON THE REEF, THEY WEIGH AROUND 100g. FOLLOWING THAT, THEY CAN REACH 6,400g IN ONLY 7 MONTHS.



OCTOPUS IS A KEY RESOURCE FOR VEZO COMMUNITIES



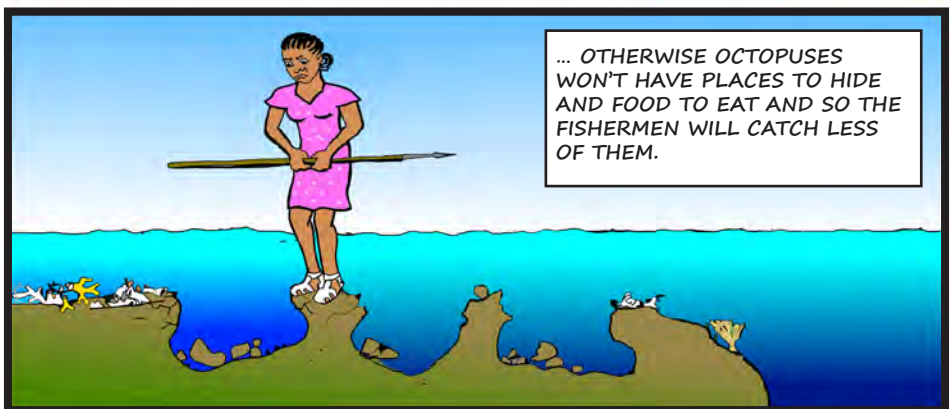
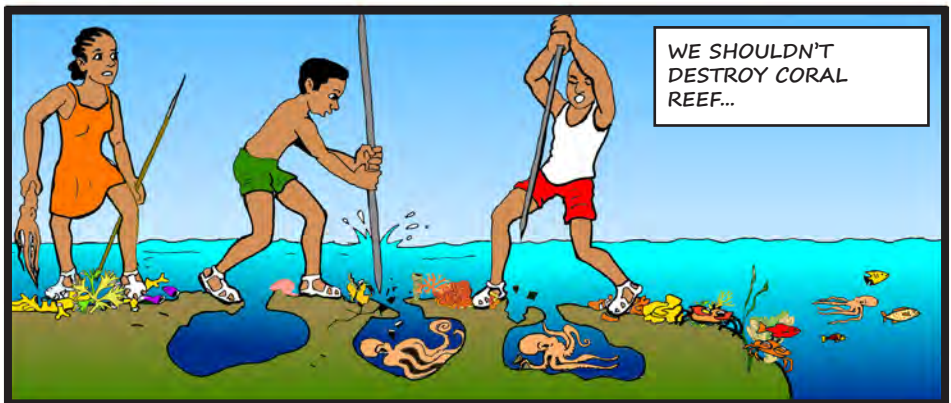
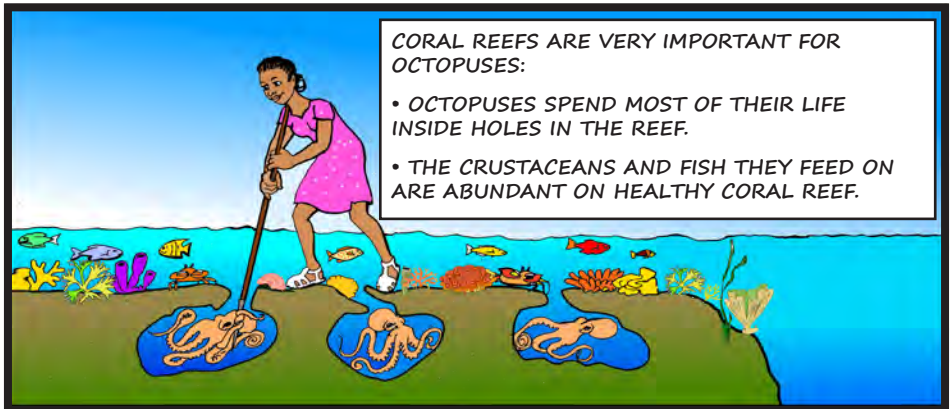
IN VEZO FISHER VILLAGES, OCTOPUS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MARINE RESOURCE IN TERM OF BOTH WEIGHT AND INCOME.

