



Morondava, 16 July 2019

Subject: Creation of a regional platform for discussion and consultation for the crab sector in Madagascar's Menabe region

Last year, the [MIHARI Network](#), with the support of [Blue Ventures](#) and [WWF](#), in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries, organised regional and national workshops to better promote the responsible management of mangrove crab, *Scylla serrata*. One of the recommendations validated in Morondava by all the stakeholders concerned the establishment of a regional platform for discussion and consultation, in order to improve collaboration and coordination between all stakeholders in the crab sector.

Civil society organisations, crab fishers, commercial operators, financial partners, researchers, authorities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), all gathered within the same platform. This is the result of a process initiated in the Menabe Region in February 2019, as part of the Sustainable Coastal Fisheries (PCD) project funded by the German Development Bank (KfW) and coordinated by Madagascar National Parks (MNP).

As a result of the workshops, which were conducted in a participatory and transparent manner, the first official meeting of the new platform, the Menabe Crab Fishery Management Group (GGFC Menabe), took place on July 16, 2019.

It agreed on a realistic and reasonable list of five main objectives:

- Reduction of post-harvest losses, improvement of quality and traceability of crab catches
- Ensure all actors in the crab fishing sector have the necessary permits and papers
- Establishment of communication channels between actors
- Increase area of well managed mangroves
- Raise the standards of fishing and small business management by providing essential training and materials for crab fishers

A series of tasks to achieve these five goals was also discussed to ensure that these goals will be achieved in the coming months and years.



The platform has set the following operating principles to ensure it is functional and sustainable include:

- A three-year mandate for the platform, with clear roles and responsibilities for its members: fishers, commercial operators (fishmongers, collectors), NGOs, relevant authorities at the local, regional and national level, and civil society groups;
- A meeting of the members of the committee once a quarter to take stock of progress and possible blockages of different activities;
- Hold two General Assemblies per year.

Among the next steps that await the GGFC Menabe platform are to:

- Produce a summary of the exchanges of July 16th, particularly with regard to the priority tasks, the structural suggestions and the principles of operationalisation of the committee;
- Organise a joint communication at the national level on the creation and the mandate of this committee;
- Coordinate a meeting by mid-September to discuss the status and steps of the platform.

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