

**MINUTES 5<sup>th</sup> MEETING**  
**IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**MAHE PLATEAU TRAP AND LINE FISHERY CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN**

SFA Meeting Room, Fishing Port  
Wednesday 26 June 2019  
09:00 A.M.

**Introduction**

The fifth meeting of the Implementation Committee for the Co-Management Plan (ICCP) of the Mahe Plateau demersal trap and line fishery was held at the Meeting Room of the Seychelles Fishing Authority, Fishing Port, on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**Opening to the meeting**

Mr. Jude Talma, PS, MFAG, opened the meeting and welcomed its participants.

**Presentation of 'Lansiv' by ABALOBI**

Prior to the start of the meeting there was a presentation of 'Lansiv', by Mr. Daniel Smith of ABALOBI. ABALOBI is a South African-based, social enterprise that has a working relationship with the Fisher and Boat Owners Association (FBOA). Together they are seeking to empower and stimulate the ocean stewardship of Seychelles' small-scale fishers through the joint development and use of technology. 'Lansiv' looks to continue to build on the relative success of the ABALOBI Fisher and Marketplace app roll out in South Africa by developing similar apps in Seychelles.

The participants appreciated the presentation. There were several questions in relation to its actual implementation especially with regards to the role of fish processors. Some participants considered that if it bypassed the fish processors, it would negatively disturb the market. Overall, *the meeting considered it as a good initiative that could benefit fishers in the Seychelles if it was properly adapted to local conditions.*

**Adoption of the Agenda**

The meeting was chaired by Mr Jude Talma, PS, MFAG. Agenda items were revised as per Appendix 1. The SFA presentation on estimating the fish catch was deferred in order to allow the presentation from ABALOBI. The list of participants is presented in Appendix 2.

**Progress towards the adoption and gazetting of the Co-management Plan and follow up actions from the 4th meeting**

The Secretariat informed the ICCP on the actions taken since the last meeting as per Appendix 3.

The Chairperson apologised for not being present at the last meeting for an unavoidable important commitment including for other officers of the Ministry. On item 7, the Chairperson proposed that the issue of superyachts contravening fisheries regulations would be taken up by the MFAG. There was some discussion by participants on item 14 regarding suggestions of possible recreational fisher representatives. *The participants were further reminded to send in their suggestions.*

The Chairperson informed the meeting that the Fisheries Policy and the Comprehensive Plan were presented in the last Cabinet meeting on 12th June 2019. The Fisheries Policy was approved and will be sent to the SFA, the SFA Board and the Department of Blue Economy. It will also be placed on the MFAg and SFA websites. The Comprehensive Plan required some amendments and was deferred to the next Cabinet Meeting scheduled for 10th July 2019. It was expected that the Co-management Plan would also be presented at that Meeting.

The stakeholder consultation that had taken place on the Comprehensive Plan was queried by some participants. It was noted that some of the guiding principles of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on small scale fisheries and the indicators of Sustainable Development Goal 14 should be reflected in the process of development and in the spirit of the Comprehensive Plan (see Appendix 4). In particular, this related to the *need for consultation and participation of small-scale fishers in decisions that could affect them, prior to these being taken.*

*There was disappointment expressed in the delays that had taken place in the approval and gazetting of the Co-management Plan.*

## **5. Development of a fishing fleet management and licencing system.**

The SWIOFish3 Coordinator, Dr Jan Robinson, presented the findings of an MRAG study into a fishing fleet management and licencing system, reminding participants that this was included early in the second phase of the Co-management Plan. The study had found that the number of fishing boats (particularly outboards) had increased, and that there was much latent fishing capacity (many of the existing boats were not being fished to full capacity). The study had recommended the need for the number of vessels to be firstly capped (no new licences issued) with a view to reductions over the longer term. Over 100 vessels had entered the local fishery since 2015 when the present Co-management Plan was developed, indicating a deteriorating situation.

