



Fisheries  
Transparency  
Initiative

# FiTI Candidate Country application

**Country: Madagascar**

**Date of application: 18.11.2022**

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## Table of Contents

RATIONALES AND OBJECTIVES.....	3
STEP 1: PUBLIC COMMITMENT .....	4
STEP 2: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION .....	5
STEP 3: FiTI LEAD MINISTRY AND FiTI NATIONAL LEAD .....	7
STEP 4: FiTI NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER GROUP (MSG).....	8
STEP 5: FiTI NATIONAL SECRETARIAT .....	14
STEP 6: WORKPLAN .....	16
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION .....	17

### **Attachments to this Candidate application:**

- Public commitment letter to join the FiTI by Dr Paubert Mahatante, Minister of Fisheries and Blue Economy of Madagascar, submitted on 27 September 2021
- Decisions (x2) appointing FiTI National Lead on 14 October 2021 and FiTI National Secretariat on 9 November 2021
- Terms of Reference of the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG), approved on 13 September 2022
- 2022-23 Workplan of the FiTI National MSG, approved on 25 October 2022 (an Excel sheet of activities and Word document with introduction/constraints)

## Rationales and objectives

***Please provide a general statement on the rationales for implementing the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) in your country and on the objectives that your country wants to achieve through the FiTI.***

Located in the Indian Ocean, Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world, with an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) measuring 1,140,000 km<sup>2</sup> in total. The country is classified as a biodiversity hotspot and is home to rare and endemic species, both terrestrial and marine. Its geographical position in the western Indian Ocean is an asset for the country's development, yet at the same time exposes it to complex issues at different levels in terms of the governance of its marine resources. Madagascar is also classified as a low-income country, with 80.7% of the population living on less than USD 2.15 a day (at 2017 purchasing power adjusted prices).<sup>1</sup>

With regards to the fisheries sector in particular, Madagascar faces major problems in terms of governance. Several forms of injustice and illegal practices are apparent, namely unreported and unregulated illegal fishing (IUU), overcapacity, overfishing, misdirected subsidies, corruption, poor decision making in fisheries management, etc. These problems cause significant economic losses to the country and constitute a vicious circle in the general administration of the sector.

The various strategic documents of the Malagasy State that focus on the development of the fisheries sector and the governance of its marine areas, such as the *Stratégie Nationale de Bonne Gouvernance de la Pêche* and *La Stratégie Nationale de Gestion de la Pêche Thonière*, indicate the need to ensure transparency, with an openness that facilitates the participation of all stakeholders. This notion of transparency is a guiding principle for ensuring greater governance and accountability.

The Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) is a global multi-stakeholder partnership. Its FiTI Standard is in line with several principles and strategic axes of the Government and the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy Madagascar. These strategic axes include obtaining more accurate and effective information on payments of vessel licence fees, creating a more attractive investment landscape, and ensuring more sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources. Increased transparency will also provide a strong enabling environment for the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Following the guidelines and procedures of the FiTI will allow Madagascar to achieve these objectives in line with an internationally recognised framework. In order to support good governance of the fisheries sector, the Government of Madagascar, through the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy, therefore issued an official declaration to implement the FiTI in September 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/country/MG>

## Step 1: Public commitment

### → FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.1

<b>Name, role/title and contact information of the government's senior official who issued the public commitment:</b>	His Excellency, Honourable Dr Paubert Mahatante, Minister of Fisheries and Blue Economy Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy <a href="mailto:paubert5@gmail.com">paubert5@gmail.com</a>
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**Please indicate below where your government's commitment 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).**

Madagascar's public commitment to implement the FiTI was made via the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MoFBE). On 27 September 2021, Minister Paubert Mahatante sent Dr Valeria Merino, Chair of the FiTI International Board, an official letter expressing the government's desire to join the initiative. This decision was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on 22 September 2021.

