Title: Implementation of a national database on locally managed marine areas as a tool to support Madagascar's small scale fisheries

Authors:
Presenting author:
Ratsimbazafy Prisca
database@mihari-network.org
Database Officer, MIHARI Network, Madagascar

Second Author:
Hobilalaina Benjamin
benjamin@mihari-network.org
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, MIHARI Network, Madagascar

The MItantana HArena an-dRanomasina avy eny Ifotony (MIHARI) network was created in 2012 to address the isolation and challenges faced by the country's small-scale fishing communities within Madagascar's Locally-Managed Marine Areas (LMMA), and to support locally led marine conservation. For years, very little information about these LMMAs has been available. However, these data are crucial in order to give them suitable support and promote peer-to-peer learning. In 2017, MIHARI set up a national LMMA database to address this need. Data are collected online from MIHARI's partner NGOs who support LMMAs, and are being checked and validated by the network. For clarity, confidentiality and transparency in the collection and use of the data, two documents were framed: a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between MIHARI and each NGO, and a community agreement between MIHARI and each LMMA. To date, over 200 LMMAs have been registered in the first wave of data collection. The database contains the names and locations of each LMMA, how and when they were founded, their support NGO, their governance mechanism, and their alternative livelihood activities. This presentation will introduce the database and the online visualization of the data that has been developed for different audiences. We will discuss the challenges faced during the development of the LMMA database, from getting data forms filled effectively by partners to elaborating a dynamic visualization. Despite the challenges, we will also discuss how the creation of an LMMA database and visuals will be an important tool to unite LMMAs, empower them in local management of marine resources, and foster lesson learning and information sharing across the network. Moreover, we will highlight its replicability by all countries with LMMAs or similar community associations.