

**Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)
National Multi-Stakeholder Group (NMSG)
Minutes of Meeting**

Date: 10th October 2024
Time: 10h30am
Venue: Department of Blue Economy, Maison Collet, Victoria

Members in Attendance		
Members Present	Mr. Philippe Michaud	Chair
	Mr. Selwyn Edmond	Seaward Co Ltd.
	Mr. Muditha Gunatilake	AFPES
	Mr. Antoine Marie Moustache	Nature Seychelles
	Dr. Marie-Therese Purvis	S4S
	Ms. Stephanie Radegonde	Department of Fisheries
	Mr. Faizal Suleman	Glacis Fishermen Association
	Mr. Kenneth Kilindo	SMSA
Observers	Ms. Kim Samy	Alternate - FiTI National Secretariat
	Mr. Yannick Memeé	FiTI International Secretariat
	Mrs Daniella Larue	2023 FiTI Report Compiler
Members Absent	Mr. Louis Bossy	Chairman of the Fishing Boat Owners Association (SFBOA)
	Hon. Wallace Cosgrow	Member of the National Assembly (MNA) United Seychelles Opposition
	Hon. Regina Esparon	The Linyon Demokratik Seselwa Party (Government Party).
	Mr. Roy Clarisse	Principal Secretary for the Department of Fisheries
	Ms. Fatime Kante	Alternate - Transparency International Seychelles
	Ms. Kim Samy	FiTI National Secretariat
	Mr. Anthony Savy de St. Maurice	General Manager at Aquarius Shipping Agency Limited
	Mr. Rodney Nicole	Bel Ombre Fisherman Association
	Mr. Faizal Suleman	Glacis Fisherman Association
	Ms. Betty Victor	Seychelles Fishing Authority
	Mr. Gervais Verlaque	Student – Youth Representative
	Ms. Nathanielle Morel	FiTI National Secretariat

- **Welcome Notes:** Chairperson, Mr. Philippe Michaud called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. A warm welcome was extended to all participants, particularly, Mr. Kenneth Kilindo, the new representative from SMSA.

1. Agenda Setting:

The meeting agenda was adopted and accepted.

2. Confirmation of minutes:

- 2.1 The minutes from the previous meeting held in August 2024 were reviewed and approved.
- 2.2 As Ms. Nathanielle Morel is not in Seychelles, Ms. Kim Samy will be taking the minutes.

3. FiTI Validator's Visit

- 3.1 Mr. Yannick Meme provided an overview of the upcoming visit from the international FiTI Validator. He explained the FiTI compliance process, emphasizing the need for Seychelles to move beyond "meaningful progress" to full compliance.
- 3.2 Mr. Meme expressed concerns that he believes that FiTI is still not a priority for the Department of Blue Economy (DBE), and this may hinder progress.
- 3.3 The project aims to translate political support into action, however the progress remains slow.
- 3.4 Mr. Michaud confirmed that Ms. Nathanielle Morel had been officially appointed as the DBE representative, with approval from the Permanent Secretary (PS). He also emphasized the importance of making the FiTI initiative more engaging for the fishermen.
- 3.5 Mr. Michaud added that he and Ms. Morel met with Mr. Nicole, a representative of the Bel Ombre Boatowner Association on how to better present statistics and information to fishermen.
- 3.6 Mr. Muditha suggested that the group needs to better understand fishermen's perspectives to ensure that FiTI holds significance for them.

4. Update by Mrs. Larue; 2023 FiTI Report Compiler

- 4.1 Ms. Daniella Larue informed the group that she aims to have a draft report ready by 18th November for review and feedback. The final report is expected by 20th December, aligning with Madagascar's report publication.

4.2 Ms. Larue is currently working on chapters 13-17 of the report but faces difficulties accessing accurate and updated information from the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) and other sources.

4..1 Outdated Data: She pointed out that much of the SFA's data is outdated, particularly on their website, which is still under construction. She highlighted discrepancies in the reporting of quota distributions and other economic indicators.

4.2 Format Issues: There were significant changes in the format of the annual report, with critical sections like fisheries statistics and economic contribution being removed. This raised concerns.

4..3 Proposed Action: Mr. Michaud suggested Ms. Larue write to the SFA on behalf of NMSG to address these missing sections and request a review. Mr. Michaud will also take it up with SFA.

4.3 Dr. Purvis inquired about whether Ms. Morel could be tasked with overseeing initiatives such as FiTI, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), and Open Government Partnership (OGP). This will be raised with the VP as his office looks after OGP.

4.4 Mr. Michaud reiterated that the DBE needs to take more ownership of FiTI, and highlighted that financial support remains a challenge for the NMSG.

4.5 Issues with SFA Data and Reporting:

4.5.1 Lack of Economist: It was noted that the SFA has only one economist, thus, contributing to incomplete and outdated data in fisheries reports.

4.5.2 Fisheries Tenure Agreements: Ms. Stephanie Radeconde will provide feedback on assessments related to fisheries tenure agreements to Ms. Daniella Larue.

5. Fisheries Agreements

5.1 An evaluation of the implementation of the Mauritius/Seychelles and the EU/Seychelles fisheries agreements was undertaken but the study could not be made public as the consultancy was terminated for contracted reasons before its completion.

6. AOB

6.1 **FiTI Workplan:** The Chair thanked the working committee for the work done. The workplan has been circulated to all members. As no objections were received, the workplan has been approved and uploaded on the MoFBE website.

(NMSG Members Confirmed)

6.2 Terms of Reference for the NMSG: The final draft which took into consideration comments from the last meeting was circulated by mail. In the absence of further comments, the ToRs were approved and uploaded on the MoFBE WEBSITE.

(NMSG Members Confirmed)

6.3 FiTI Importance: It is sometimes difficult to quantify the benefits of FiTI as this is often the case with good governance. Ms. Daniella Larue, reiterated the importance of FiTI and urged all NMSG members to remain actively involved in the process.

6.4 Madagascar's Initiative: Mr. Yannick Meme shared that Madagascar had created an informative pamphlet to display fisheries data and suggested Seychelles do something similar.

6.5 New FiTI Standard: Mr. Meme, along with Dr. Rassool and Mr. Bierman, are finalizing a new FiTI standard. Once completed, it will simplify the reporting process and make it more visual.

6.6 Climate Study: Mr. Meme announced that a climate study will begin in November, with desktop reviews continuing through to January 2025, followed by interviews in February 2025. The final report is expected by May/June 2025. The study will also explore how fisheries can access climate finance.

6.7 Online Workshop: Mr. Meme summarized plans for an online exchange between Seychelles and Madagascar, scheduled for 16th October. Many members wanted to participate and were encouraged to do so by the Chair.

6.8 Proposed next meeting date: Undecided.

End of Meeting: adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Mr. Philippe Michaud
Chair

Ms. Kim Samy
FiTI National Secretariat Alternate