



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

FiTI Candidate Application

Country:

SEYCHELLES

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Rationales and objectives

Please provide a general statement on the rationales for implementing the FiTI in your country and on the objectives that your country wants to achieve through the FiTI.

With an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 1.37 million km², a land area of just 455 km² and a population of only 94,000 mainly concentrated on 3 islands (i.e. Mahe, Praslin and La Digue), Seychelles' current and future prosperity is uniquely linked to its marine and coastal assets, with fisheries and tourism being the two main pillars of its economy, gross domestic product (GDP) and employment.

Seychelles is now fully focused on the sustainable growth of its ocean-based economies. It is undeniable that Seychelles is championing Blue the Economy development throughout the world. The Seychelles Blue Economy Strategic Framework and Roadmap (2018-2030) brings together the economy, environment and society, consistent with the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. Taking on also the responsibility of championing the Blue Economy in Africa, Seychelles feels the need to be seen leading by example.

Marine fisheries accounts for a large portion of the Gross Domestic Product but has also high social and cultural value and importance for the country. The Fisheries Department within the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture and the Seychelles Fisheries Authority are the two national institutions managing fisheries in the Seychelles. However, it must be recognized that in order to meet local interests, as well as emerging global best practises for better ocean governance, it is crucial to strengthen the sector's transparency and promote the participation of stakeholders in developing policies and subsequently managing the fisheries sector.

The need for making available credible information is also important in developing sustainable fishery; for example, the status of fish stocks, the amount of fish caught in our sea as well as authorisations and contracts awarded to international vessels must all be accessible, transparent and within the reach of all interested parties. Committing to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) will help the Seychelles to achieve this objective in an internationally recognized way. Seychelles further believe that the FiTI can also provide clear guidance and sound decision making and support accountability in the sector.

To further emphasise its commitment, Seychelles announced at the 2nd FiTI International Conference in Bali/Indonesia (April 2017), the desire to host the FiTI International Secretariat. This commitment has already been achieved, with the official transition process being completed by December 2019.

In a nutshell, Seychelles' main objective is to become FiTI compliant and use the initiative to provide the Seychelles' Government with clear procedural guidelines for gathering, verifying and disclosing relevant information on fisheries. This will benefit all relevant stakeholders, ranging from the artisanal and industrial fisheries sector as well as the civil society and investors. FiTI will therefore help the Seychelles to progress as one of the leaders in sustainable fisheries management internationally.

Legal and administrative requirements

Please indicate the necessary legal or administrative requirements for establishing the FiTI in your country (e.g., presidential decree), if applicable.

- Seychelles announced its commitment towards the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) at the first International conference of the FiTI in Nouakchott/ Mauritania on 3 February 2016. This commitment was documented in the “Nouakchott Declaration on the Fisheries Transparency Initiative FiTI: http://fisheriestransparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/FiTI_1stIntConfDeclaration-EN_20160212.pdf
- The Cabinet officially endorsed the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) following a presentation made by Professor Dr Peter Eigen, Founder and Chair of the Advisory Council of Transparency International, on 7 April 2017: <http://www.statehouse.gov.sc/news/3401/cabinet-business-friday-7th-april-2017>
- A Cabinet paper on Administrative arrangements for the setting up of FiTI in Seychelles was approved on 08th January 2018
- A Cabinet paper on the enlargement of the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholders Group from 7 to 12 was approved, based on the demands of the civil society stakeholder group. This information appeared in the national press on 23rd August 2019 (for example: <http://www.nation.sc/articles/119/seychelles-to-host-the-international-secretariat-of-the-fisheries-transparency-initiative-as-from-next-week>).

Step 1: Public Commitment

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.1



A copy of the public statement must be attached as an annex to this application.

Please indicate where the government's statement to implement the FiTI in your country can be found (e.g., website, press release). Furthermore, please outline whether this statement

- has been publicised through media outlets, such as radio, television, print media and social media;
- has been translated into all the official languages of your country (if applicable).

Seychelles committed to join FiTI was given in 2016 during the first FiTI International Conference in Nouakchott, Mauritania (See previous sections on Seychelles' commitments).