As the MoFBE does not have its own website, the Madagascan government's commitment to implement the FiTI was published via the MoFBE's official Facebook page.<sup>2</sup> This publication was then further shared by organisations such as the US Embassy in Madagascar,<sup>3</sup> Blue Ventures,<sup>4</sup> and even Minister Mahatante's own personal Facebook page<sup>5</sup> to ensure it reached as many stakeholders as possible. The public commitment letter was also shared with national media outlets and civil society organisations through the MoFBE's official Facebook page. It was also translated into Malagasy by the communications team of the MoFBE. The public commitment letter is attached to this FiTI Candidate Country application.

<sup>2</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/posts/pfbid02jaPovwx9Fqzs7QsXUeiFW527XHmp9o8qENVKuHy5k9ppuCSzdbxFM9idSpXGTTexl>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.facebook.com/usembassy.madagascar/posts/pfbid02kaAZzvZpXHfCpnRMVsj1tysT73tAAPCDCScth1vaVQUTcMZzWtpA2VvpU5fPeijfl>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.facebook.com/bvmadagasikara/posts/pfbid0CYHTCMv2XsTUT74R3ApDMogN5j9vPDjjwyzhKdNX5jQqxYDZTdCGtTXyCUeyu7cel>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.facebook.com/mahatante.paubert/posts/pfbid0eGy8ofGjKvz1J4zErBjny7rZMANrQcV25EUHHvsDBWfDsjtPzqWAH7DPLEeqJznSl>

## Step 2: Enabling environment for stakeholder participation

### → FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.2

***Please describe below your 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.***

The Government of Madagascar is committed to ensuring that non-governmental stakeholders, such as businesses and civil society organisations, can participate in decision making processes and governance issues. The Constitution of Madagascar guarantees several fundamental rights, notably the freedom of opinion and of expression, of communication, of the press, of association, of assembly, of circulation, of conscience and of religion. These rights are guaranteed to all and may only be limited by the respect for the freedoms and rights of others, and by the imperative of safeguarding the public order, national dignity and the security of the State (Article 10).

Article 11 of the Constitution guarantees an individual's right to information. Information under all its forms is not submitted to any prior constraint, except when it infringes public order or morality. Article 11 further prohibits all forms of censorship and recognizes the exercise of the profession of journalist. An Access to Information law does not yet exist in Madagascar. A draft bill has been produced but has stalled in parliament since 2006.

Transparency and/or multi-stakeholder participation are also highlighted as fundamental principles of good governance in a number of national fisheries strategies of the Madagascar government, such as the *Stratégie Nationale de Bonne Gouvernance des Pêches Maritimes à Madagascar*. Furthermore, the principles of multi-stakeholder collaboration are already followed in other sectors of Madagascar's economy. For example, since 2008, the country has been implementing the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and received a 'Meaningful progress' in its last validation (2020).<sup>6</sup>

The MoFBE has also taken several steps since its establishment to increase transparency and participation in fisheries governance and clean up the fishing sector. Such actions include signing a Convention with the Independent Anti-Corruption Office Madagascar (BIANCO) on 16 November 2021<sup>7</sup> and a Convention with the Madagascar Financial Intelligence Unit (SAMIFIN) on 14 December 2021.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, the MoFBE published the details of the fishing agreement

<sup>6</sup> <https://eiti.org/countries/madagascar>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/videos/608920653492001/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/posts/pfbid0rbs3JP5kMF2mSfeDJYPnmkHy5i16jEfH6XujgcM8R5g12ozth12VS1k9uoiaqxTJI>

signed with Japan Tuna signed on 20 July 2022<sup>9</sup> and also for the first time invited independent civil society members to be present during the renegotiation of the EU Sustainable Fisheries Partnership signed on 28 October 2022.<sup>10</sup>

According to several international indexes measuring governance and rights, Madagascar continues to demonstrate progress in terms of allowing participation of business and civil society.

- The 2020 Ibrahim Index of African Governance notes that Madagascar is one of only eight African countries to have improved in all four categories over the preceding decade ('Security & Rule of Law', 'Participation, Rights & Inclusion', 'Foundations for Economic Opportunity' and 'Human Development').<sup>11</sup> Within the 'Participation' subcategory, Madagascar is ranked in the top 20 African countries, notably 17<sup>th</sup> place for 'Freedom of Association & Assembly', and 14<sup>th</sup> place for 'Civil Society Space'. Madagascar's score for 'Participation' has also improved over the last decade.
- Freedom in the World 2022 ranks Madagascar as 61/100 or 'Partly Free'<sup>12</sup>, a significant improvement from the 2019 edition of the report which scored Madagascar 56/100. In the 2022 report, Madagascar scores well in the 'Freedom of Expression and Beliefs' and 'Associational and Organisational Rights' sections, e.g. receiving a score of  $\frac{3}{4}$  for the question: 'Is there freedom for nongovernmental organizations, particularly those that are engaged in human rights and governance-related work?'
- Madagascar is ranked 98<sup>th</sup> of 180 countries in the 2022 Reporters Without Borders Index, with a score of 58.02/100.<sup>13</sup>

As of today (November 2022), Madagascar is not a national member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP). Furthermore, it is emphasised that publishing information online has not historically been government practice in Madagascar. Budget constraints and a lack of website for the MoFBE pose sizeable challenges to the Ministry's ability to make fisheries information available online in a structured manner. Internet usage also remains low across the country; the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) estimates that only 15% of the population uses the internet (according to 2018 figures) in Madagascar. This is important contextual information given the FiTI's emphasis on online transparency. The MoFBE is currently exploring several

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<sup>9</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/posts/pfbid0SE2fWeHRgAmdSfJSm87JqZ38ygrxLufKNZ1JV8GHfknFm5xfpP6SysVAA4cbBcZul>

<sup>10</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/posts/pfbid0wm6iBh4E5fJw3rEsYGOxCTigF8kziD7SKH8FQo8eKjMRDAeEzgURSnj62Ac8TpBdl>

<sup>11</sup> <https://mo.ibrahim.foundation/sites/default/files/2020-11/2020-index-report.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <https://freedomhouse.org/country/madagascar/freedom-world/2022>

<sup>13</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/madagascar>

opportunities, e.g. through donor-led projects, to provide a sound website infrastructure to publish fisheries management information, as well as about the FiTI implementation process.

## Step 3: FiTI Lead Ministry and FiTI National Lead

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.3

### FiTI Lead Ministry:

<b>Name, address and contact information (e.g. website, phone) of the appointed FiTI Lead Ministry:</b>	Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy Ampandrianomby 101, Antananarivo, Madagascar <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR">https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR</a> <a href="mailto:mpeb.contact@gmail.com">mpeb.contact@gmail.com</a> +261 34 05 415 47
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**Please describe below the rationales for selecting the FiTI Lead Ministry:**

Through Decree No. 2021-856 dating 9 September 2021, the Department of Fisheries and Blue Economy was removed from under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and became its own standalone Ministry – the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MoFBE). The concept of transparency in marine fisheries is therefore highly relevant to the MoFBE which produces and maintains significant government information and data relevant to the FiTI process and whose mandate it is to assure this data is made available to the public.

### FiTI National Lead:

<b>Name, title/role and contact information of the FiTI National Lead:</b>	Ms Narindra Raharison Director of Legal Affairs and Litigation Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy <a href="mailto:narindraraharison@yahoo.fr">narindraraharison@yahoo.fr</a> +261 34 30 654 55 / +261 34 70 043 72
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**Please describe below the rationales for appointing the FiTI National Lead (e.g. competences, experiences, authority and freedom to coordinate action on the FiTI implementation across relevant ministries and agencies):**

Ms Narindra Raharison is a lawyer by training and an expert in legal matters specifically relating to maritime affairs. She holds a Master's (M2) in International Economic Law and has 10 years of experience in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. She was nominated as the FiTI National Lead in Madagascar due to her qualifications, experience and the fact that her senior position gives her the appropriate authority to effectively coordinate actions regarding the FiTI implementation process across different government ministries and agencies in Madagascar. An official decision from the MoFBE was issued to nominate Ms Narindra Raharison as the FiTI National Lead. A copy of that decision has been attached to this Candidate Application.