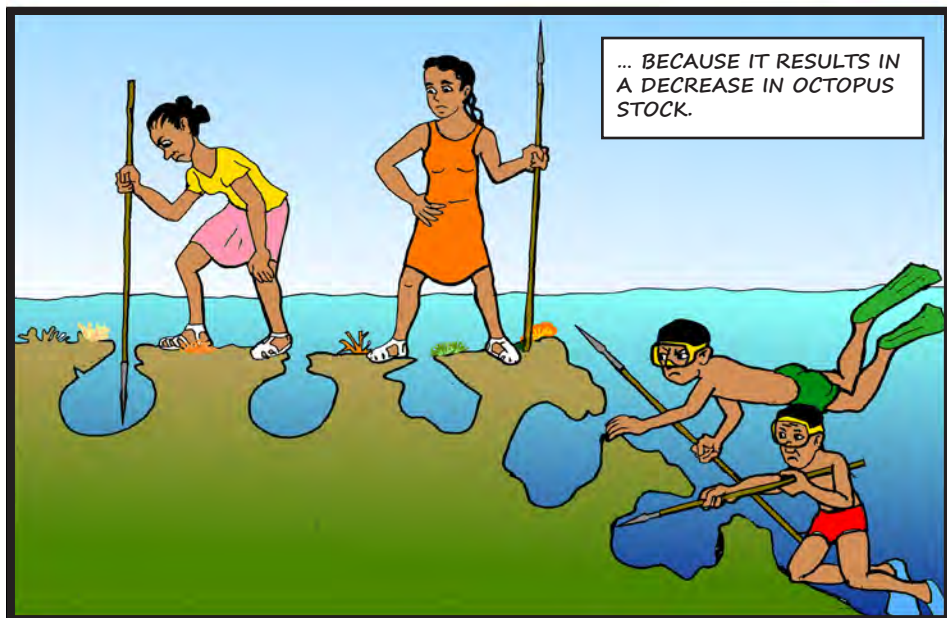
SOME PRACTICES REDUCE OCTOPUS FISHERY PRODUCTIVITY.

DESPITE THE HIGH NUMBER OF YOUNG OCTOPUSES AND THEIR FAST GROWTH RATE, THE USE OF DESTRUCTIVE FISHING PRACTICES CAUSES STOCK DEPLETION, REDUCING FISHERMEN CATCHES.

