

# SEYCHELLES LEADS GLOBAL EFFORTS IN FISHERIES TRANSPARENCY

Marine resources belong to everyone. Fisheries are particularly crucial for Seychelles' sustainable development and for our Blue Economy. But fisheries are under threat all around the world, including in Seychelles.

The need for sustainable management of fisheries is urgent. **But how do we know whether the sector is managed in a sustainable way?**



The Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) has been established as a unique global effort to support governments in enhancing the quality and credibility of public information for marine fisheries.

Seychelles is now the first country in the world to submit its report to the FiTI. This is a major milestone for our country's efforts to ensure that fisheries are environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially equitable – not only now, but for generations to come.

**“ We, the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group of Seychelles, seek to stimulate informed public debates on how the fisheries sector is managed in Seychelles. We therefore encourage all bona fide stakeholders that appreciate the enormous value and importance of marine fisheries in our country – the citizens of Seychelles, civil society organisations, media, academia and our national and international business and development partners – to engage in an active dialogue based on this report. ”**

**First ever report submitted to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative**

**Summarises information to facilitate understanding of fisheries sector**

**&**

**Assesses compliance against 12 requirements of the FiTI Standard**

**&**

**Provides recommendations to further enhance transparency**

**Report collectively approved by National Multi-Stakeholder Group**

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## Notable transparency observations:



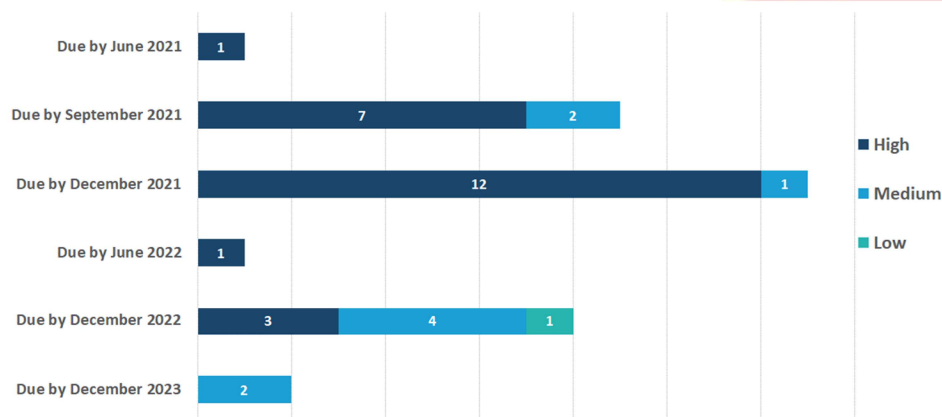
- » A large amount of data on Seychelles' fisheries sector is collated by national authorities (e.g. SFA) – but often not published online
- » As part of this FiTI Report, previously unpublished information is now available online (e.g. *fishing agreement with Mauritius, status of fish stocks, license holders for sea cucumber fishery*)
- » Procedures for beneficial ownership transparency in fisheries sector in progress



- » Crucial information is still not available to the public, such as:
  - Private fishing access agreements
  - Registry for large-scale fishing vessels
  - Information on fisheries subsidies to the large-scale fishing sector (if any)
- » Catch information from large-scale and small-scale fisheries is seen as incomplete

## Recommendations:

The FiTI Report highlights several opportunities for improvement. Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group has determined **34 recommendations** on how to further strengthen the country's leadership in fisheries transparency:



Seychelles' next assessment (due by end of 2021) will review the implementation progress of these recommendations.

# 5

Agreements allowing foreign vessels to fish in Seychelles' waters

# 248

Large-scale fishing vessels

# 503 ▲

Small-scale fishing vessels  
*(Data is seen as incomplete)*

# 50%

Local fish species groups 'overfished'  
*(based on level of fishing pressure)*

**SCR 1.6 billion**  
Imports of fish/fish products

**SCR 3.6 billion**  
Exports of fish/fish products

**SCR 43 million**  
Fuel subsidies for small-scale fisheries