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

Date: June 20, 2008 – 4:20 p.m
Location: Conference room MINENVEFT Tsimbazaza
Attendees: Following entities are represented

- **MINENVEFT** Ministry of Environment, Water & Forest and Tourism **:** Directeur de Cabinet
- **MAEP:**
- **Observatoire National de l'Environnement**
- **MEM**: directeur des Hydrocarbures
- **ANGAP**: DG
- **ONE**: Directeur EIE and Dir SF
- **NGO's**:, WCS,
- **ExxonMobil** (3) : Operations Manager, Logistics Supervisor & Environment Consultant

Situation

FIELD WORK

- No improvement on whales' situation. The approach is changed because whales are exhausted and its number is getting reduced. During last two days, attempt is to bring them back to Analalava, not pushing them. It took one hour to put them back into the sea
- 4 whales put back in the sea.
- 9 whales found in the grand lake (Andamoty village)
- 4 boats are used; the most powerful boat is no more available.
- Local fishermen keep transmitting information while finding mammals in the river and the bay;
- Final counting: 58 whales died, 5 found in the bay, (still alive among 30 which was alive last week -June 10)
- Materials of local Vet used during sampling operations have been replaced .

- Samples for necropsies: 28 tissues – 5ml; 26tissues – 2ml; 1 tube – 60ml; 17 tube plastic and 6 tube plastic
- Sampled before Experts arrival: Tissues collected by local Vet (Zafera Eugene); sample has been sent but no description (50% sent overseas and 50 %deposited at Institut Pasteur for analysis).

Budget:

1. Expenses advanced by Sofia Region have been presented by Chef de Region on June 19, related to 17 days intervention. There is a problem of reality and authenticity of the invoices (duration of intervention? one signature repeated 10 times?) Total expenses amount = Ariary 8 908 200 (?)
   Fuel expenses are more or less acceptable though it is referenced as 1 boat consumed 150liters per day. The Chef de Region took back with him the expenses report and all invoices.
   Ad hoc Committee has to approve those expenses.
2. Contributors to SOS bank Account :

ENTITIES	AMOUNT in ARIARY
EXXONMOBIL	48 000 000
ONE	20 000 000
JOVENNA	2 000 000
ROC OIL	10 000 000
TOTAL	**80 000 000**

No payment done so far.

DATA AND INFORMATION COLLECT

1. from CNRO : contact Toussaint oceanographic parameters
2. from IOGA : data available for period 22 May – 22 June will be received by WCS
3. from CSP: fishing materials will be analysed before sending the data to ad hoc committee
4. from INSTITUT PASTEUR: analysis results are expected during first week of July, 2008
5. from APMF: information related to all boat and vessel movements between 25 May and 22 June expected on first week of July

FORWARD ACTIONS

6. According to Experts recommendation to continue the rescue operations and ensure observation, the idea of renting an airplane for aerial survey was raised up and discussed but finally it was agreed just to put local observers / fishermen who has to transmit all observation findings to Sofia Region. An inquiry team will be created in collaboration with Sofia Region. Observers Groups have to check whether whales are still there. Each group is composed of 3- 4 persons of which 1 WCS plus 2 or 3 local villagers; set up in each of 4 sites (grand lake, Analalava, Befotaka and around Antsohihy);
   They need boats and cell phones.
   The Chef de Region is the Responsible of the monitoring/ observation
   WCS is the Coordinator.
   Monday June 23, rescue works must be over.
7. Government has to send letter to thank WCS, IFAW etc… and other contributors; Prudence is necessary for the Government and International as well as national experts with respect to communication related to this type of event.
8. First week of July: results from Experts are expected. Laboratories have not to interpret. Experts have not to interpret. A National Interpretation Committee will be created comprising Scientists to interpret all results; they may find out any required supplemental data or information. The composition of this Committee will be defined by the Governement based on ad hoc committee proposal.

Next Meeting: June 27 at 04:00 p.m