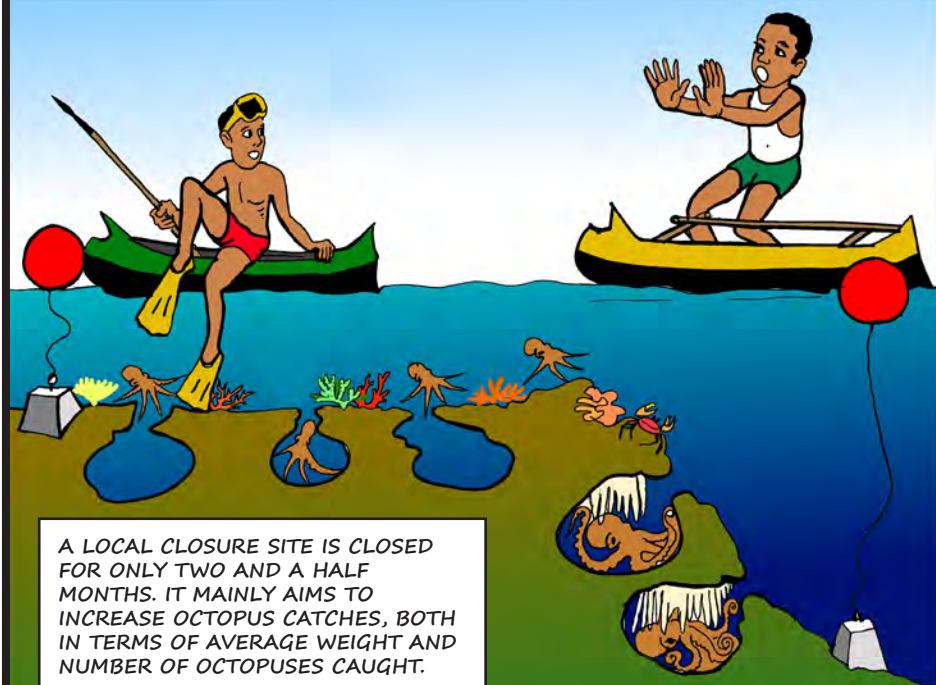


BY UNDERSTANDING THE OCTOPUS LIFECYCLE, WE CAN LEARN HOW TO MANAGE THE FISHERY IN THE MOST APPROPRIATE WAY, TO AVOID STOCK DEPLETION AND MAINTAIN IMPORTANT INCOME.





IT IS GOOD PRACTICE TO ESTABLISH LOCAL CLOSURES AND RESPECT THE NATIONAL CLOSURE OF THE OCTOPUS FISHERY AS BOTH HELP TO INCREASE FISHERMEN'S CATCHES



A LOCAL CLOSURE SITE IS CLOSED FOR ONLY TWO AND A HALF MONTHS. IT MAINLY AIMS TO INCREASE OCTOPUS CATCHES, BOTH IN TERMS OF AVERAGE WEIGHT AND NUMBER OF OCTOPUSES CAUGHT.

THE NATIONAL CLOSURE LASTS FOR A MONTH AND A HALF. IT MAINLY AIMS TO PROTECT OCTOPUSES DURING THE EGG LAYING AND BROODING PERIOD, SO AS TO ENSURE THE RENEWAL OF THE STOCK.

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO CATCH OCTOPUSES WEIGHTING LESS THAN 350G IN MADAGASCAR.

BEFORE THE
LOCAL CLOSURE
STARTS



THERE ARE FEW
OCTOPUSES
AND THEY ARE
SMALL..

DURING THE
LOCAL CLOSURE



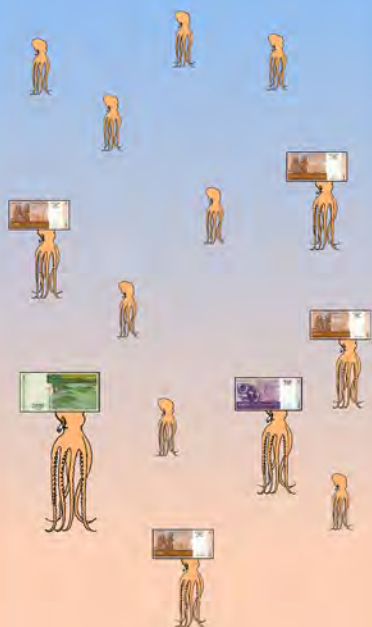
SMALL OCTOPUSES
GROW UP AND
OTHERS JOIN THEM
ON THE REEF FLAT
AS THEY ARE NOT
DISTURBED BY
FISHERMEN.

