

National Multi-Stakeholder Group Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

Date: Thursday 15th September 2022
Venue: Maison Collet
Time: 10:00 to 11:15 hours

Members Present:

1. Mr. Philippe Michaud, National FiTI Lead-Blue Economy
2. Hon. Regina Esparon (Alternate Representative) attending on behalf of Hon. Philip Monthy, representing the Party in power-Linyon Demokratik Seselwa (LDS) Party
3. Mr. Cyril Bonnelame, representing Transparency Initiatives Seychelles
4. PS Roy Clarisse, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy
5. Mr. Selwyn Edmond, representing the Industrial fleet
6. Dr. Marie-Thérèse Purvis, representing the Civil Society Organisations- (CEPS)- joined by phone
7. Ms. Eltina Dorizo, Youth Representative, Seychelles Maritime Academy

Alternate Member present:

1. Ms. Stephanie Radegonde, representing the Department of Fisheries-Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy

Secretariat:

1. Dr. Ameer Ebrahim, Seychelles Fishing Authority
2. Ms. Fatime Kanté, Department of the Blue Economy

Invitee:

1. PS Kenneth Racombo, Department of the Blue Economy

Members absent with apology:

1. Hon. Wallace Cosgrow, representing the Opposition Party-Seychelles People's Party
2. Mr. David Bentley- representing Sea Harvest and SCCI
3. Mr. Grant Heyer, representing the Civil Society Organisations- (CEPS)
4. Mr. Darrell Green, representing the Praslin Fishermen's Association
5. Ms. Gabriella Gonthier, Youth Representative

Members absent:

1. Mr. Keith Andre, Seychelles Fishermen Boat Owner's Association (SFBOA)

Agenda

1. Confirmation of the previous Minutes of the meeting 17.03.2022
2. Matters Arising
3. Status of recruitment of FiTI Report Compiler
4. Presentation of WWF proposed workshop
5. Any other business

	Points Discussed.
	<p>The meeting was chaired by Mr. Philippe Michaud who is the FiTI National Lead and the Chairman.</p> <p>Mr. Michaud began the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.</p> <p>Before proceeding to the endorsement of the previous Minutes of Meeting. All members were given the floor to agree on the items on the Agenda.</p> <p>This was followed by a proposal from Mr. Michaud, to include 'Matters Arising' as one of the items.</p>
1.0	<u>Confirmation of minutes.</u> The minutes of the last meeting was unanimously endorsed by all members present in the meeting.
2.0	<u>Matters Arising</u>
2.1	Mr. Michaud welcomed the new youth representative from the Seychelles Maritime Academy.
2.2	It was unanimously agreed that the membership of Mr. Keith Andre has lapsed, as he has resigned as Chair of the SFBOA.
3.0	<u>Status of recruitment of FiTI Report Compiler</u>
3.1	Mr. Michaud, the Chairman of FiTI NMSG informed members that the committee might experience delays with the production and release of the third report. He proceeded by giving the floor to Ms. Kante, the FiTI Focal Point from the Department of the Blue Economy to provide more clarity on the selection process of the FiTI Report Compiler.
3.2	Ms. Kante explained that originally there were only two candidates who had expressed their interest. It was seen necessary to re-advertise the tender, to allow for more EOIs locally and abroad. Seychelles then received 8 EOIs. An Evaluation Committee, which comprised of members on the FiTI NMSG was set up to evaluate the EOIs.
3.3	Since one member could not complete the evaluation, Ms. Kante was asked to replace the FiTI NMSG member.
3.4	Mrs. Daniella Larue was contracted on the 30th August 2022.
3.5	Dr. Ebrahim confirmed that Mrs. Larue has already met with him personally to seek advice on the best way to proceed with gathering the information that she will need to achieve a successful output.

<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p>	<p><u>Presentation of WWF proposed workshop</u></p> <p>Mr. Michaud informed members that the WWF is ready to finance a workshop in Seychelles and this workshop would focus mostly on the dissemination of the results of the FiTI reports.</p> <p>The issue here, is with regards to the fear of the third report not being ready by the end of the year was raised.</p> <p>It was agreed that Mr. Michaud would discuss further with the parties concerned and explore clearly what is needed and possible. The workshop may be postponed for 2023 should WWF agree.</p> <p>Mr. Michaud further requested that he would need the support of the Blue Economy Department to organize the logistics, which PS Racombo agreed in principle.</p>
<p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p> <p>5.4</p> <p>5.5</p>	<p><u>Any Other Business/Way Forward</u></p> <p>Dr. Ameer Ebrahim said that the Sea Cucumber Stock Assessment Report should be made public. This was also supported by Mr. Michaud and other members.</p> <p>Hon. Regina Esparon requested that the sea cucumber stock assessment report should be circulated to all the Members of the Seychelles National Assembly, as a follow-up to the session the FiTI team had with the Parliamentarians earlier this year.</p> <p>Members agreed that the Chair officially writes to the new Chairperson of SFBOA and also advises her to nominate an alternate to the FiTI NMSG, so as to assure continuity.</p> <p>The manning of the National FiTI Secretariat is currently being handled by the Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy, and discussion is ongoing for the CEO of SFA to nominate a replacement for Dr. Ameer Ebrahim, who was the focal representative from SFA, and has recently resigned. Mr. Michaud thanked Dr. Ebrahim for his valuable contribution and wished that his replacement would be able to give the same enthusiastic support. Members agreed that the Secretariat should remain with the Department of the Blue Economy as SFA was not prepared to have it fully transferred within their care. Nevertheless, SFA should assist the Department of the Blue Economy. One member suggested that it may be better if the Secretariat be independent, giving more independence, time and focus of FiTI in Seychelles. However, it was also expressed that funding for this may be an issue. Mr. Michaud promised to raise this issue during the meeting of the FiTI International Board which he will be attending at the end of the month.</p> <p>Mr. Michaud, informed members that he has had a meeting with the Information Commission, where he took the opportunity to present the FiTI initiative to Ms. Mumtaz and Ms. Dogley.</p>

5.6	PS Racombo informed members that the FiTI is not part of the core work of Ms. Kante and that as a Senior Economist she will be evaluated on her core responsibilities only. Ms. Kante respectfully replied to the PS that this is not a session to discuss internal matters and she instead requested that it would be best if the same could be addressed at another internal meeting without the parties present, involved.
5.7	Mr. Michaud further added that Ms. Kante was nominated as the focal point for FiTI, because of her expertise as the National EITI Coordinator.
5.8	Ms. Gabriella Gonthier has submitted her resignation letter.
5.9	PS Racombo will be writing to the SFA and the Seychelles National Youth Council to seek new appointments for Ms. Gabriella Gonthier and Dr. Ameer Ebrahim.

Meeting ended at 11:15am