

MINUTES OF 09th MEETING

National Multi-Stakeholder Group

Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

Date: Friday 5th February 2021
Venue: Virtual meeting
Time: 09:00 hours

Present:

1. Mr. Philippe Michaud, National FiTI Lead-Blue Economy
2. Mr. Chrystold Chetty, Transparency Initiatives Seychelles
3. Mr. David Bentley- Sea Harvest
4. Mr. Roy Clarisse, Special Advisor- Department of Fisheries attended on behalf of Principal Secretary Mr. Jude Talma
5. Ms. Gabriella Gonthier, Youth Representative
6. Mr. Grant Heyer, representing the Civil Society Organisations-Citizens Engagement Platform Seychelles (CEPS).

Invitees:

1. Ms. Fatime Kante- National FiTI desk officer, Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy
2. Mr. Abel Sorry- National FiTI desk officer (alternate), Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy
3. Dr. Jude Bijoux, Fisheries Biologist
4. Ms. Stephanie Radegonde- Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy

Absent with Apologies:

1. Mr. James Lesperance JHL Group Ltd
2. Dr. Marie-Thérèse Purvis, representing the Civil Society Organisations-Citizens Engagement Platform Seychelles- (CEPS).
3. Mr. Peter Purvis, representing the Industrial fleet
4. Mr. Graham Green- Praslin Fishermen's Association
5. Mr. Keith Andre, Fishermen Boat Owner's Association (FBOA)
6. Mr. Philip Monthly, Honorable Member of the National Assembly representing the ruling party in the National Assembly
7. Mrs. Chantal Ghislain, Honorable Member of the National Assembly representing the Opposition Party

Agenda:

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting
2. Presentation of FiTI Report findings
3. Recommendations on FiTI Requirements

4. FiTI Report Launch Forum Agenda
5. Any Other Business

	Items of Discussion.	Status	Action/ Reported by
	<u>Welcoming of members</u>	Mr. Philippe Michaud - FiTI National Lead chaired the meeting, which started at 9am. The meeting was conducted virtually through 'Microsoft Teams'. He welcomed all members in attendance and mentioned that due to Covid-19 pandemic, it was required for FiTI in Seychelles to establish new ways of communicating.	All members.
1.0	<u>Confirmation of Minutes of Eighth Meeting</u>	All members present endorsed unanimously the Minutes of the 08 th NMSG-FiTI meeting.	National FiTI Lead.
2.0	<u>Presentation of FiTI Report finding</u>	Dr. Jude Bijoux was contracted to draft the Seychelles Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) for the base year 2019. The latter attended the session, where he did a presentation on the findings of the FiTI Report including FiTI requirements set by the FiTI Standard. The presentation reported on information available in fiscal year 2019 only.	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.0	<u>Recommendations on FiTI Requirements</u>	Status/Recommendations/Comments	Action/ Reported by
3.1	<u>B1.1. Public Registry of National Fisheries Laws, Regulations and Official Policy Documents</u> Summary – Government have to publish all fisheries related laws, regulations, policies online.	The Laws and regulations are <u>not accessible</u> from the following institutions: ➤ Ministry of Fisheries website: does not publish any information pertaining to fisheries laws and regulations. ➤ SFA's website is being rebuilt. The previous website had copies of the Fisheries Act and the Fisheries Regulations but not others such as: Export of Fisheries Product Act, Customs Management (Promotion of Agriculture and Fisheries) Exemption and Rebate Regulations	Dr. Jude Bijoux
		The Policy is <u>Not fully accessible</u>	Dr. Jude Bijoux

		<p>The Ministry of Fisheries website has published some policy documents as indicated below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤The Seychelles Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy 2019 ➤The Fisheries Comprehensive Plan 2019 ➤Seychelles National Agricultural Investment Plan <p>The documents that are missing on the Ministry of Fisheries website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤The Seychelles National Aquaculture Policy 2018 – 2022. (The report drafted by Dr. Bijoux makes reference to the aquaculture website and states that the report is available on that website, the only issue is that it is not linked to the Ministry of Fisheries website) ➤The Mariculture Master Plan ➤The National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks 2016-2020 ➤The Mahé Plateau trap and line fishery co-management plan <p>It was then clarified that a new Fisheries website will be finalised and all the laws/policy documents will be published on there.</p> <p>The Seychelles National Aquaculture Policy 2018 – 2022 is already published on the Aquaculture website, the new Fisheries website will have a link to the Aquaculture website and other agencies to access documents.</p>	<p>Mr. Calvin Gerry and Ms. Stephanie Radegonde</p> <p>Mr. Calvin Gerry and Ms. Stephanie Radegonde</p>
3.2	<p><u>B.1.2 Fisheries Tenure Arrangements Summary – Government have to publish description of laws and decrees on fisheries tenure arrangements.</u></p>	<p>i. Description of the rights and authorisations applicable by law or decree. The following are accessible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fisheries Act (is very clear) - Fisheries Regulations - Fisheries Comprehensive Plan (It is a policy of the Ministry and not legal) 	<p>Dr. Jude Bijoux</p>

		<p>ii. The fees, duration, transferability and divisibility of such rights and authorisations.</p> <p><u>The following were not fully collated and gaps were identified:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some fees in Fisheries Regulations - Fees - Fisheries Comprehensive Plan <p><u>Comment:</u> Many fees are not officially published. The Fisheries Act does not state whether there is a need to gazette the fees.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> Legal advice should be sought on whether there is the need to publish the fees.</p>	
		<p>iii. persons that are legally entitled to issue access rights and fishing authorisations</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Name of the person giving authorization is thus far, the Deputy CEO for SFA. The Minister for Fisheries can also give permission to rights with regards to scientific fishing but they are not yet published.</p>	
		<p>iv. The conditions applied to fishing authorisations including those relating to fishing effort and ecosystem impact, landings, transshipping and catch reporting.</p> <p>The following are accessible?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prescribed in Part III of the Fisheries Act (2014) 2. Under standard Requirements of the Fisheries Regulations (1987) 	
		<p>v. The procedures and rules for authorising a nationally-flagged vessel to fish in a third country or on the High Seas, including information on the fees paid to the national government for providing this authorisation, reporting requirements and the provisions for terminating such authorisations.</p>	

		<p>The following are accessible:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sub-part VI of Part III of the Fisheries Act (2014) provides the legal framework. 2. Permission is given through Certificate of Authorisation. 	
3.3	<u>B.1.3 Foreign Fishing Access Agreements</u> Country must publish contracts, protocols of fishing agreements.	<p><u>Not published</u></p> <p>Only EU have published the EU/Seychelles Fisheries Agreement.</p>	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.4	<u>B.1.3 Foreign Fishing Access Agreements</u> Country must publish studies or reports on oversight of fisheries agreement (fishing authorization, catch).	<p><u>Incomplete</u></p> <p>Mostly being done through SFA Annual Report and Fisheries Statistical Bulletin However, not available for 2019 No report on performance of agreement.</p>	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.5	<u>B.1.3 Foreign Fishing Access Agreements</u> Country must publish documentation related to stakeholders consultation on fishing agreements.	<p><u>Not published</u></p> <p>Discussion mostly internal within Government Documentation on discussion not published.</p>	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.6	<u>B.1.4 The State of the Fisheries Resources</u> Country must publish information on the state of their fish stocks.	<p><u>Not collated</u></p> <p>Many stock assessment done but not published by SFA.</p>	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.7	<u>B.1.5 Large-Scale Fisheries</u> Vessel registry Country must have online vessel registry.	<p><u>Not published</u></p> <p>However, SFA collects all information required each time a vessel seeks a license.</p>	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.8	<u>B.1.5 Large-Scale Fisheries</u> Payments for fishing Country must publish complete information on payments on a per vessel basis.	<p><u>Not published</u></p> <p>SFA have record of payments However, there are gaps in data and not easy to verify.</p>	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.9	<u>B.1.5 Large-Scale Fisheries</u> Recorded catch data Country must publish information on catch, fishing effort, landing and transshipment of vessels by flag state.	<p><u>Not yet available for 2019</u></p> <p>SFA Fisheries Statistic Report is behind schedule.</p>	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.10	<u>B.1.5 Large-Scale Fisheries</u> Recorded catch data Country must publish information on discards according to species.	<p><u>Not done</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only a total discard provided per port of landing for purse seine - No data being published on discards from longline fishery 	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.11	<u>B.1.5 Large-Scale Fisheries</u> Country must publish information on economic, social and food security contribution of the large-scale fishing sector.	<p><u>Available</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Available for 2019 in terms of GDP - No specific details available as SFA Annual Report is late 	Dr. Jude Bijoux

