

## General Assembly of the MIHARI network

Fort-Dauphin, Madagascar – July 2017

### Motion – Regulation of fishing gear

Considering that the majority of coastal communities in Madagascar practice fishing as a subsistence activity and that this activity is based on small-scale fishing methods,

Considering the concerns of small-scale fishers about declining catches, particularly linked to the degradation of marine ecosystems and to increased fishing pressure, stemming from both industrial and community-based activities,

Considering that the use of non-regulatory and destructive fishing gear and methods (beach seine, mosquito nets, harpoons, cyanide) contributes to this degradation,

Emphasizing that small-scale fishers cannot always invest in the purchase of regulatory fishing gear due to the distance of suppliers and their low purchasing power

Stressing that resource degradation and the limited number of alternative economic activities to fisheries are driving coastal communities to exploit marine resources by any method available to them including unsustainable and non-regulatory methods,

Noting that for all these reasons, many small-scale fishers misuse some equipment not intended for fishing such as mosquito nets and condoms,

Stressing that the enforcement of the legislation on fishing gear is not fully effective due to insufficient resources of the authorities and difficulties encountered in the registration and application of *dina*,

Welcoming the efforts already made by the competent authorities in dialogue with the communities concerned and the supporting NGOs, particularly at the regulatory level,

Stressing that the situation remains worrying and that speeding up actions on this subject is necessary to avoid serious consequences for the food security of the concerned population,

**The leaders of the local communities managing marine resources in Madagascar, gathered for the General Assembly within the framework of the National Forum of the MIHARI network from 27 to 31 July 2017 in Fort Dauphin, ask:**



### **The government of Madagascar:**

- 1) to continue the efforts already made to implement the regulations applicable to the industrial fishing sector,
- 2) to promote the effective implementation of community-based control and surveillance measures through effective collaboration and coordination between Centre de Surveillance des Pêches (CSP) staff and trained community workers,
- 3) to take measures to facilitate the access of community fishers to regulatory fishing gears with a low impact on ecosystems (demonstrated by specific studies) at reasonable prices,
- 4) to increase transparency regarding the destination of the illegal fishing gear seized (for example, diving cylinders) and the applicable procedures,
- 5) to issue guidelines for the use of distributed gears (habitats, seasons, target species).

### **The actors within the health sector in Madagascar (Ministry of Health, NGOs and other institutions):**

- 1) to collaborate with organizations in the environmental sector to ensure coherence of initiatives and maximize synergies and impacts within the context of "People-Health-Environment (PHE)" partnerships,
- 2) to collaborate with NGOs supporting locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) and community representatives in cross-sectoral information and awareness campaigns for communities, including messages about the negative impact of mosquito net use on the marine ecosystem and food security,
- 3) to systematically consider the risks of misuse of health materials, particularly in the small-scale fisheries sector,
- 4) to select only the types of mosquito net considered as unusable for fishing in any calls for tenders, and to recover the old models,
- 5) to communicate upstream with marine conservation organizations and LMMAs so that they can prepare themselves to collaborate in an appropriate manner.

### **The donors:**

- 1) to put the development of alternative livelihood activities as a priority before the distribution of fishing gears, in order to diversify the sources of income, reduce pressure on natural resources and reduce the risk of misuse of the so-called sustainable fishing gears distributed,



- 2) to give priority within the fisheries sector to the replacement of unsustainable and non-regulated gears with appropriate gears, permitting demonstrated sustainable small-scale fishing practices and the sustainability of resources,
- 3) regarding equipment-distribution programmes, to take into account the environmental issues and risks of misuse of materials such as mosquito nets and condoms, in particular by raising awareness amongst beneficiaries, ensuring adequate follow-up and requiring calls for tender to select mosquito nets that cannot be used as fishing gear,
- 4) to capitalize on past experiences with the distribution of fishing gear and its adverse effects and no longer support the distribution of any fishing gear, without conducting an experimental fishery in the beneficiary zone by fisheries scientists (particularly selectivity studies and estimation of accessory catch and bycatch),
- 5) to support the Government of Madagascar and NGOs in carrying out the activities mentioned in this resolution.

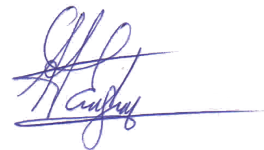
#### **The NGOs supporting LMMAs:**

- 1) to continue and strengthen campaigns to raise awareness among communities about the damage caused by destructive fishing gear,
- 2) to give priority to the development of food-production alternatives before the distribution of more and/or new fishing gear that often present unpredictable/uncontrollable risks of misuse and impacts on ecosystems,
- 3) when appropriate, to conduct and support scientific studies and experimental fisheries which must precede any distribution of fishing gear,
- 4) to support the MRHP in issuing guidelines for the use of distributed fishing gear (habitats, seasons, target species),
- 5) to help ensure the control and monitoring of equipment-distribution initiatives (involving fishing equipment or materials likely to be used for fishing) by all stakeholders, in collaboration with communities and authorities,
- 6) to facilitate the development, ratification and application of *dina* concerning fishing methods,
- 7) to support the establishment of community systems for the monitoring, control and surveillance of offences related to non-regulatory fishing gear and practices under national law or *dina*,
- 8) to liaise with the competent authorities if non-regulatory fishing gear is used, in accordance with the procedures in force.



**For their part, the representatives of the local marine resource management communities pledge to work with all the communities to:**

- 1) include in the *dina* the ban of the use of mosquito nets for non-regulatory fishing activities,
- 2) accelerate efforts to eradicate non-regulatory and non-sustainable use of materials and practices by small-scale fishers.



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