

MIHARI

Madagascar's locally managed marine area network



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MIHARI
Locally-Managed Marine Area- Madagascar Network

www.mihari-network.org

Local fishers in control

Over hundreds of thousands of people depend on Madagascar's marine and coastal resources for their livelihoods, and the country's mangroves, coral reefs, beaches and seagrass beds are world-renowned for the biodiversity they host.

Given the importance of coastal fisheries for local people, the isolation of these communities and the low capacity for top-down management approaches, empowering local communities to make and enforce decisions about the use of their re-sources is now widely seen as the most effective way forward.

Locally managed marine areas

Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) are areas of ocean managed by coastal communities to help protect fisheries and safeguard marine biodiversity. In many tropical countries such as Fiji and Kenya, LMMAs have proven to be a cost-effective, scalable, resilient and socially acceptable solution to the challenges faced in managing marine resources. They have also shown promise as a means to safe-guard food security, address coastal poverty, and help coastal communities to adapt to climate change.

Madagascar's first LMMA was created in 2005 and the approach has since gained momentum among communities, government authorities and conservation organisations, with 64 (and counting) LMMAs to date. These LMMAs are found all over Madagascar and contain a rich diversity of marine and coastal environments – from offshore coral archipelagos to coastal mangrove forests – and a broad range of targeted fisheries and people relying on them.

How is it done?

The term LMMA, as used in Madagascar, encompasses all initiatives to manage marine and coastal environments where local communities are the driving force behind management.

LMMA governance

LMMAs use of a variety of legal structures to manage natural resources at a local level in Madagascar: the establishment of local customary laws (known as dina), community managed marine protected areas (IUCN categories V or VI, under Madagascar's protected area system), or areas where management has been transferred to local communities with legal contracts ("Gestion Locale Securisée" or GELOSE).



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The management tools in use:

- Permanent and temporary reserves and fishery closures
- Fishing gear restrictions – e.g. bans on beach seine nets
- Alternative livelihood initiatives such as aquaculture
- Mangrove forest restoration management



MIHARI: networking coastal communities

Peer-to-peer learning is a highly effective tool for building local capacity and confidence for fisheries management and catalysing the adoption of community-led conservation efforts. With this in mind, in June 2012, 55 community members representing 18 LMMAs throughout Madagascar came together to share their experiences at Madagascar's first national LMMA forum. This ground breaking meeting resulted in the creation of a national LMMA network called MIHARI, an acronym for MItantana HArena andRanomasina avy eny Ifotony, that translates to "Marine resources management at the local level".

The cornerstone of this network is regular meetings of LMMA representatives from throughout Madagascar, providing an invaluable opportunity to share experiences, explore common issues and develop collaborative solutions face-to-face.

The MIHARI network now includes 150 communities, organised into 64 discrete management associations distributed around the coast of Madagascar.



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What's next?

- ‰ Facilitate continued learning exchanges between LMMA communities, as well as other opportunities to build community capacity
- ‰ Ensure effective government engagement in local marine management
- ‰ Develop simple systems to track and monitor progress in the implementation of LMMAs across Madagascar
- ‰ Explore options to secure the financial sustainability of LMMAs, and the MIHARI network
- ‰ Develop a sustainable and participative network structure with effective communication between members
- ‰ Firmly establish the MIHARI network in Madagascar by increasing visibility at the local, regional and national levels
- ‰ Engage with the LMMA movement worldwide, learning from experiences in other areas.

>7,250km²

of marine and coastal
habitat is now under local
management – 11 % of
Madagascar's coastal shelf

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This is nearly a third larger
than the total marine
area under Madagascar's
national parks system

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About MIHARI:

MIHARI is a partnership initiative between the following main partner institutions and local communities engaged in marine resource management in Madagascar. Funding for the development of the network comes from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.



MacArthur
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For further information or to discuss
partnership opportunities please contact:



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