

Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)
National Multi-Stakeholder Group (NMSG)
Department of Blue Economy, Maison Collet, Victoria
29th January 2024
11h00am

National Multi-Stakeholder Group Meeting Minutes

Date	29 th January 2024
Venue	CEPS Conference Room, Orion Mall
Time	11:00am

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Members Present	Mr. Philippe Michaud (PM)	Chair
	Ms. Kim Samy (KS)	FiTI National Secretariat, Department of Blue Economy
	Ms. Daniella Larue (DL)	2022 FiTI Report Compiler
	Marie-Therese Purvis (MP)	S4S/CEPS
	Mr. Robin Dogley (RD)	Aquarius
	Ms. Wilna Accouche (WA)	Green Island Foundation
	Mr. Roy Clarisse (RC)	Department of Fisheries
	Mr. Muditha	AFPES
	Mr. Rodney Nicole (RN)	Belombre Fishermen Association
	Mr. Selwyn Edmond (SE)	Seaward Co Ltd.
	Mr. Faizal Suleman (FS)	Glacis Fishermen Association
Mr. Antoine Marie Moustache (AM)	Nature Seychelles	

OBSERVERS

Other Members Present	Mr. Gervais Verlaque (GV)	Seychelles Maritime Academy
	Ms. Betty Victor (BV)	Seychelles Fishing Authority

	Ms. Julia Malbrook (JM)	Seychelles Fishing Authority	
	Mr. Yannick Memme (YM)	FiTI International Secretariat	
<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>			
Absent with Apologies	Honorable Regina Esparon (RE)	The Linyon Demokratik Seselwa Party (Government Party).	
	Honorable Wallace Cosgrow (WC)	(United Seychelles Opposition)	
	Mr. Cyril Bonnelame (CB)	Transparency Initiative	
A. Welcome words and notes by Chair			
		The Chair greeted and welcomed all members of the NMSG to the first NMSG Meeting of the year 2024.	
Agenda Item		Action	
B.	Confirmation of Minutes of last meeting and agenda.	1.0 The Chair called the meeting to order and all members confirmed the minutes from the last meeting. However, Mrs. Purvis noted that there are a few corrections to be made in the previous minutes.	Mrs. Purvis to provide corrections for the previous minutes of November 2023 Minutes.
C.	Presentation of new NMSG Members	2.0 Mrs. Purvis informed the committee that she is still awaiting an alternate from CEPS. Mrs. W. Accouche would soon provide who will be her alternate. Additionally, Mr. Dogley has been designated as the alternate for Mr. Tony Savy, both representing Aquarius. Mr. Suleman has been identified as the alternate, while Mr. Rodney Nicole remains the member.	Mrs. W. Accouche will confirm her alternate through email.

D.	Brief on Progress Report (Ms. Daniella Larue)	<p>Agenda Item 3: Progress Brief</p> <p>3.0 Commencement of Progress Brief: Mrs. D. Larue initiated the progress brief by outlining the key milestones for compiling the 2022 Report. She announced her intention to present the 1st Version of the draft report by February 2024.</p> <p>3.1 Summary Update: Mrs. D. Larue provided a summary update based on previous recommendations. Notably, she highlighted new publications on GOS websites and improved information on local fishery production, including updated information on license payments for small-scale fisheries in 2022, showcasing progress.</p> <p>3.2 FIMS Platform Update: Mrs. D. Larue mentioned the establishment of the Fisheries Information Management Platform (FIMS) online but noted that the information is not updated and does not meet FiTI standards yet.</p> <p>3.3 General Improvement in Fishery Information: Mrs. D. Larue emphasized the improved information on local fishery production, including complete fisheries statistics and stock assessment results on various fisheries.</p> <p>3.4 Progress in Legal Framework: Mrs. D. Larue highlighted progress in the legal framework for Joint Ventures, gap analysis on beneficial ownership, and updates to the Fisheries Act 2014.</p> <p>3.5 Enhanced Information and Timeliness:</p>	
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Mrs. D. Larue mentioned an increase in comprehensive information and improved timeliness of annual reports.

3.4 Update on 2022 Report:

Ms. J. Malbrook intervened, noting that the SFA Annual Report for 2022 is due this month, but finalization is ongoing.

3.5 Policy and Regulatory Information:

Public Registry of National Fisheries Laws, Regulations, and Official Policy Documents:

Mrs. D. Larue confirmed that all is well concerning policy and regulatory information.

3.6 Update on FAQ:

Fisheries Tenure Arrangements:

Mrs. D. Larue discussed the need to update the FAQ on the SFA website regarding Fisheries Tenure Arrangements due to changes in fees following negotiations of new fisheries agreements in 2022.

3.7 Proposal Regarding Fishing Permit Officers:

Mrs. D. Larue proposed publishing the names of all officers authorized to issue fishing permits, acknowledging challenges.

3.8 Agreement Update:

Foreign Fishing Access Agreements:

Mrs. D. Larue provided a brief on the need to update Foreign Fishing Access Agreements, citing new agreements signed in 2022.

3.9 Stock Assessment and Accessibility:

State of Fisheries Resources:

Mrs. D. Larue discussed the state of fisheries resource and flagged the Lobster Flyer 2022 for improved accessibility of scientific information to the public.

3.10 Lack of Laws for Outer Islands:

Mr. Nicole raised concerns about the absence of laws for lobster fishing in outer islands.

3.11 Registry Publication

Large-Scale Fisheries:

Mrs. D. Larue pointed out that the 2022 industrial vessel registry was not published on the SFA website, and information on the economic contribution of large-scale fishing was incomplete in the draft SFA annual report.

3.12 Issue with Artisanal Fisheries Information

Small-Scale Fisheries:

Mrs. D. Larue mentioned the lack of information for artisanal fisheries due to technical issues, and the failure to publish updated records of licenses and registered fishers in 2022 on the SFA’s website.

3.13 Employment Information

Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade:

Mrs. D. Larue highlighted the absence of reliable information on total employment in the fisheries sector.

3.14 Consultancy by MRAG:

Mr. R. Clarisse mentioned a consultancy done by MRAG.

	<p>3.15 Clarification on MRAG Consultancy:</p> <p>Mrs. D. Larue clarified that the figure provided by EMRI was not final and emphasized the need for accurate data.</p> <p>3.16 Update on IUU Fishing</p> <p>Fisheries Law Enforcement:</p> <p>Mrs. D. Larue highlighted the need for an update on IUU fishing and discussed media reports about workshops related to IUU fishing under the ECO fish project.</p> <p>3.17 Clarification on Workshop Reports:</p> <p>Ms. B. Victor clarified Ms. Daniella’s comment regarding workshop reports and mentioned ongoing review of the report by Eco Fish.</p> <p>3.18 Progress on Labour Standards</p> <p>Labour Standards:</p> <p>Mrs. D. Larue stated that there has not been much progress in this area.</p> <p>3.19 Informal Employment in Artisanal Fisheries:</p> <p>Mr. R. Clarisse referred to informal employment in artisanal fisheries, highlighting the absence of employment contracts for fishermen.</p> <p>3.20 Large-scale Fishers Intervention:</p> <p>Mr. Muditha suggested the Ministry of Employment should address the matter.</p> <p>3.21 Formal Approach Proposal:</p> <p>The Chair proposed formally approaching the Ministry of Employment to address the issue.</p>	<p>MOFBE should advocate for the Seychelles’ government to allocate resources to evaluate labour standards applicable in the fisheries sector.</p> <p>Write letter to Ministry of Employment</p>
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3.22 Issue with Subsidy Report

Fisheries Subsidies:

Mrs. D. Larue highlighted the absence of a comprehensive report on fisheries subsidies.

3.23 Website Downtime

Official Development Assistance (ODA):

Mrs. D. Larue mentioned the downtime of SWIOFish3 and Project Coordination Unit (PCU) websites, affecting access to overseas development systems.

3.24 Mention of ODA Projects:

Mrs. D. Larue mentioned that only two out of five ODA funded projects in Seychelles were mentioned on the website.

3.25 Query Regarding MSP:

Mr. R. Clarisse raised a question regarding the Marine Conservation Project's inclusion of the MSP.

3.26 Review of Website Information:

Mrs. D. Larue mentioned reviewing the MSP website and noted discrepancies in meeting FiTI standards.

3.27 Initiatives in 2022:

Beneficial Ownership:

Mrs. D. Larue discussed various initiatives undertaken in 2022, including a gap analysis and the development of legal frameworks.