**Please describe below 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):**

As stated earlier (section 'Step 2: Enabling environment for stakeholder participation'), the MoFBE does not have a dedicated website at the moment. Relevant fisheries-related communications – including information about the FiTI – are primarily provided via social media channels, such as the official MoFBE Facebook. This Facebook page is where the announcement for this information was published.<sup>14</sup>

## Step 4: FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG)

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.4

<b>Name, title/role, organisation, and contact information of the Chair of the FiTI National MSG:</b>	Ms Narindra Raharison (FiTI National Lead) Director of Legal Affairs and Litigation Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy <a href="mailto:narindraraharison@yahoo.fr">narindraraharison@yahoo.fr</a> +261 34 30 654 55 / +261 34 70 043 72
<b>State whether membership in the FiTI National MSG is individual or institutional:</b>	Institutional

<sup>14</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/posts/pfbid02u9d7L8hZAPHe3WxtX3VTvAh8SqBGitTmrVWTz6xPi6f4KJPVdDxRvTVS47f4edknl>



<p><b><i>Total number of members in the FiTI National MSG:</i></b></p>	<p>12 (excluding the FiTI National Lead who is the non-voting Chair of the FiTI National MSG)</p>
<p><b><i>List of <u>government</u> members in the FiTI National MSG of Madagascar:</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy, represented by Ms Rinah TOLOTRAVOAVY</li> <li>▪ Ministry of Justice, represented by Ms Volatiana Nadia RAKOTOMALALA and the Alternate Ms Felahasina ANDRIANARISOA</li> <li>▪ Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, represented by Ms Miora ANDRIAMANHISOA</li> <li>▪ Ministry of Transport, represented by Mr Jean Edmond RANRIANANTENAINA</li> </ul> <p>No general alternates have been assigned to members of the government group.</p>
<p><b><i>List of <u>business</u> members in the FiTI National MSG of Madagascar:</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Groupement des Armateurs à la Pêche Crevettière de Madagascar (large-scale), represented by Ms Eulalie RANAIVOSON</li> <li>▪ Réfrigépêche (large-scale), represented by Ms Arimino Mireille RAZAFINDRAKOTO</li> <li>▪ Comité de Gestion du Poulpe (small-scale), represented by Ms Sonya RAMISANANDRASANA</li> <li>▪ Coopérative FMMA (small-scale), represented by Mr Edmond RANDRIATAHIANA</li> </ul> <p>MIHARI Network (Mr Mitombo BIENVENU) has been assigned as a general Alternate to the private sector stakeholder group.</p>
<p><b><i>List of <u>civil society</u> members in the FiTI National MSG:</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WWF Madagascar, represented by Mr Lalaina RAKOTONAIVO</li> <li>▪ Transparency International – Initiative Madagascar, represented by Ms Ketakandriana RAFITOSON</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rohy Madagascar, <i>represented by Mr Zo RASOLOARIJAO</i></li> <li>▪ Coalition Nationale de Plaidoyer Environnemental, <i>represented by Ms Fety RASOLOFO and the Alternate Ms Corine RAHOELIARISON</i></li> </ul> <p>Blue Ventures (Mr Naly RAKOTOARIVONY) has been assigned as a general Alternate to the private sector stakeholder group.</p>
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<b><i>List of permanent <u>observer organisations to the FiTI National MSG (if any):</u></i></b>	Currently none (under discussion)
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***Please state below where information regarding the members of the FiTI National MSG can be found in the public domain (e.g. website):***

The organisations participating in the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group of Madagascar were published on the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy’s official Facebook page.<sup>15</sup>

The FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group (NMSG) was formalised and officially presented to the public at a national workshop held in Antananarivo on 14 September 2022.<sup>16</sup> Several media houses were present and conducted interviews with attendees. The FiTI International Secretariat also attended the workshop and held a training with NMSG members on their roles and responsibilities in the FiTI implementation process.

