

## **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

## **MODEL**

R&D 1999-2008

**DEVELOPMENT** 2008 - 2011

**REPLICATION** 2012 - onward IH.SM, University of Brussels, University of Mons collaborate to build first hatchery, do field trials

Private sector spin-off, IOT, created. Industrial hatchery constructed. Village-based pilots by Blue Ventures and TransMad Developpement

New farming teams added in pilot villages and new villages. Goal to expand to 140 teams in 6 Villages by 2015

## **CYCLE**



Juveniles produced IOT hatchery (microscopic - > 6-8mm)



Juveniles raised in grow out ponds by IOT (6-8mm - 15g)



BV supports communities to rear juveniles to maturity in near-shore pens in villages (15g -> 400g)



Sold back to IOT for export



RISKS = predation by crabs and poaching

**IMPACT** 



active farmers in 3 villages in Velondriake LMMA



42,916 Ariary average monthly income of best farmers in 2013



