

**AIDE MEMOIRE**  
**MEETING ON THE WHALES EVENT in ANTISOHIHY – la LOZA BAY**

**Date: July 07 , 2008 – 4:25 p.m**

**Location: Conference room MINENVEFT Tsimbazaza**

**Attendees: Following entities are represented**

- **MINENVEFT** Ministry of Environment, Water & Forest and Tourism : Directeur de Cabinet, Charge de Mission (Tsilavirany)
- **Observatoire National de l'Environnement**
- **OMNIS** : Adjoint DH
- **ONE**: Directeur EIE
- **NGO's**: WCS, CI (Tovo Rasolofoharivelo) , WWF (Andy Rabemanantsoa)
- **CSP**: Tiana Randriambola
- **ExxonMobil** (3) : DG, Operations Manager s & Environment Consultant
- **USAID** (2): (Lisa Gaylord) and Environment Program Officer

## **Situation**

### **FIELD WORK**

1. Further to last meeting and recent observation, this meeting was to report intervention findings of light team (a change from heavy team : heavy team = rescue observation). No whales found.
2. since the concern is related to whales present which are difficult to capture , light team was adopted and created to just monitor (called biological) along la Loza river and the bay.
3. Since June 30, observations are made to precise findings in the river and at the bay.
4. Observation sites : Ankihibato (where there are more fishermen) ; Andamoty (a key village during the rescue period); Ampahakabe (grand lake, where whales were pushed in); Antafiabaky (which is a previous ferry harbour or terminal)
5. Team was composed of 3 observers (from Philippe Robient team plus 5 persons at the villages
6. All observers received observation forms and cell phones
7. 1 boat ensured the link between observation sites
8. coordination was ensured by Norbert (WCS scientist)
9. Observations were made along transects in the grand lake : June 30 : first set up; July 1: first transect and July 4:second transect
10. findings : no electra dolphin whales were found but a group of 10 – 20 “dauphins a bosses” has been observed between Andamoty and the grand lake of which mangroves are used to be their normal and current habitat
11. First Monitoring will end July 9 (last transect)

### **REPORT AND INFORMATION COLLECT**

12. CNRO : have sent their preliminary report
13. IOGA (Institut d'Observation Geophysique d'Antananarivo) : have sent their preliminary report
14. INSTITUT PASTEUR: results received , not yet opened
15. APMF: have sent their preliminary report
16. ONE: have sent their preliminary report
17. WCS: have provided their report
18. from CSP, local Vet, Meteo, IFAW : still expected to be available in week of July 7, 2008
19. IFAW will be reminded to provide their results as soon as possible

### Discussions:

- Lisa Gaylor had a meeting with ONE: it is like a puzzle. All submitted reports need to put together and we need to assess whether any report is lacking or supplemental data is required. During their meeting, ONE explained the ONE procedure how to respond to a similar event. The goal is to get impartial objective. DG ONE is willing to work with international experts, but it is important to know the composition of the interpretation expert panel or so called independent reviewers, also important to integrate some private sectors in. NOAA experts' advice could be necessary to give ad hoc committee an idea of available and/or required qualification and expertise.
- How to set up the independent panel? Since the analysis and investigation results would be broadly discussed.
- The schedule would depend on the analysis results and information report availability; at least one week is required prior to the interpretation started, as the panel has to identify the missing information. Interpretation period could be 30 days.
- TOR of the independent panel should :
  1. be drafted under collaboration with Experts in various field (biology, acoustic, etc.)
  2. approved by the Government based on suggestions asked from and drafted by various Experts

To handle this event there is a matter of phasing

- Phase 1: rescue
- Phase 2: necropsies, sampling, analysing
- Phase 3: interpretation

Now, the ad hoc committee meeting and ongoing work is between phase 2 and phase 3

### FORWARD ACTIONS

- A. a drafting Unit within the ad hoc committee will draft the communiqué to the Government and the other members have to validate or to clear.
- B. ad hoc committee will :
  - a. provide a report on basis of collected information and reports : in this report the ad hoc committee will recommend the government on the pertinence of getting independent panel for phase 3, lead the government on necessity to elaborate TOR of this panel
  - b. keep collecting information as required by the independent panel
- C. Need to collect recommendations from Experts and to get from them, if possible, a TOR model.
- D. Independent panel will start working upon set up. It will work on behalf of ad hoc committee

**Next meeting for reduced committee or Drafting Unit** (composed of Dir Cab MEEFT, DG ANGAP, DG ONE, DG MAEP, Dir Fisheries, DG OMNIS , DH MEM ,...) on Thursday July 10, 2008 at 04:00 p.m to draft communiqué to the Government : write technical, administrative and financial report related to whales rescue and include recommendation for the next phase i.e pertinence of an interpretation committee creation, and relevance of TOR elaboration of the interpretation committee and definition of the structure with respect to ad hoc committee (link or hierarchy between independent panel and ad hoc committee).

Next Meeting of the "ad hoc committee" to validate the draft will be confirmed later on.