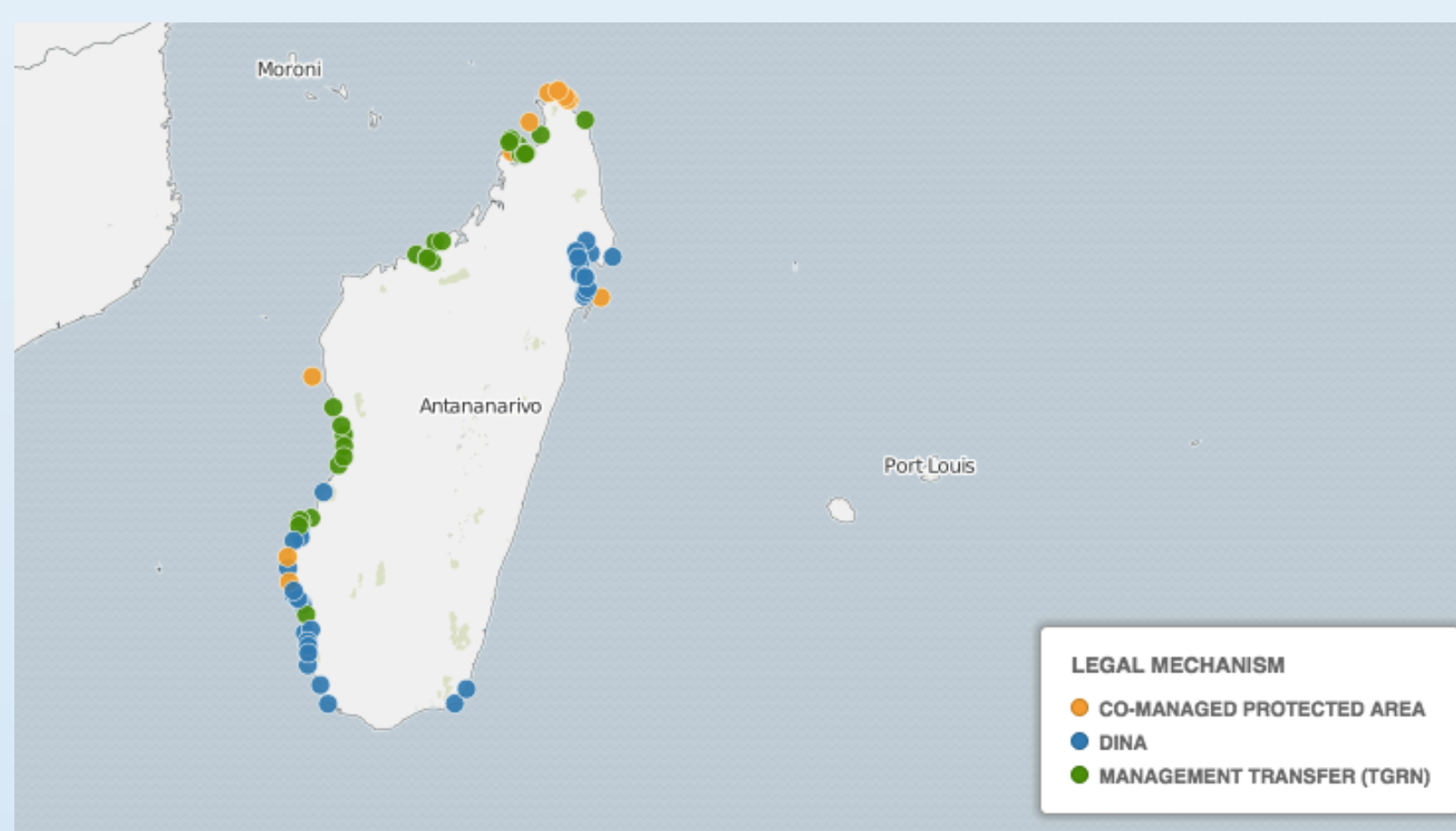


## Project Summary

The MIHARI network of locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) was established in 2012 to provide a platform to support and represent Madagascar's rapidly-growing network of community-managed marine and coastal protected areas. The platform now comprises >100 LMMAs throughout the north, west and southern coasts of Madagascar, and as such provides a valuable framework for engaging with communities across a full cross section of Madagascar's marine and coastal environments. The MIHARI network of community-managed marine conservation sites is being used to collect information about, and raise awareness of, both dugongs and seagrass habitats in the Malagasy coastal zone whilst also serving as a conduit for positive social change with respect to seagrass and marine biodiversity conservation.



## Main Activities

Facilitate networking and learning exchanges between LMMAs associations.  
Raise awareness about importance of key habitats and species for marine resource management, including seagrass and dugongs.  
Pursue relevant opportunities to build community capacity and local leadership.  
Ensure fishers' voices are heard by policy makers.  
Engage closely with the Government of Madagascar to ensure a strong and supportive legal framework for local marine management.  
Develop simple systems for tracking and monitoring progress of LMMAs across Madagascar.  
Explore options for securing the financial sustainability of LMMAs and the MIHARI network.  
Communicate the impact of LMMAs in Madagascar to key stakeholders.

## Results

Five priority sites for seagrass and dugong conservation have been selected in the north west of Madagascar: Nosy Faly (Ambanja), Ankazomborona (Ambilobe), Analalava, Ampasindava and Anjajavy (both north of Mahajanga).

MoUs signed for collaboration with key NGO partners.

An education and awareness day was organised during the MIHARI Regional forum in Nosy Hara, Diego, in July 2017. The event was co-organized with C3 and MNP Nosy Hara and attended by over 70 people (LMMMA members, regional authorities and NGOs).

Public awareness on the importance of dugongs and seagrass during Madagascar's third national days of fisheries and aquaculture in September 2017.



MIHARI was invited to the dugong festival at Nosy Hara



Celebrating protection of dugongs at the festival



Group workshop at NW regional forum



Eric, an LMMMA leader, being interviewed



Sketch, created by C3, on importance of dugongs

## Next Steps & Lessons Learned

Lessons learned: Local leaders have been identified at the 5 priority sites who will be involved in the participatory mapping training sessions, so they can support the MIHARI team across many activities and also act as focal points for the project within each of the villages. Collaborating with the other national partners in this project has allowed MIHARI to learn from their experiences and share materials and tools.

Next steps: Develop educational and awareness-raising tools and materials. Training in participatory mapping to 15 fisher representatives from each priority sites in NW Madagascar. Organization of a national dugong festival in the NW, gathering all 6 project partners.

## About Our Organization

The MIHARI network is a partnership initiative between the NGOs and local communities engaged in marine resource management in Madagascar. The MIHARI network supports Madagascar's LMMMA managers in four major areas: building local leadership, sharing best practice, securing financial sustainability and making small-scale fishers' voices heard. The MIHARI network currently includes 150 communities, organised into 64 discrete management associations distributed around the coast of Madagascar.