In discussions that followed, the meeting was informed that fleet management would partly be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan through a review of the vessel classification, and their marking systems. Limiting capacity through restrictions in licencing of new commercial fishers and issuing of new recreational fishing permits was generally supported by meeting participants. It was noted that elsewhere this had been preceded by a rush to obtain new licences. The situation could be avoided with an sudden moratorium. *The ICCP would likely have to consider an early implementation of the licencing framework as soon as the Comprehensive Plan was approved.*

## **6. A Communication and Awareness Strategy for the Mahe Plateau trap and line fishery Co-management Plan.**

Mr Aubrey Harris, Consultant, presented a draft terms of reference (TOR) for a Communication and Awareness strategy for the Co-management plan. Such a strategy together with the activities of a Fisheries Liaison Officer would keep fishers and other stakeholders well-informed about the management of the fishery, understand the benefits that the regulations could bring to them over the longer term, and encourage their active participation in future decision-making processes.

Following the presentation, it was pointed out that references, in the draft TOR, should not just relate to fishers but to all stakeholders. Also, because the procurement process is different, the meeting was requested to decide whether the TORs should be directed towards a firm (company/business/organisation/practise) or an individual consultant. It was decided that it should be directed towards a firm. *The Chair requested participants to send their further comments on the draft TORS for the Communication Strategy to the Secretariat by the 13<sup>th</sup> July.*

## **7. Other matters**

The SWIOFish3 coordinator raised the following matters:

- Consideration of whether to extend the consultant's contract would arise, in due course.

- The Fishery Liaison Officer was to be a 2-year position with SFA, with monthly reporting requirements. The SWIOfish3 project would meet the salary costs and SFA would need to meet the other operational costs of the position.
- The 2015 stock assessments made on demersal species included in the management plan had to be re-visited.
- ICCP members could receive SWIOFish3 travel support to learn from other successful management plans regionally/internationally. Suggestions and proposals were welcomed.
- The Monitoring Control and Surveillance Strategy was under preparation and its implementation would be supported by SWIOFish3.
- There was need for the SFA statistical system to be improved.

The ICCP welcomed the representative of the Roche Caiman Fisher Association. It reviewed the attendance of meetings by the members and asked the Secretariat to inform the Sports Fishers Association and the La Digue Fishers Association, which had not attended three consecutive meetings to date, that they would lose their membership if they did not attend the next meeting.

There was a discussion of the means available to assist fisher associations support their representatives attend meetings of the ICCP. The matter may need further consideration in subsequent meetings.

The Secretariat was asked to seek information from member fisher associations on the date of their last annual general meeting, and the proposed date of their next Annual General Meeting.

## **8. Date and Place of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Implementation Committee will take place following the approval of the Co-management Plan by Cabinet and the gazetting of the Plan.

# Appendix 1

## Agenda

### **1. Opening to the Meeting**

*Remarks by the MFAg*

### **2. Presentation of 'Lansiv' by ABALOBI.**

*Presentation of Lansiv which is the Seychellois name that has been given to the project that will enable Fishers to make use of the tech that has been developed by ABALOBI.*

### **3. Adoption of the agenda**

*To be moved by the Chairperson.*

### **4. Progress towards the adoption and gazetting of the Co-management Plan and follow up actions from the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting**

*The MFAg and SFA will provide an update on the status of adoption and gazetting of the co-management plan. The Secretariat will inform the meeting of the actions taken in response to the requests made at the last meeting.*

### **5. ~~Estimating the fish catch of the Seychelles~~**

*~~Developments in the process by which SFA estimates the fish catch of the Seychelles, and its extension to recreational and sports fishers. Other estimates of fish catch and their utility and limitations.~~*

### **5. Development of a fishing fleet management and licencing system.**

*Some of the results of the 2018 MRAG report on this matter and how some of the recommendations will have to be incorporated into the Mahe Plateau Co-management Plan.*

### **6. A Communication and Awareness Strategy for the Mahe Plateau trap and line fishery Co-management Plan.**

*A draft Terms of Reference for a service provider to prepare and implement a Communication and Awareness Strategy for the Co-Management Plan, will be presented for consideration and review.*

