

AIDE MEMOIRE

MEETING ON THE WHALES EVENT in ANTISOHIHY – la LOZA BAY

Date: June 27 , 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
- **Observatoire National de l'Environnement**
- **OMNIS** : Adjoint DH
- **NGO's** : WCS,
- **ExxonMobil** (3) : DG, Operations Manager s & Environment Consultant
- **USAID and President of Donors group** (Lisa Gaylord)

Situation

FIELD WORK

1. WCS technicians ensured fieldwork till June 23.
2. Situation: in total 75 whales died, 18 rescued by WCS recently; 10 – 15 whales still alive, exhausted in the bay. It is difficult to capture them, in spite of use of every available resource;
3. 4 boats are being used during this work;
4. Local communities are participating to the recent rescue and are asked to bring to the Sofia Region any related information with respect to first beaching or stranding whales;
5. WCS are a drain on resources (staff, means and financial);
6. WCS is pleaded to come back and continue biological monitoring
7. Local vet has been asked by the Sofia Region to send tissues samples to WCS for overseas analysis; the samples are deposited (2nd consignment) at DHL Antananarivo which is waiting for a green light from DHL USA and CITES Procedure clearance
8. a monitoring system must be set up

REPORT AND INFORMATION COLLECT

9. from CNRO : oceanographic parameters before the whales occurrence and during rescue period
10. from IOGA (Institut d'Observation Geophysique d'Antananarivo) : data will be emailed to WCS ? adhoc committee during first week of July (July 1 – 5) 2008;
11. from CSP: analysis is on going with respect to fishing materials used by fishing boat which captured 30 T sharks during 2nd fortnight of May.
12. from INSTITUT PASTEUR: samples are deposited for analysis, resultd will be available on Monday June 30, 2008
13. from APMF: no response since letter has been sent , need to remind them next week

FORWARD ACTIONS

14. WCS and International experts team : decided to stop rescue, provide a report to the Ad hoc committee
15. WCS will set up an shore observation team composed of 2 technicians and 1 driver to monitor) for 10 days along the river. From three sites (Antsohihy port, Andamoty village, the big river lake and Analalava port). They will make their observation every 2- 3 days along a transect set up on a scientific procedure
16. WCS will report rescue fieldwork including related financial statement
17. Ad hoc Committee will write a letter to Experts to remind them to provide their reports on a due date;
18. upon receipt of all data / information / reports, it is timely to create the "interpretation commission" (the ad hoc committee has not to interpret any data) ad hoc committee role is
 - to rescue the whales

- to get from experts identification of probable cause of the event
19. ExxonMobil has provided to ONE their report
 20. ONE has done a report based on CTE observers present in the boat and ExxonMobil report
 21. Experts explanation: they are not able to determine the cause; they would need to examine the first animals died or found on first day (May 31 ou June 1), which had been sampled by the local Vet. Those could be a great element to find out why and come to a conclusion. (Those animals are buried 12 days ago). Because Animals found after June 1 could have cumulative and/or conjugated reasons to die or to behave as such.
 22. As per conversation with DG ANGAP at the end of the meeting (5:45p.m), the meeting has started at 2:30p.m instead of 5:00 (ExxonMobil was not informed of any schedule change).