AT LOCAL
CLOSURE
RE-OPENING



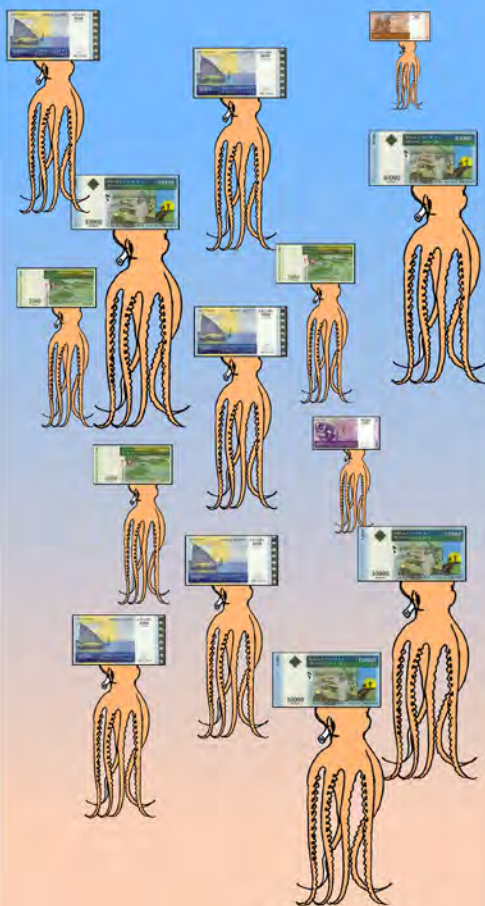
THERE ARE A LOT
OF OCTOPUSES
AND THEY ARE BIG.

**BEFORE THE LOCAL
CLOSURE STARTS**



**SMALL OCTOPUSES =
LITTLE MONEY**

**AT LOCAL CLOSURE
RE-OPENING**



**A LOT OF BIG OCTOPUSES
= A LOT OF MONEY**

**CLOSING A SITE TEMPORARILY ALLOWS FOR SMALL OCTOPUSES TO
GROW UP AND INCREASE IN NUMBER. WHEN THE CLOSURE RE-OPENS,
FISHERMEN/WOMEN OBTAIN A HIGHER INCOME FROM OCTOPUS SALES.**

BEFORE THE LOCAL CLOSURE STARTS

IN A GIVEN VILLAGE, EACH FISHERMAN/WOMAN CAN CATCH TWO OCTOPUSES IN ONE DAY, WHICH HE/SHE WILL SELL FOR 3,000 ARIARY.



DURING THE LOCAL CLOSURE

LOCAL CLOSURE

ONLY A PORTION OF THE VILLAGE FISHING SITES IS CLOSED. THIS WAY, DAILY CATCHES OF FISHERMEN/WOMEN DON'T DECREASE AS THEY EXPLOIT OTHER FISHING SITES.



AT RE-OPENING OF THE LOCAL CLOSURE

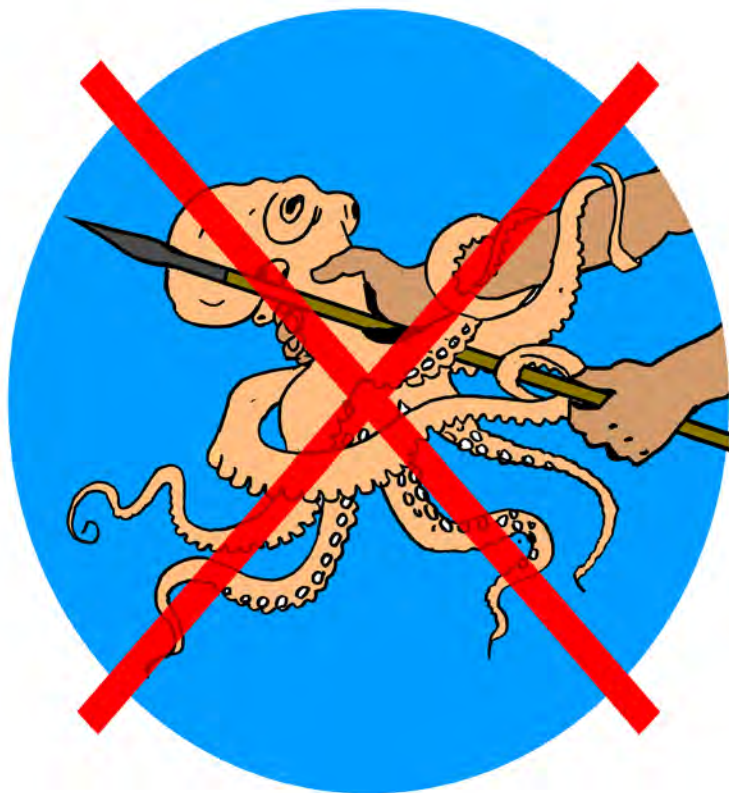
IF THE CLOSURE HAS BEEN RESPECTED (NO POACHING), CATCHES CAN REACH UP TO TEN OCTOPUSES PER FISHERMEN/WOMEN DURING THE OPENING DAY, THAT HE/SHE CAN SELL FOR 20,000 AR.