### **7. Other matters**

### **8. Date and place of the next meeting**

*To be decided*

## Appendix 2

### List of Participants

#### Members, other Stakeholders and Secretariat

<b>Members</b>	
Michel Commetant	Belombre Fishers Association
Jean Claude Hoareau / Amanda Agricole	Fish Tech
Beatty Hoarau	Fishers and Boat Owners Association
Sindu Parekh	Hire Boat Association
Jude Talma	Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
Ashley Dias	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change
Florent Pool	Roche Caiman Fishers Association
Vincent Lucas	Seychelles Fishing Authority
<b>Apologies</b>	
Wilna Accouche	Green Island Foundation
<b>Secretariat</b>	
Aubrey Harris	Consultant (SFA)
Jan Robinson	Coordinator (SWIOFish3)
Joanne Lucas	Fisheries Officer (SFA)
Yannick Roucou	Legal Adviser (SFA)
Johnny Louys	Monitoring Control and Surveillance Manager (SFA)
Sonny Naiken	Principal Enforcement Officer (SFA)
Elisa Socrate	Principal Fisheries Officer (SFA)
Julie Bibi	Senior Monitoring Officer (SFA)

## Actions following 4th Meeting of the ICCP

1. There was an expression of disappointment from the members of the ICCP that the MFAG was not attending the 4<sup>th</sup> ICCP either as Chairperson or as a member of the Committee. They asked the SFA to convey their disappointment to the MFAG. [done – letter from CFO]
2. The Chairperson requested that the TORs of the consultant revising the artisanal and semi-industrial fisheries regulations be circulated. [done - circulated]
3. The SFA MCS section to revise the conditions of the licences of Seychelles-flagged industrial vessels to prohibit fishing on the Mahe Plateau (Zone1). [Followed up with MCS Manager – conditions of all licences will be reviewed in July, and this will be included]
4. They proposed rather that Cabinet be provided an information Note on what had taken place and seek the Co-management Plan adopted by the Minister and gazetted by MFAG at the earliest. [Done- discussed with the PS and revised Cabinet Memo sent]
5. The Chairperson to raise the matter of fish marketing with the Ministry of Tourism and encourage their involvement in such discussions of the ICCP. [Chairperson to be reminded -done]
6. The Secretariat to request an information note from the MFAG on the progress of the Comprehensive Plan to be circulated to the participants in view of their absence at the meeting. [included in the summary report, followed up later - MFAG informed not able until Comprehensive Plan approved by Cabinet]
7. A letter to be sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Home Affairs to raise attention to the issue of superyachts contravening fisheries regulation, seeking advice on what are the procedures that should be followed. [Not done – needs more tangible information]
8. Secretariat/FIQCUCU to draw attention of the Food Control Unit to some of matters raised in relation to the transport and distribution of fish. [raised with the FIQCUCU – decided best to invite the FCU to ICCP when the matter is on the Agenda]
9. Co-management Plan communication awareness strategy to include good fish handling practices. [to be left for the Communication strategy to deal with]
10. Secretariat to follow up with MSP on its offer to help in providing information on global best practice in relation to visiting yachts and infringement of national regulations. [followed up with MSP – MSP provided some legal advice from its legal advisor – passed to MCS manager]
11. A subsequent ICCP meeting to include discussion on 1) SFA's and other estimates of the fish catch; 2) Licencing recommendations of the MRAG report. [included in the meeting Agenda – need to defer SFA's contribution for more time for Lansiv]
12. Secretariat to seek information on the Chinese fisheries project by Chairperson during meeting [No information received]
13. Secretariat to contact Roche Caiman Fishers Association in relation to its attendance of the ICCP [done – Roche Caiman been reminded. Follow up just before next meeting]
14. Members and participants to send suggestions of possible recreational fisher representatives [there have not been any response to date. To be strategized how to proceed]
15. Coordinates of Fon Lilo – still awaiting PFA [further reminders/phone calls?]
16. The next meeting of the Implementation Committee will take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June [moved from 19<sup>th</sup> June because of the IOTC session] at the SFA Meeting Room, Fishing Port. [Organised today]

## Appendix 4

### Relevant aspects of SSF Guidelines and SDG 14

#### FAO Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries

The FAO guidelines have 13 Guiding Principles based on international human rights standards, responsible fisheries standards and sustainable development according to United Nations RIO+20 Sustainable Development Conference.

#### *Guiding Principle 6 on Consultation and Participation:*

Ensuring active, free, effective, meaningful and informed participation of small-scale fishing communities ... in the whole decision-making process related to fishery resources and areas where small-scale fisheries operate as well as adjacent land areas...This should include feedback and support from those who could be affected by decisions prior to these being taken, and responding to their contributions.

#### **Sustainable Development Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

<i>Goals and targets</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics	14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels
14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism	14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries
14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets	14.b.1 Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/ regulatory/ policy/ institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries