

National Multi-Stakeholder Group Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

Date: Wednesday 28th December 2022
Venue: Maison Collet
Time: 08:30 to 10:15 hours

Members Present:

1. Mr. Philippe Michaud, National FiTI Lead-Blue Economy
2. Mr. Cyril Bonnelame, representing Transparency Initiatives Seychelles
3. Mr. Selwyn Edmond, representing the Industrial fleet
4. Mr. Hubert Poiret attended on behalf of Ms. Eltina Lorizo, Youth Representative, Seychelles Maritime Academy

Secretariat:

1. Mr. Vincent Lucas, Seychelles Fishing Authority
2. Ms. Fatime Kanté, Department of the Blue Economy

Invitee:

1. Mrs. Daniella Larue, FiTI Report Compiler
2. Ms. Betty Victor, Seychelles Fishing Authority
3. Ms. Elisa Socrate, Seychelles Fishing Authority

Members absent with apology:

1. PS Roy Clarisse, representing the Department of Fisheries
2. Hon. Wallace Cosgrow, representing the Opposition Party-Seychelles People's Party
3. Hon. Philip Monthy, representing the Party in power-Linyon Demokratik Seselwa (LDS) Party
4. Mr. David Bentley- representing Sea Harvest and SCCI
5. Mr. Grant Heyer, representing the Civil Society Organisations- (CEPS)
6. Mr. Darrell Green, representing the Praslin Fishermen's Association
7. Dr. Marie-Thérèse Purvis, representing the Civil Society Organisations- (CEPS)-

Members absent:

1. Representative from Seychelles Fishermen Boat Owner's Association (SFBOA) is still unknown

Agenda

1. Presentation of the FiTI Draft Report
2. Any other business

	Points Discussed.
	<p>The meeting was chaired by Mr. Philippe Michaud, the FITI National Lead and the Chairman.</p> <p>Mr. Michaud began the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.</p> <p>Every one present introduced themselves.</p>
1.0	<p><u>Presentation of the Draft FITI Report for the year 2021</u></p> <p>Mrs. Daniella Larue, the Report Compiler presented her findings and the timeline that she has been following since being contracted to produce the Report for the year 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 28: Contract signing • September 1st: Kick-Off meeting • September 27th: Meeting with SFA Chief Executive Officer • September – October: Desktop Research- initial assessment • November: Appointment of SFA FITI Focal Person, Mr Vincent Lucas • October – November: Draft FITI Report (1st Version) – Summary & detailed section; stakeholder consultations. • December 6th: Met with the FITI Chairman and circulated the Draft FITI Report (Version 1) – summary & detailed section to members of the MSG. • December 28th: Presentation of Draft FITI Report & comments from FITI NMSG <p>There were 34 and 19 recommendations in the 2019 and 2020 FITI Reports respectively. The current implementation status (as of December 2022) of these recommendations is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 17 recommendations have already been fully implemented by Seychelles' national authorities between the launch of the country's 2019 and 2021 FITI Reports. ✓ implementation of seven other recommendations is currently in progress.
2.0	<p><u>Summary of progress made</u></p> <p>2.1 Availability of information on the Seychelles 'fisheries sector is increasing via the Government of Seychelles' websites e.g., ODA funded projects implemented by SFA.</p> <p>2.2 Information on the total volume of local fishery production continues to improve.</p> <p>A. In 2021, complete catch and effort data was published for all the fisheries except for artisanal fishery. For industrial vessels, catch data was based on 100% logbook returns for the second consecutive year.</p> <p>2.3 In addition to the list provided in the 2020 FITI Report, the following is now publicly accessible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Catch and landing data from the sea cucumber and lobster fishery for the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 seasons. ➤ Updated data of 2020 recorded catches and fishing effort from industrial longline fishery.