***Please describe below the efforts and measures taken to ensure the openness and inclusiveness of the invitation process to participate in the FiTI National MSG:***

During the formulation of Madagascar’s FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder (NMSG), the government ensured that the private sector and civil society sector were both able to

<sup>15</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/posts/pfbid02u9d7L8hZAPHe3WxtX3VTvAh8SqBGitTmrVWTz6xPi6f4KJPVdDxRvTVS47f4edknl>

<sup>16</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/posts/pfbid051LRTxVwocdk4Suqba7jqh4bzbqY2841EquTUTH4JZbkVWLWZ1KutosX97YMNwUxg5l>

independently and freely nominate their representatives to the group without any government interference.

On 4 April 2022, the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MoFBE) launched two expressions of interest (Eoi) to notify businesses and civil society organisations of the establishment of the NMSG and invite them to make themselves known if interested to be a part of it.<sup>17</sup> The Eois were open to all national and international businesses and civil society organisations operating in Madagascar that met a minimum set of criteria, which were developed with guidance from the FiTI International Secretariat.<sup>18</sup>

The MoFBE developed a communications campaign, principally delivered via its official Facebook page, in which it posted regular reminders of the Eoi period<sup>19</sup> and published various content such as videos to sensitise stakeholders on the FiTI process.<sup>20</sup> This campaign was supported by Blue Ventures which also published content on its official Facebook page.<sup>21</sup>

The Eoi period was initially supposed to run until 29 April 2022. However, to allow more time for applications, this was extended until 31 May 2022. A national multi-stakeholder workshop held in Antananarivo and funded by USAID was also held during this extension (on 3 May 2022) to officially launch the FiTI process.<sup>22</sup> The call for Eois was also mentioned during this event, which was attended by various members of Madagascar's private sector (both industrial and artisanal representatives) and civil society organisations.

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

The total number of available seats in the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) was determined by the FiTI Lead Ministry, i.e. the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MoFBE), as 12. This is because the number is sufficiently large to reflect the diverse interests within Madagascar's marine fisheries sector while still ensuring the effective operation of the group.

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<sup>17</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/posts/pfbid0HLmgDdmXZBzHPDD8KQPHds1EjDQeBnRNHSSGXsqbjvctXnFe5LM3TPy794xBVN9Nl>

<sup>18</sup>[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RRVwt\\_qbdclx0p8eFC8OAvBQzgliqcWr/view?fbclid=IwAR2M68tKe05clOBWfxjdOddtqw1Z318jslfYOK5LdFQz4xMr7s7frUpNLb4/https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uxcnGOWQrxBqldnTf1sT07GmYV\\_GUbFg/view?fbclid=IwAR0gPwhdTg5mpXO3xkQPaxKJynEzk1p7-t4IXLLxGYmRbRFQ7hMHjLspnE](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RRVwt_qbdclx0p8eFC8OAvBQzgliqcWr/view?fbclid=IwAR2M68tKe05clOBWfxjdOddtqw1Z318jslfYOK5LdFQz4xMr7s7frUpNLb4/https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uxcnGOWQrxBqldnTf1sT07GmYV_GUbFg/view?fbclid=IwAR0gPwhdTg5mpXO3xkQPaxKJynEzk1p7-t4IXLLxGYmRbRFQ7hMHjLspnE)

<sup>19</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/posts/pfbid03rAu3KLYrjrsosXmDQcmj1n8yDJq4P4XeabwZKNmSTGgwdEJEVryysi54xtDuNi6l> link

<sup>20</sup><https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=404788847840867>

<sup>21</sup><https://www.facebook.com/bvmadagasikara/posts/pfbid0wzkbPcir47QWh17XL2CBvXPTy5erPWgg2azDMvbvw8EoiKAsK5H8Lg7i3Rpp2tbAl>

<sup>22</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/posts/pfbid0D3Z3DupjBDPPZLTq7Dux3d6AGUBEdM5ZiSoFUsH Zktdt8EA8RZqZixC8UAWR695RI>

The MoFBE facilitated two meetings – one on 2 August 2022 with all qualified businesses that responded to the call for Expression of Interest (Eoi) and one on 3 August 2022 with all civil society organisations that responded to the call for Eoi – to allow interested organisations to select their own representatives to the FiTI National MSG.

