

Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)
National Multi-Stakeholder Group (NMSG)
Department of Blue Economy, Maison Collet, Victoria
12th April 2024
10h00am

National Multi-Stakeholder Group Meeting Minutes

Date	12 th April 2024
Venue	Blue Economy Department, Maison Collet
Time	10:00am

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
	Ms. Stephanie Radegond (SR)	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			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson, Mr. Philippe Michaud called the meeting to order at 10am. • A warm welcome was extended to all participants. 		
Agenda Item		Action	
B.	Confirmation of Minutes of last meeting and agenda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.0 The minutes from the previous meeting held on January 2024 were reviewed and approved. 	Mrs. Purvis to provide corrections for the previous minutes of January 2024 Minutes.
C.	Presentation by Ms. Daniella Larue on FiTI 2022 Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Daniella Larue started her presentation with a summary of improvements over the years, standard by standard. • Key Trends: Increase in public access to information, exemplified by the launch of the new Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) and new publications on the government website for fisheries. 	

D.	<p>Brief on Progress Report (Ms. Daniella Larue)</p>	<p>Public Registry of National Fisheries Laws, Regulations, and Official Policy Documents</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No new laws or regulations, but stakeholder consultations for reviewing fisheries acts and regulations are ongoing without public information on these consultations. 2. Recommendation: Ms. Larue proposed making this consultation process public. 3. Support: Mr. Michaud supported the recommendation, noting the government's commitment to the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and public participation. 4. Policy Development: Ms. Stephanie Radepond explained that while the department of fisheries develops internal monitoring and evaluation frameworks, these are not publicly available due to potential environmental changes. However, they undertake midterm reviews and stakeholder consultations and are drafting frameworks for public engagement. <p>Fisheries Tenure Arrangements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improvements include the publication of the sustainable fisheries agreement and updated fishing rights fees on the SFA website. 2. Issues: Lack of published statements confirming the list of SFA staff authorized to issue licenses and permits, and no systematic documentation and publication of stakeholder consultations on fishing rights. 	

3. **Website Revamp:** Mr. Vincent Lucas announced a new website launch coinciding with the SFA's 40th anniversary.

Foreign Fishing Agreement

1. Transparency in foreign fishing access agreements with no current issues.
2. **Recommendation:** Publish consultations for the negotiating process of these agreements.

State of the Fisheries Resources

1. No issues with the state of fisheries resources, but the lobster flyers were highlighted as a positive initiative.

Large-scale Fisheries

1. **Transparency Issue:** Partial transparency on fish catch due to unavailable information on landings and transshipments in foreign ports for longliners.
2. **Incomplete Data:** Incomplete excess catch payment information for EU-flagged vessels.
3. **Recommendation:** SFA to work with Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA) to ensure transshipment and landing fee information is transmitted to SFA on a per vessel basis by December 2024.

Small-scale Fisheries

1. Improvement noted in the publication of gender information.
2. **Issue:** Lack of catch data for artisanal fishery for 2022.

Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade

		<p>1. Recommendation for the ministry or SFA to conduct a proper census, as there is still no reliable information on total employment in the fisheries sector.</p> <p>Fisheries Law Enforcement</p> <p>1. Issues: Lack of comprehensive information on resources deployed by national authorities to ensure compliance with fisheries legislation.</p> <p>2. Published information on convictions does not include names of vessel owners or incident dates.</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:</p> <p>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 Plan is guided by the Principal Secretary and Director General of the Department of Blue Economy.</p>	
G.	Open Government Partnership (OGP) Update	<p><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></p>	
H.	AOB	<p>1. Media Training: Mr. Yannick Memme mentioned the organization of a media workshop by FiTI and the Danny Faure Foundation, with another training planned for the second week of May.</p> <p>2. FiTI Compliance: Mr. Michaud emphasized the need to continue such activities to maintain FiTI compliance.</p>	

I.	Decide Date for next meeting	The next meeting has been scheduled for Month of June 2024.	Ms. K. Samy will send calendar invites.
Concluding Strategic Items and Actions			
	i.	Action Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Daniella Larue to finalize the FiTI 2022 Report incorporating feedback and recommendations from the meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deadline: 25th April 2024 • Ms. Kim Samy to coordinate with relevant stakeholders for implementing the agreed recommendations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deadline: August 2024 	<i>(Task to be fulfilled by Ms. Daniella Larue).</i>
	ii.	Circulate Final FiTI 2022 Report	<i>(Task to be fulfilled by Ms. Samy, Chair 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.	Identify liaising person for Implementation of recommendations at SFA.	<i>(Task to be fulfilled by Chair).</i>
End of meeting		There being no other matters, the meeting adjourned at 12:00pm	

Mr. Philippe Michaud

Chair

Ms. Kim Samy

National Secretary to the Board