**MONEY EARNED BY SELLING OCTOPUSES
AT THE LOCAL CLOSURE RE-OPENING,
ALLOWS A LOT OF THINGS TO BE BOUGHT**

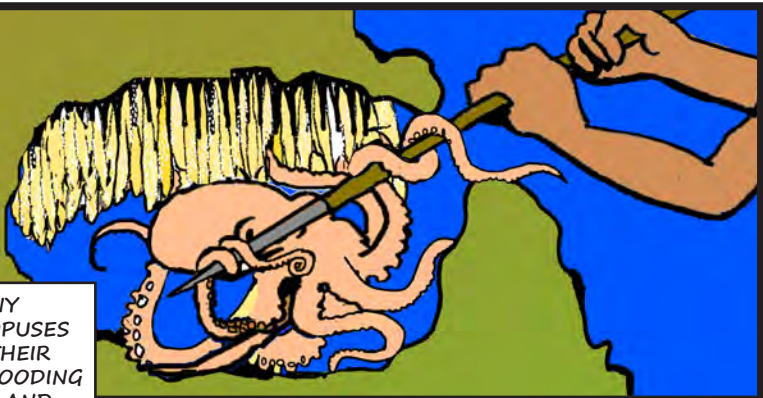


EVERY YEAR, OCTOPUS FISHERY IS CLOSED
FOR A MONTH AND A HALF ON MADAGASCAR'S
WESTCOAST: IT IS THE NATIONAL CLOSURE




ACCORDING TO LAW 1637/2005: FISHING OCTOPUS, REGARDLESS
OF THE METHOD EMPLOYED, IS BANNED, EVERY YEAR, BETWEEN
THE 15TH OF DECEMBER AND THE 31ST OF JANUARY ALONG
MADAGASCAR'S WESTCOAST.


WHY CLOSE THE FISHERY DURING THIS PERIOD?



BECAUSE MANY FEMALE OCTOPUSES ARE LAYING THEIR EGGS AND BROODING IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY.



IF WE FISH THEM DURING THIS PERIOD, THEIR EGGS WON'T HATCH AND THERE WILL BE FEWER OCTOPUSES TO CATCH IN THE FUTURE.

