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**Western Indian Ocean Regional Science to  
Policy Workshop**

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**The Status And Function Of The National Data Center Of  
Madagascar - English  
(28 May 2019)**

WIO countries are facing accelerated degradation of their respective coasts: loss of terrestrial, marine and coastal biodiversity, degradation of ecosystems including coral reefs, erosion and/or retreat of the coasts, reduction of fisheries resources, degradation of infrastructures, pollution, invasive alien species, etc. These problems are due not only to the increase of human activities but also due to the current and expected climate changes: increased exposure to natural disasters and their consequences (cyclones, floods, drought ...), rising sea surface temperature, ocean acidification, strong winds ...

To prevent and manage the innumerable risks associated for the populations (health, activities, etc.) related to these issues, and to guarantee a harmonious and sustainable development of the concerned territories, it is essential to increase the sharing, the pooling and the co-building feedback and consistent tools for joint and harmonized management of resources and valorisation of natural heritage.

Madagascar has participated in several regional projects for collecting, sharing and disseminating data. In particular, the portal for sharing and dissemination of data under the Nairobi Convention, the ASCLME project, Report of State of Environmental and Outlook at the sub-regional level ... The problem is that these projects tend to produce documents and knowledge that are not sufficiently used in decision-making due to lack of appropriate tools.

The National Office for the Environment (ONE) has the mission, in terms of data and environmental information, to manage the environmental information system (EIS) and to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the state the environment for better decision-making at all levels.

The Environmental Dashboard (TBE) is a decision-making tool based on environmental indicators whose purpose is to generate and disseminate synthetic information that can be used to guide policies, assess the environmental impacts of different policies and to increase the awareness of stakeholders on environmental issues.

The availability of such a tool allows policy makers to adopt harmonized and coherent policies and strategies for sustainable development and the preservation of the environment and natural resources. It also helps environmental management and development projects to share and take advantage of the available knowledge in order to take into account environmental and social aspects.

My presentation will focus on the state and functions of the environmental information system of Madagascar and to what extent it can be valued at the level of the West-Indian Ocean Region: How are the state and evolution of the environment monitored in Madagascar ? In what legal and institutional framework? What tools and methodologies are used? What is the Environmental Dashboard? how are the indicators structured? What databases are we managing? I will also present the Environmental Data Atlas, which is a spatial data dissemination and interpretation portal.

Finally, I will talk about the crucial roles of up-to-date and relevant information that should inform the planning and identification of projects responding to real aspirations and based on local realities, to end with a discussion on the usefulness of a Regional Environmental Dashboard.

### **Bio Details For Laurent AMPILAHY**

*Géographe, Laurent AMPILAHY, 54 old years, married, 04 children, is the current Director General of the National Office for the Environment in Madagascar. With twenty years of professional experience in environment and sustainable development, he is one of the first national experts in environmental information governance and spatial information system. He is a specialist in the integration of the sustainable development approach into sectoral policies, plans and programs, the development of decision support tools and the communication in environmental policy and governance.*