

Protection And Valuation Of The Whales And Dophins By The Local Community In The Municipalities Of Anakao, Soalara Sud And Saint Augustin, Southwest Of Madagascar

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Submission:

Marine mammals, like many other organisms, are exploited in the waters of Madagascar. For a long time, cetaceans are also hunted and consumed by the Malagasy traditional fishermen in almost coast of the island, specially the Vezo tribe (one ethnic situated in SW region of Mcar). One village called Anakao, situated in south of Toliara town in SW of Madagascar is among of the professional small cetacean hunter. Our previous studies using interviews reveled that more than 10 000 dolphins have been killed in the village between 1974 and 2005.

In 2007, WCS, MNP and IHSM organized one workshop in order to discuss and create cetacean conservation plan in three municipalities the same fishing area and validate one action plan for the protection of the cetacean including whale and dolphin watching communities based.

Therefore, one year after (in 2008), one association protector of the whales and dolphins (or FMTF) has been created in the three municipalities: Anakao is the base of the association and the two others Soalara and Saint Augustin which are the same fishing area of Anakao

Method

- Elaboration of local laws (DINA): Discussion with all stakeholders and communities
- Awareness raising (song competition, panels, tee shirt) transmitting the best conservation messages.
- Training (education) at Scholl and kids teaching them the importance of cetacean
- Training and creating whales and dolphins communities-based

Results

- Creation of communities association for the protection of whales and dolphins (FMTF)
- Elaboration of local laws (DINA) which have 34 articles inside of the Dina of FMTF included 21 articles concerning protection et 13 articles of codes of conducts for whales watching.
- There is anymore direct small cetacean hunting activities in the area
- The whales and dolphins watching communities-based started to be developed locally

Conclusion

- Hunting and by-catch exists in almost of coast of Madagascar ;
- There is a lack of conservation strategy plan in Madagascar;
- The FMTF is the first community association aimed specifically for the protection of the cetacean in Madagascar
- This association needs to be supported for its conservation plan and whale watching community based development
- The conservation of marine mammals needs to be reinforced not only in this region and almost of the coast of Madagascar
- Needs the financial support of the fundraising to the problem of the marine mammals in Madagascar