Furthermore, the Seychelles also included its commitment to implement the Fisheries Transparency Initiative in its first National Action Plan (2019-2021) of the Open Government Partnership → Commitment 3, under Theme "Transparency": <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/seychelles-action-plan-2019-2021/>

Step 2: Enabling Environment for Stakeholder Participation

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.2

Please describe below the government's commitment to an enabling environment for business and civil society participation. Such an environment refers to relevant laws, regulations, and administrative rules as well as actual practice in implementing the FiTI.

- Freedom of expression guaranteed under the Seychelles Constitution: <https://www.wipo.int/edocs/lexdocs/laws/en/sc/sc001en.pdf>
- The existence of the “Seychelles’ Blue Economy: Strategic Policy Framework and Roadmap”, where “good governance – transparent inclusive and accountable decision making” is one of its principles.
- Seychelles also continues to strengthen its governance institutions and processes. For example, Seychelles ranked number 2 in “Overall Governance” in the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), and number 6 in “Transparency & Accountability”. Also, according to the 2019 United Nations Human Development Report, Seychelles was placed as the only country in the African region and the Indian Ocean to have attained the very high development index (VHDI).
- Civil Society in Seychelles also continues to grow in strength. There are about three hundred organisations which can be classified as CSOs in the country. These legally registered organisations are not-for-profit, voluntary-based operating independently from Government. The first civil society platform was created 29 years ago and was called Liaison Unit of Non-Governmental Organisations of Seychelles (LUNGOS). In 2008, LUNGOS signed a formal agreement with Government, which set the scene for stronger engagement, collaboration and actions. In 2014, LUNGOS revised its manner of operations and transformed into the Citizens Engagement Platform Seychelles (CEPS), which has to date, a total of 114 accredited members. CEPS also acts as an interface with state and non-state actors, provides capacity building for CSOs, educates citizens on values of a well-functioning society, and through the platform, CSOs are represented on national Boards, including the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group (see below).
- The freedom of the press in the Seychelles, as determined by the international non-governmental organisation Freedom House (latest for 2017) is seen as “partly free”.

- **Access to Information Act 2018.** This is an Act to foster Good Governance through enhancing transparency, accountability, integrity in public service and administration, participation of persons in public affairs, including exposing corruption, to recognize the right of access to information envisaged in Article 28 of the Constitution and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.
- **Finally, Seychelles has embarked on an ambitious journey to elaborate its 15-year vision – Vision 2033, which articulates the aspiration for the country as “A resilient, responsible and prosperous nation of healthy, educated and empowered Seychellois living together in harmony with nature and engaged with the wider world”. The Vision will be achieved through three 5-year National Development Strategies (NDSs), the first of which was launched on the 5th of August 2019. Amongst the many aspirations of Vision 2033 is the goal of improving governance by increasing transparency, accountability, the use of technology in government, the rule of law, and citizen engagement.**

Step 3: FiTI Lead Ministry and FiTI National Lead

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.3

Name and contact information of FiTI Lead Ministry:

The Department of the Blue Economy
Office of the Vice-President
03rd Floor, Oliaji Building
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles

Please describe the rationales for selecting the FiTI Lead Ministry.

The Department of the Blue Economy's mission is to coordinate blue economy activities in Seychelles and is located directly in the office of the Vice-president. The Blue Economy Department is responsible for promoting economic development in Seychelles including especially in the fisheries sector.

The Blue Economy collaborates with different partners and stakeholders within the fisheries sector for economic development as well as unlocking challenges that exist within this sector.

Also, being located in the office of the Vice-President, the Department of the Blue Economy has the political leverage, convening power and trust among stakeholders to coordinate action on the FiTI implementation across relevant ministries and agencies, and is able to mobilise resources for the FiTI implementation in Seychelles.

Name, title, role and contact information of FiTI National Lead:

Mr. Philippe Michaud
Special Advisor to the Vice-President.
Tel: +248-2723466
Email: Philippe.michaud@statehouse.gov.sc

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Please describe the rationales for appointing the FiTI National Lead (e.g., competences, experiences).

Mr. Philippe Michaud graduated in economics at London School of Economics. On his return to Seychelles he worked as an Economist at the Ministry of Planning and External Relations until he was transferred in 1984 to the newly created Seychelles Fishing Authority where in 1986, he became Managing Director until 2002.

