



# DECLARATION OF ANJA

FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES MANAGING NATURAL RESOURCES  
FOR AN EFFICIENT GOUVERNANCE AND A SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES BASED ON THE VALUES OF THE FOKONOLONA

*Created in Anjà on Tuesday May 22nd, 2012, at 9:00 pm, the Network of the Fokonolona which managing natural Resources or TAFI MIHAATO, which gathers the 482 Local communities in 17 Regions of Madagascar, makes the following declaration:*



## *Through the history of Madagascar, the **Fokonolona** have always taken their **responsibilities***

The Fokonolona, the social structure based on Malagasy values, are the most stable, well-established and durable structure that the Malagasy communities accept, especially when the country undergoes a crisis. Neither colonization nor the successive regimes could erase it. The Fokonolona stand as

the foundation of sustainable management according to the successive constitutions. The Fokonolona guarantee also a sustainable natural resources management.

The objective of the TANTEZA law (GELOSE or GESTion LOcale SEcurisée),

issued in 1996, is to restore the official recognition of the community-based management of natural resources. Madagascar is the first country in Africa to have done so in the field of Environment. Around 1000 based organization have signed their contract of management transfer until now.

## ***Local communities** are **efficient** actors in natural resources management and are a mainstay of the basic structures sustainable development*

According to the latest assessment (Consortium, MEF, 2011), by taking their responsibilities, the local communities have reduced slash-and-burning as well as bushfires inside and outside protected areas (70% according to the research), increased reforested surfaces will a well managed the soil, the water and the coral reefs. They made it possible to manage illegal exploitations

and to build the capacity of the Fokonolona in managing and monitoring natural resources. Concerned household have developed food security and economic activities in harmony with the sustainable management of natural resources (68 -94%).

Successes of some local communities were recognized worldwide such as the 3 Equator Prize winners. They spread

efforts to attain organizational and financial autonomy for the natural resources management and they own local development.

# There are many **challenges** ....

Yet, the local communities are undergoing serious problems and Malagasy natural Resources are threatened and subjected to severe damages because of these obstacles that they meet such as:

- **The lack of power** and means which puts the Fokonolona in a weak position when they take their responsibilities in front of those who have more power and authority than them ;
- **The incoherence between the different laws** which rule the exploitation and the protection of the mining, forest, halieutic, marine and other natural resources ;
- **The unfair sharing out of the benefits** provided by natural Resources;
- **The dependency of many families** upon natural resources in their subsistence which makes social disciplines difficult to be respected.



## ...so the situation **must inevitably change**

*Among all our tasks, we TAFO MIHAAVO shall give the priority to the setting up and the implementation of a national strategy related to the grass-roots governance and management of natural Resources based on Fokonolona.*

- **The vision of the network up to 2020 is to achieve a clean Environment and fairly managed natural resources**, as levers for a sustainable development.
- That will be **based on responsible, efficient and independent Fokonolona**, respected by all according to their power, capacity and values that they own;
- The transfer of management alone is no longer enough. A system in which **power and responsibilities are shared between the authorities, the local communities**, the private sector and the civil society must be **set up for the sake of a good governance**;
- For instance, the Fokonolona must be able to register a complaint against those who plunder the natural Resources, whoever they are, so that they will be punished by the concerned, independent, impartial and appropriate court;
- **The local communities will set up the running system and the management plan of the land they are responsible for**;
- They will directly take as their own, in collaboration with the stake-holders, the **management of the environment, the activities for their and those to improve the standard of living** in general;
- **The law ruling the Fokonolona, the GELOSE law and the MECIE** (Mise en Compatibilité des Investissements avec l'Environnement) **edict must be reviewed** to make some coherence between exploitation and Environment, to allow anybody to use, manage and get equitable benefits from the land and the Malagasy natural resources;
- The local communities will **share experiences and communicate transparently at the local, national and international levels** to make proposals and to immediately implement what falls into their responsibilities for a rapid progress.

*Consequently, we grass-roots structures and communities who manage natural Resources declare that we carry on taking the responsibility to develop and implement the national policies and strategies, and the implementation plan related to those, as key actors in the natural resources management and the sustainable development of Madagascar.*

*To all of us responsible for and actors of sustainable development,*

# *let us go for it together!*