3.28 MOU with FIU:

		<p>Mrs. D. Larue mentioned SFA's MOU with FIU to access Beneficial Ownership information and highlighted the need for a proper framework for information access.</p> <p>3.29 Implementation Progress:</p> <p>Progress in Implementing Past Recommendations:</p> <p>Mrs. D. Larue presented a table highlighting implementation progress, noting 20 out of 34 recommendations fully implemented in 2019.</p> <p>3.30 Way Forward:</p> <p>Mrs. D. Larue discussed plans for engaging stakeholders, compiling summary reports, and advocating for SFA website updates.</p> <p>3.31 Conclusion:</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mrs. D. Larue for her presentation, promising to share her presentations with members.</p>	
E.	<p>Presentation on People Power Project by Mr. Yannick Memme</p>	<p>4.0 Overview of the Pilot Project:</p> <p>Mr. Y. Memme provided a brief on the Pilot Project titled ‘Beyond transparency: Enhancing stakeholder participation in marine fisheries of Seychelles’.</p> <p>4.1 Duration and Project Relations to FiTI:</p> <p>Mr. Y. Memme mentioned that the project would last for 12 months, emphasizing its importance to FiTI. He highlighted the essential role of public access to credible information in ensuring sustainable fisheries.</p> <p>4.2 Objective: Mr. Y. Memme stated the aim to strengthen the link between transparency and participation by determining practical recommendations for the government of Seychelles and monitoring their implementation through the FiTI Report. He noted that the pilot project</p>	

		<p>supports the work of the national multi-stakeholder group and the FiTI Report.</p> <p>4.3 Partnership: Mr. Y. Memme mentioned partnerships with two organizations, People Power and Participation Factory.</p> <p>4.4 Country Selection: Mr. Y. Memme mentioned the selection of Seychelles and Madagascar as the two countries to run this pilot.</p> <p>4.5 Funding: Mr. Y. Memme stated that the costs of the pilot project will be covered by FiTI for the different phases.</p> <p>4.6 Implementation Phases: Mr. Y. Memme presented a Gantt chart detailing how the three phases will be implemented during the year.</p> <p>NMSG Involvement</p> <p>4.7 Active Involvement Requirement: Mr. Y. Memme emphasized the need for active involvement from NMSG members. He mentioned that this would include online interviews conducted by People Power staff and an online workshop to discuss the interview outcomes. Additionally, he mentioned a two-day workshop in Seychelles.</p> <p>4.8 Presentation by People Power: A video presentation on People Power was showcased.</p>	
F.	Presentation & Discussion on Action Plan/Strategic Plan	<p>Agenda Item 5: Action Plan Update</p> <p>5.0 Progress Update on Action Plan: Ms. K. Samy provided an update on the Action Plan, indicating that it is currently in progress. She mentioned that the development of the Action</p>	

		Plan is guided by the Principal Secretary and Director General of the Department of Blue Economy.	
G.	Open Government Partnership (OGP) Update	<i>The Chair delivered a concise update on the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and indicated that additional information will be provided during the next meeting.</i>	
H.	AOB	<p>Agenda Item 7:</p> <p>Clarifications on Action Plan and TOR</p> <p>7.0 Request for Clarifications: Dr. M. Purvis requested clarification on the Action Plan and TOR.</p> <p>7.1 Clarification on Action Plan: Ms. K. Samy provided clarification on the Action Plan in response to Dr. M. Purvis' query.</p> <p>7.2 Clarification on TOR: The Chair provided clarification on the Terms of Reference (TOR) and mentioned that there is already a TOR in place. However, Ms. K. Samy will circulate it with the members to gather their feedback and input. Members will have one week to provide their comments on the TOR.</p>	
I.	Decide Date for next meeting	The next meeting has been scheduled for Monday 29th February 2024.	Ms. K. Samy will send calendar invites.
Concluding Strategic Items and Actions			
	i.	<i>Circulate Draft 2022 Report, which will be submitted by Ms. D. Larue.</i>	<i>(Task to be fulfilled by Ms. Samy).</i>

	ii.	Circulate Draft Action Plan	<i>(Task to be fulfilled by Ms. Samy and Blue Economy Department).</i>
	iii.	Circulate Presentation Materials produced by Mr. Y. Memme and Ms. D. Larue.	<i>(Task to be fulfilled by Ms. Samy).</i>
	iv.	Write letter to the Ministry of Employment.	<i>(Task to be fulfilled by Chair).</i>
End of meeting		There being no other matters, the meeting adjourned at 12:30pm	

Mr. Philippe Michaud

Chair

Ms. Kim Samy

National Secretary to the Board