Initially, more Eois were received than seats available for the civil society stakeholder group. Therefore, interested organisations were invited to discuss among themselves which organisations should serve as Members and which as Alternates. This was done via a vote.

For the business stakeholder group, not enough Eois were initially received during the open call period. Therefore, the FiTI National Lead and FiTI National Secretariat, with the support of the FiTI International Secretariat, reached out to several additional private sector organisations to introduce them to FiTI and the benefits of Madagascar joining, and invite them to submit an Eoi.

There were four private sector organisations (two large-scale and two small-scale) that ultimately responded to the call for Eois and a vote was therefore not needed at the 2 August meeting.

***Please document below how the formally-documented Terms of Reference of the FiTI National MSG were approved:***

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The Terms of Reference (ToR) of Madagascar’s FiTI National MSG were approved at a workshop held at the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy offices in Ampandrianomby, Antananarivo on 12 September 2022.<sup>23</sup> The ToR were circulated to all Members two weeks prior to the meeting. Government, business and civil society Members attended the meeting, as did the Executive Director and Regional Coordinator (Western Indian Ocean) of the FiTI International Secretariat who were on country mission to Madagascar at the time. With technical guidance provided by the FiTI International Secretariat, the FiTI National Secretariat presented each clause and subclause of the ToR to Members, allowing for discussion and questions until a consensus could be reached. The approved ToR were then circulated via email by the FiTI National Secretariat to all Members on 13 September 2022.

***Please indicate the provisions of the Terms of Reference for decision-making procedures in case a consensus cannot be reached (i.e. voting is required):***

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<sup>23</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/posts/pfbid02iEXXzSpqL7DnqATV6KC7LHeLodpYauDV09Wc3KEH3ozLtSEnzjVMugRNUrK6Xpfl>

Members shall make every effort to adopt decisions by consensus. If a consensus is not reached, and taking into account the opinion of the Members, the Chair may decide that a vote is necessary. Each Member has one vote. It is possible to vote by written proxy.

If the Chair decides to proceed to a GMN vote, decisions are adopted by qualified majority, requiring the support of at least two thirds of the votes cast (not counting abstentions) and the support of at least two of the votes cast in each stakeholder group. No decision shall be taken at a meeting unless a quorum is present at the time the decision is taken. At least two-thirds of the total number of Members, with at least two Members from each Stakeholder Group, establishes a quorum.

If a Member is unable to attend a meeting, he or she shall be replaced by either his or her designated Alternate or by a general Alternate from the same stakeholder group. If no Alternate is available, only then may the Member appoint another Member to act as his/her proxy and vote on his/her behalf at that meeting. The Member must inform the Chair of this prior to the meeting. No Member may hold more than two proxies at any one time. Where a Member intentionally abstains from a vote, their vote shall not be counted either for or against the decision. Their vote shall not be counted in the total votes cast. The Chairperson shall not have a casting vote in the event of a tie vote between Members.

In addition to meetings, decisions may also be taken by Circulars. Under Circulars, decisions are taken with a qualified majority of three quarters of the votes cast in favour of the decision, with at least 3 Members from each stakeholder group voting in favour of the decision. Members must respond to a Circular in writing, within one week of the Circular being sent. Voting by proxy is not allowed for decisions taken by Circular.

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

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Due to a lack of a website for the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy, the Terms of Reference (ToR) are not yet available in the public domain. A copy of the ToR is attached to this Candidate Application.

## Step 5: FiTI National Secretariat

### → FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.5

<b>Organisation/host structure and address of the FiTI National Secretariat:</b>	Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy Ampandrianomby 101 Antananarivo, Madagascar
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### **Please describe below the rationales for selecting this organisation to act as the FiTI National Secretariat:**

The Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MoFBE) offices was selected as the suitable candidate to host the FiTI National Secretariat. This is because the MoFBE is also the FiTI Lead Ministry and having the secretariat near the main government body leading the FiTI in Madagascar means a more effective administrative and operational support to the National Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG). Additionally, the MoFBE offices are located in an accessible area in Antananarivo, the capital city of Madagascar, meaning the FiTI National Secretariat can easily host meetings of National MSG members etc.