He then became Technical Advisor in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and later in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In February 2015 he was appointed as Special Advisor (The Blue Economy) to the Minister in the Ministry of Finance.

Presently, Mr. Michaud is the Special Advisor to the Vice-President for the Blue Economy as well as being a member on the newly created Blue Economy Council. He also co-chairs the Technical Committee as Commissioner for the Joint Management of the Seychelles-Mauritius Joint Zone jurisdiction of the Extended Continental Shelf in the Mascarene Plateau.

Mr. Michaud is also a member of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative International Board.

Please state where the announcement of the FiTI Lead Ministry and the FiTI National Lead can be found in the public domain (e.g., website, press release).

A dedicated website for the FiTI will soon be established under the overall website of the Department of the Blue Economy. All necessary information will be uploaded there. Furthermore, a press release, informing the general public about the competition of the FiTI Candidate application process, will be issued on 10th March 2020.

Step 4: FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.4

Name, title, role, organisation, and contact information of the Chair of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group:

Mr. Philippe Michaud
Special Advisor to the Vice President.
Tel: +248-2723466
Email: Philippe.michaud@statehouse.gov.sc

Number of Members in the National Multi-Stakeholder Group:

Total Members: 12

Government (4 members):

- Department of Fisheries: Principal Secretary Mr. Jude Talma
- Department of the Blue Economy: Principal Secretary Mr. Kenneth Racombo
- The United Seychelles Party (Ruling Party): Hon. Chantal Ghislain
- The Linyon Demokratik Seselwa Party (Opposition party): Mr. Roy Fonseka

Civil Society (4 members):

- Sustainability for Seychelles: Dr. Marie-Therese Purvis
- Seychelles Sports Fishing Club: Mr. Grant Heyer
- Transparency Initiative Seychelles: Mr. Cyril Bonnelamme
- Member of a Youth Grouping: Miss. Gabriella Gonthier

Business (4 members):

- Representative of Purse Seiners: Mr. Hunt Deltel (Mr. Mr. Peter Purvis and Mr. Tony Savy serve as alternate members)

- Fishing Boat Owners Association: Mr. Keith Andre (Mr. Beaty Hoareau serves as alternate member); kindly note that the FBOA also includes semi-industrial fisheries
- Fish processors: Mr. David Bentley (Sea Harvest Company)
- Representative of fishermen from Praslin: Mr. Darrel Green

Please state where information regarding the Members of the National Multi-Stakeholder group can be found in the public domain (e.g., website), including name, title, role, organization and contact information, per stakeholder group.

Please refer to the previous section regarding a dedicated FiTI website and the recent press release.

Please describe the efforts and measures taken to ensure the openness and inclusiveness of the invitation process to participate in the National Multi-Stakeholder Group.

There have been constant efforts made throughout the whole process to ensure that the choice of candidates in the National Multi-Stakeholder Group (NMSG) is open and inclusive. For example, members of the Civil Society on the NMSG were identified by the Citizens Engagement Platform Seychelles (CEPS), which is the civil society platform in the Seychelles, with currently over 110 accredited members.

Members of the NMSG were also encouraged to inform other associations and members about the work being done by Fisheries Transparency Initiative.

Finally, the number of members of the NMSG was initially set to seven (7), but then later increased to twelve (12) members in order to be more inclusive and open to the growing number of interested stakeholders (in particular from civil society).

Please provide information on the selection process conducted by every stakeholder group to nominate their own representatives.

There are three main constituencies which are represented with equal weighting on the National Multi-Stakeholders Group, including civil society groups, small-scale and large-scale fisheries associations as well as government ministries.

The total number of members in the National Multi-Stakeholder Group was determined by the FiTI Lead Ministry (and approved by the Cabinet). The selection process for the representatives was done by each group themselves.

Please state where the formally-documented Terms of Reference of the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group can be found in the public domain (e.g., website).

A copy of the Terms of Reference, approved at the 04th National Multi-Stakeholder Group meeting on 25th July 2019 and is attached to this application.

Step 5: FiTI National Secretariat

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.5

Organisation/host structure and address of the FiTI National Secretariat:

Seychelles Fishing Authority
Fishing Port
P. O BOX 449
Tel: +248- 4670300
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles

Please describe the rationales for selection this organization/host structure.