<p>2.4</p> <p>2.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Details of payments from EU and EU-flagged industrial vessels are included in the notes to audited financial statements. ➤ The value of ice and fuel subsidies provided to the small-scale fisheries sector is presented in SFA's 2021 Annual Report. ➤ Information on licenses and license payments for the artisanal fishery operators is now published on the SFA website. ➤ All stock assessment reports undertaken by SFA since 2017. <p>As part of the 2021 FITI Report, additional unpublished information now publicly available include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The fishing license payments made by small scale fishing vessels. ➤ The list of fisheries and marine conservation projects, funded by overseas development assistance through SeyCCAT, active in 2021. <p>Initiatives by the Government of Seychelles to improve available information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commissioning on fishing agreements evaluation. - Measures to improve compliance to transparency requirements (legal framework for joint ventures, renegotiation of fishing agreements) and - Enforcement of Fisheries Act – BO information capture.
<p>3.0</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p><u>REQUIREMENTS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE FITI NMSG/SFA</u></p> <p><u>FISHERIES TENURE ARRANGEMENTS</u> There is still opacity around the exact procedures to be followed by those wishing to participate in Seychelles' sea cucumber fishery.</p> <p><u>FOREIGN FISHING ACCESS AGREEMENTS</u> There is still no written agreement (i.e., contract) between Seychelles and Dongwon Industries Co. Ltd.¹⁶ The MOFBE is yet to issue a timeframe as to when this agreement will be formalized in writing.</p> <p><u>THE STATE OF THE FISHERIES RESOURCES</u> A comprehensive national report on the overall status of fish stocks in Seychelles not compiled.</p> <p><u>LARGE-SCALE FISHERIES</u> There are gaps in the data available in the published vessel registry for example, the yellow fin tuna quota allocated to Seychelles flagged vessels, is not available, BO information.</p> <p><u>SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES</u> Availability: no statistics on discards in the small-scale fisheries sector Access: Payment information for artisanal fisheries published in FITI Report. Incomplete information: Only Semester 1 information is published for 2021 because of issues related to upgrade of data processing and reporting system for this fishery. Payment information for semi-industrial licenses is missing.</p>

3.6	Information on gender and whether fishermen are full time, part-time or occasional is not captured for registered for artisanal fishers.
3.7	<p><u>POST-HARVEST SECTOR AND FISH TRADE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No reliable figure on the total number of employees in the Seychelles fisheries sector in both the commercial and informal fisheries sectors. ✓ No GOS pronouncement on the existence of an informal fisheries sector.
3.8	<p><u>FISHERIES LAW ENFORCEMENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Still no comprehensive report covering national activities and strategies for ensuring compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector with national legislation for 2021. ✓ No comprehensive information on financial and human resources deployed by all relevant national authorities to ensure compliance with national fisheries legislation. ✓ Record of conviction not published online
3.9	<p><u>LABOUR STANDARDS</u></p> <p>No summary description of national laws on labour standards, national strategies for enforcing labour standards or information on labour offences committed and resolved in the fisheries sector is available. Which Competent Authority will undertake this?</p>
4.0	<p><u>FISHERIES SUBSIDIES</u></p> <p>Little information is published by national authorities about fisheries subsidies, failing to meet national requirements (e.g., the Access to Information Act), policy objectives (e.g., reducing subsidies dependency) as well as international expectations.</p>
4.1	<p><u>OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)</u></p> <p>There is no comprehensive overview of the marine conservation-related public sector projects being implemented in Seychelles.</p>
	<p><u>BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP</u></p> <p>SFA is required by Section 8(2)(r) of the Fisheries Act to keep records of beneficial owners as part of its record of fishing vessels, but this has not been systematically enforced.</p>
5.0	<p><u>Any Other Business/Way Forward</u></p> <p>5.1 Expect to receive feedback from the remaining FiTI NMSG from December 31, 2022, to 15th February 2023</p> <p>5.2 Expect to finalise the report in January 2023</p> <p>5.3 Design the FiTI Report</p> <p>5.4 FiTI NMSG to Review and approve the FiTI Report</p> <p>5.5 Publish the 2021 FiTI Report</p>

Meeting ended at 10:15am