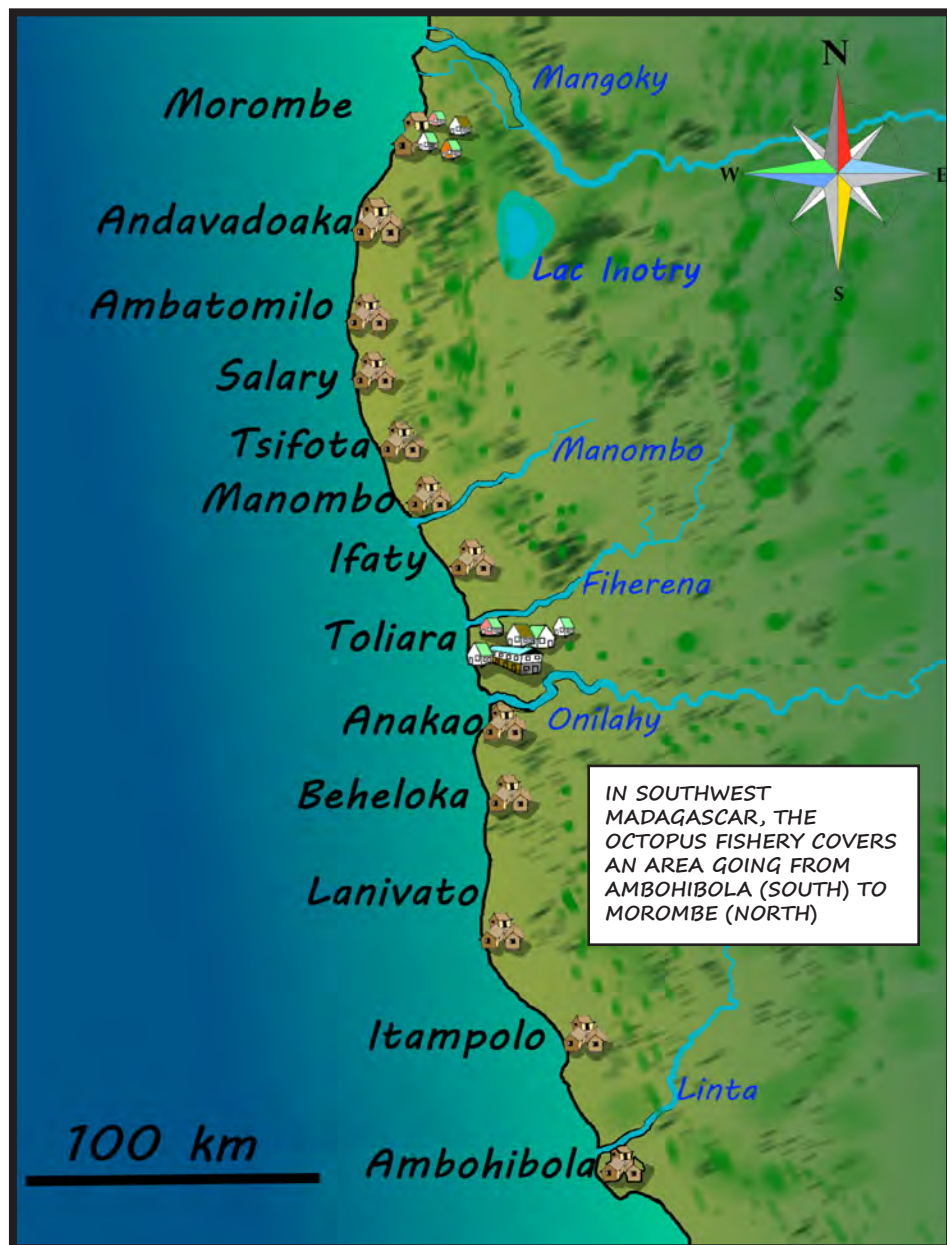


IF FEMALES ARE NOT CAUGHT, THEY WILL PRODUCE A LOT OF YOUNG OCTOPUSES THAT FISHERMEN WILL BE ABLE TO CATCH LATER, THUS INCREASING THE FISHERY PRODUCTIVITY.

TO INCREASE OCTOPUS FISHERY
PRODUCTIVITY, LET'S ESTABLISH
LOCAL CLOSURES AND RESPECT
THE NATIONAL CLOSURE!



AS IN THE CASE OF THE LOCAL CLOSURES, OCTOPUSES WILL
ALSO GROW IN SIZE AND NUMBER DURING THE NATIONAL
CLOSURE, AS FISHERS DON'T HARVEST THEM ANYMORE.
THEREFORE, THE CATCH WILL ALSO BE IMPORTANT AT
OPENING.



RE-OPENING OF THE LOCAL CLOSURES
OR OF THE NATIONAL CLOSURE.





PHOTO: GARTH CRIPPS



Photo: Garth Cripps

This booklet was funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), Helmsley Charitable Trust and the “Agence Malgache de la Pêche et de l’Aquaculture” (AMPA). The opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of DFID, Helmsley or AMPA.

This booklet is available to download: <http://mihari-network.org/how/>

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