<b>Name, title/role and contact information of the Head of the FiTI National Secretariat:</b>	Ms Ranjaliva RAMANANIHANITRAMALALA Principal Officer in Ocean Governance Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy <a href="mailto:mpeb.fiti@gmail.com">mpeb.fiti@gmail.com</a> / <a href="mailto:gasilovely@gmail.com">gasilovely@gmail.com</a> +261 34 97 770 70
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<b>Current number of staff assigned to serve in the FiTI National Secretariat (part-time and full-time), including name, title/role and contact information:</b>	2 (including Ms RAMANANIHANITRAMALALA) The other staff is: Onjatina TSIAMIDY Assistant of the Department of Marine Spatial Planning Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy <a href="mailto:tsiamidy@ymail.com">tsiamidy@ymail.com</a>
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### **Please describe below the process of selecting key staff of the FiTI National Secretariat (e.g. qualifications, experience):**

Ms Ranjaliva RAMANANIHANITRAMALALA was selected to serve as the Head of the FiTI National Secretariat in Madagascar because she is well placed in her position as Principal Officer in Ocean Governance to raise the importance of transparency for sustainable fisheries management to the attention of both government and non-government actors. She is a graduate student in business management of the *Université Privée de Madagascar* and is currently studying for a bachelor's degree in professional studies from the Brigham Young University Idaho. She has significant experience in communication, leadership and management. The Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MoFBE) is also striving to assure gender balance across its different departments and assigning the important position of Head of the FiTI National Secretariat to a woman therefore also helps to achieve this goal.

***Please describe below the measures taken for establishing a properly authorised and resourced FiTI National Secretariat:***

The Government of Madagascar has worked alongside non-governmental partners such as Blue Ventures to secure funding for important materials such as laptops and internet connection to ensure the FiTI National Secretariat can carry out its key roles and responsibilities in terms of supporting FiTI implementation. Discussions have also been initiated with different technical and financial partners to support the FiTI National Secretariat with implementing the FiTI.

***Please state where the formally-documented Terms of Reference of the FiTI National Secretariat can be found in the public domain (e.g. website).<sup>24</sup>***

There has not yet been a Terms of Reference (ToR) produced for the FiTI National Secretariat in Madagascar. An official decision from the MoFBE was issued to nominate Ms Ranjaliva RAMANANIHANITRAMALALA as the Head of the FiTI National Secretariat within the MoFBE. A copy of that decision has been attached to this Candidate Application.

***Please state whether operational synergy effects have been explored in case similar secretariats or organisations that support other multi-stakeholder initiatives are already established in the country, if applicable:***

Madagascar has been a member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) since February 2008. Operational synergies are yet to be explored between FiTI and EITI.

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<sup>24</sup> In case such Terms of Reference are not yet published online, please attach a copy of this document as an annex to this application.

## Step 6: Workplan

### → FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.6

<b>Timeframe of workplan:</b>	2022-2023
<b>List the core objectives for the first reporting period, as documented in the workplan:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Objective 1: Obtain official status for Madagascar as a FiTI Candidate Country</li> <li>▪ Objective 2: Submit Madagascar's first FiTI Report (consisting of information for the calendar year 2022)</li> <li>▪ Objective 3: Strengthen Madagascar's engagement and visibility in the FiTI at local and regional levels</li> <li>▪ Objective 4: Operationalise the National Multi-Stakeholder Group for the implementation of the FiTI in Madagascar</li> </ul>
<b>State the anticipated financial budget for the achievement of these objectives and indicate, to what percentage this budget has already been secured.<sup>25</sup></b>	<p>Roughly \$50,000 is anticipated for the production of Madagascar's first FiTI Report (\$35,000 for the recruitment of the Report Compiler and an additional \$15,000 for supplementary communication activities).</p> <p>This budget has not yet been secured. The Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy is planning to organise a roundtable discussion with relevant financial and technical partners after Madagascar gains the status of FiTI Candidate Country to seek funding for the various activities outlined the Workplan of the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group.</p>

<sup>25</sup> In case the anticipated budget is less than 50% secured at the time of submission this application, please indicate how the FiTI Lead Ministry/FiTI National MSG is planning to obtain the remaining funding.