The Seychelles Fishing Authority is responsible for the promotion of sustainable and responsible fisheries and optimization of the fisheries resource base for the future generation in the Seychelles. One of the roles of the Seychelles Fishing Authority is also assisting in the formulation of national policies with respect to fisheries in general and in the implementation of such policies. The Seychelles Fishing Authority also works in close collaboration with the Department of Fisheries in Seychelles.

As there are ongoing managerial changes at the Seychelles Fishing Authority, and in order to ensure an efficient and time-sensitive implementation process, the role of National Secretariat is, for the time being, assumed by the Department of the Blue Economy due to its experiences in ocean-related stakeholder collaboration as well as activities related to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

Name, title and contact information of the Head of Secretariat:

Mr. Calvin Gerry
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Fishing Port
P. O Box 449
Tel: +248- 4670300
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles

Current number of permanent employees in the Secretariat (part-time and full-time), including name, title, role:

As of now, activities for the National Secretariat will be carried out by the following two employees from the Blue Economy Department on a part-time basis:

- Miss Fatime Kante (Economist for the Blue Economy Department)
- Mr. Abel Sorry (Principal Research Officer for the Blue Economy Department)

Please describe the process of selecting key Secretariat employees (e.g., qualifications, experience).

The above-mentioned staff has significant experiences with the concept of the Blue Economy, good ocean governance as well as experience with the implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in the Seychelles.

Please describe the measures taken for establishing a properly authorised and resourced FiTI National Secretariat.

As mentioned above, the Department of the Blue Economy is, for the time being, contributing human and financial resources to the implementation of the FiTI in the Seychelles. It is currently expected that with the launch of the reporting process for the Seychelles, the Seychelles Fishing Authority will assume a more operational role in the National Secretariat.

Please state where the formally-documented Terms of Reference of the FiTI National Secretariat can be found in the public domain (e.g., website).

The Terms of Reference for the Seychelles Fishing Authority will be finalised, once their work as the National FiTI Secretariat will start.

Step 6: Workplan

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.6



Please attach a copy of the Workplan as an annex to this application.

Please state where the Workplan for the country's first reporting period can be found in the public domain (e.g., website).

Please find attached a copy of the workplan approved by the National Multi Stakeholders Group on 12th September 2019.

Please state whether input from stakeholders outside of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group has been included.

As the Seychelles are being listed as a small island developing state, with limited resources and a small population, it can be assumed that all members from the NMSG convene in other forums with other national and international stakeholders. Through this, input from other stakeholders will be included in the National MSG.

There are also arrangements made for alternates which gives a chance to other members to participate in case the principal member cannot attend the planned activities and also reflect the diversity of the different sectors involved.

Please state whether an initial baseline survey has been conducted to inform the design of the national FiTI process and the first Workplan.

A initial assessment was conducted by the consulting company Moore Stephens LLP, with the objectives of identifying engagement opportunities for the Fisheries Transparency Initiative, assess the availability and accessibility of information within the public domain in order to assist with the work of the NMSG and the future report compiler of the first FiTI Report

Please document the approval of the first Workplan by the National Multi-Stakeholder Group.

The first workplan was developed by the FiTI Lead Ministry and approved by the National Multi Stakeholder Group on the 12th September 2019 during the 05th National Multi Stakeholder Group meeting.

Further information

Please provide any additional information deemed useful for the FiTI International Board in assessing this application. While this section is non-mandatory, such information may include:

- additional relevant organisations and/or individuals involved in the sign-up process (and their activities);
- any other information relevant to assess the fulfilment of individual sign-up steps;
- operational synergy effects that have been explored in case similar secretariats or organisations that support other multi-stakeholder initiatives are already established in the country;
- determined calendar year that will be covered by the first FiTI Report.

Seychelles are committed to publish their first FiTI Report by the end of 2020, covering the reporting period and information from calendar year 2019. Discussions regarding the necessary financial means to conduct this major activity are already in advanced stages.

Furthermore, Seychelles will continue to seek synergies with other relevant global good governance initiatives, in particular the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and the Open Government Partnership.