3.12	<p><u>B.1.6 Small-Scale Fisheries</u> Country must publish information on number of fishing vessels, licenses issued, number of fishers.</p>	<p><u>Not published</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data on No. of fishing vessels is yet to be published for 2019. - Data on No. of fishers is not published. - No. of licenses issued is not published. 	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.13	<p><u>B.1.7 Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade</u> Country must publish information on amount of fish and fish products imported, exported.</p>	<p><u>Published</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is available in quarterly Merchandise Trade Statistical Bulletin. - But information is not available in all cases by species. 	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.14	<p><u>B.1.7 Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade</u> Country must publish information on number of people employed in commercial and informal fisheries sector and on wage in the sector.</p>	<p><u>Not accurate information available</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey is currently underway. 	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.15	<p><u>B.1.8 Fisheries Law Enforcement</u> Country must publish information on national activities and strategies used for ensuring compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector with national legislation.</p>	<p><u>Not published</u> Information on strategies used for ensuring compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector with national legislation was not published for the year 2019.</p> <p>This information is usually published as part of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) Annual Report.</p> <p>SFA did not publish the overall Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) strategy, however there are some documents related to the MCS such as the National Plan of action to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (NPOA IUU), MCS plan for the Mahe Plateau demersal fishery management plan.</p>	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.16	<p><u>B.1.8 Fisheries Law Enforcement</u> Country must publish information on financial and human resources deployed by the government to ensure compliance with national legislation.</p>	<p><u>Not published</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No information published in 2019. <p><u>Recommendation:</u> It was recommended to collate information not only from SFA but also from other agencies that are directly involved in ensuring compliance with national legislations (for e.g the coastguards, the fish inspection units).</p>	Dr. Jude Bijoux

3.17	<p><u>B.1.8 Fisheries Law Enforcement</u> Country must publish information on total numbers of inspections of fishing vessels at sea and in ports.</p>	<p><u>Not published</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No information published in 2019, but hopeful that it could be captured in the 2019 SFA Report, if it is made available. 	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.18	<p><u>B.1.8 Fisheries Law Enforcement</u> Country must publish information on record of convictions for major offences in the fisheries sector, indicating the name of the company or vessel owner, the nature of the offence and the penalty imposed.</p>	<p><u>Not published</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No information published in 2019 - Usually information published is not in detail. <p><u>Recommendations:</u> It was recommended that the NMSG should think of establishing a clear definition of what are considered as major offences? And that SFA Annual Report should be up to date.</p>	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.19	<p><u>B.1.9 Labour Standards</u> Country must publish a summary description of national laws on labour standards applicable for national and foreign workers employed in the fishing sector at sea and in the post-harvest fisheries sector.</p>	<p><u>Not published</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No information published for 2019. - Usually information published is not in detail. - It was put forth that the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs had the responsibility of publishing laws and standards across government sectors. <p><u>Recommendation:</u> There needs to be a discussion with the current administration.</p>	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.20	<p><u>B.1.9 Labour Standards</u> Country must publish information relating to the enforcement of labour standards</p>	<p><u>Not published</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs are responsible for labour issues, but there's no published documents related to enforcement of laws on labour standards in the fisheries sector - The complaints related to workers' grievances are usually channelled through the Labour Relation Division of the MESA 	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.21	<p><u>B.1.10 Fisheries Subsidies</u> Country must publish information on the type, values and recipients of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector</p>	<p><u>Data incomplete</u></p> <p>It was pointed out that only fuel subsidies are published and that there's no information on other types of subsidies (e.g. ice, low interest loans)</p>	Dr. Jude Bijoux

3.22	<p><u>B.1.11 Official Development Assistance</u> Country must publish information on public sector projects related to fisheries and marine conservation, funded by bilateral, multilateral and private donors.</p>	<p><u>Data incomplete</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information is not compiled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs nor SFA. - Information is available for projects which have been administered by UNDP (mostly related to GEF). <p><u>Recommendation:</u> It was requested that contact is established with the parties to ensure that the following information is made available.</p>	Dr. Jude Bijoux
3.23	<p><u>B.1.12 Beneficial Ownership</u> Country must publish information on its legal status regarding beneficial ownership transparency.</p>	<p><u>Not published</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information is only published in 2020 in the Beneficial Ownership Act (2020). - The Beneficial Ownership Database is not yet available from the Financial Intelligence Unit. - There's no published rules and procedures for incorporating beneficial ownership in filings by companies to corporate regulators, stock exchanges or agencies regulating the access to fisheries. - There's no published information on the country's status regarding beneficial ownership transparency in fisheries. 	Dr. Jude Bijoux
4.0	<p><u>Preparation of the FiTI Launch Report Forum.</u> FiTI in Seychelles is approaching an important milestone with the publication of its first report planned towards the third week of March 2021.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Draft Agenda of the FiTI launch event will be circulated to the FiTI NMSG for information. - An invitation will be extended to the President of the Republic of Seychelles to attend the event. 	Department of the Blue Economy
5.0	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>5.1 Mr. Cyril Bonnelame will now be the TI representative on the FiTI NMSG.</p> <p>5.2 All Members to be given the opportunity to include their recommendations/comments to the report. A deadline could be fixed.</p>		Mr. Chrysthold Chetty

5.3	There needs to be an Executive Summary at the beginning of the Report.		
5.4	Appellations of Ministries need to be corrected to take into consideration the new government administration structures.		

Having no other matters to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 hours.