***Please state below whether input from stakeholders outside of the FiTI National MSG has been included in the preparation of this workplan:***

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No.

***Please document below how the first workplan of the FiTI National MSG was approved:***

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The Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MoFBE) hosted a meeting between Members of the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) on 25 October 2022 during which Members discussed and provided input to the Workplan. An initial draft of the Workplan was circulated to Members two weeks ahead of this meeting. Following the meeting on 25 October, a civil society representative in the FiTI National MSG (Rohy) was nominated to then incorporate Member's comments into a final version of the Workplan which the FiTI National Secretariat then circulated to all Members via email on 31 October 2022.

***Please state where the approved workplan for the FiTI National MSG can be found in the public domain (e.g. website).<sup>26</sup>***

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Due to a lack of a website for the MoFBE, the Workplan is not yet available in the public domain. A copy of the Workplan is attached to this Candidate Application.

## Additional 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);***
- ***necessary legal or administrative requirements for establishing the FiTI in your country (e.g. presidential decree), if applicable;***
- ***other national efforts (e.g. open government) that can be used to further anchor the implementation of the FiTI in the country;***
- ***any other information relevant to assess the fulfilment of individual sign-up steps;***
- ***determined calendar year that will be covered by the first FiTI Report.***

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<sup>26</sup> In case this workplan has not yet published online, please attach a copy of this document as an annex to this application.

The Government of Madagascar's commitment to implementing to the FiTI and adhering to the principles of good governance is frequently raised by officials in national, regional and international fora.

- Minister of Fisheries and Blue Economy, Dr Paubert Mahatante, highlighted Madagascar's engagement in the FiTI during his address at the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022.<sup>27</sup>
- José Randrianarimanana, Director of Ocean Governance and Marine Spatial Planning underlined Madagascar's commitment to the FiTI during an intervention at 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of OACPS Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Ghana on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022.<sup>28</sup>
- Minister of Fisheries and Blue Economy, Dr Paubert Mahatante, gave the opening speech at a workshop organised by the FiTI International Secretariat in Antananarivo, Madagascar on 13 September 2022 to raise awareness among parliamentarians, journalists and civil society organisations of the benefits of the FiTI for their respective functions.<sup>29</sup> These workshops were also attended and actively participated in by the FiTI National Lead, Ms Narindra Raharison.
- The FiTI National Lead, Ms Narindra Raharison, participated in a series of national workshops organised by the FiTI International Secretariat, in partnership with Blue Ventures, in September and October 2022 that aimed to sensitise small-scale fishing communities in Madagascar on the importance of transparency for their livelihoods.<sup>30</sup>
- The Madagascar delegation to the UN Oceans Conference in Lisbon in late June 2022 held discussions on the sidelines of the event with the FiTI International Secretariat.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>27</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/posts/pfbid0taxyZAtzmy6PhVQxkU9ehqUZRTUZBBAvFw5xXovx9yhUrZBmZchd8MpWvMs5Gtnbl>

<sup>28</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/posts/pfbid03dHTsQH9Jsc2NgSUEgX5L83uYyaUc9weXto1bGJnJShm4i91o3cmAZEdfTiaMDPQl>

<sup>29</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/posts/pfbid0WvHVd5AN2T1VhUURRfPDGAZTELoAfRlFwsnfwyUYVWcbndQmrQUtp6L9v71pXr8sl>

<sup>30</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/posts/pfbid02CLvfMJAQPTg2ZhfoD5npPAZKkKJ7WTvBvZfsyf9dbCLptSnHtdcHJ7xspnRVqDbzl>

<sup>31</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MPEBMADAGASCAR/posts/pfbid0WCgAmrcEKLUXqgoFRvFaiuadxFg4rN7rkmr31jqkte2UZn91CJpuzQvkKGWTgxysl>