Community-based sea cucumber farming
A sustainable alternative to fishing for southwest Madagascar

Through a unique public-private partnership, traditional fishers in southwest Madagascar are growing sea cucumbers for export. Blue Ventures provides technical support and training in small business management to farmers.

MARKET TRENDS
Sea cucumbers are a medicinal food in many Asian countries

- Increasing demand
- Decreasing wild stocks
- Increasing market prices

CYCLE

- 2-3 months: Juveniles produced IOT hatchery (microscopic -> 6-8mm)
- 2-3 months: Juveniles raised in grow out ponds by IOT (6-8mm – 15g)
- 10 months: BV supports communities to rear juveniles to maturity in near-shore pens in villages (15g -> 400g)
- $: Sold back to IOT for export

MODEL

- R&D 1999-2008: IH.SM, University of Brussels, University of Mons collaborate to build first hatchery, do field trials
- Replication 2012 - onward: New farming teams added in pilot villages and new villages. Goal to expand to 140 teams in 6 Villages by 2015

RISKS = predation by crabs and poaching

IMPACT

- 168 active farmers in 3 villages in Velondriake LMMA
- US$19 average monthly income of best farmers in 2013
- 48% farmers are women

In partnership with:

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