



**ACCESS TO INFORMATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

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1 . INTRODUCTION

The Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) was created in August 1984 by the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act. This was at a time when the industrial tuna fishing sector started seeing intense development. At its creation, the SFA's mission was to develop the fishing industry to its fullest potential and to safeguard the resource base for sustainable development.

To note Seychelles has one of the largest Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Western Indian Ocean and fisheries has played a major role in the lives of our people. Revenue from fisheries have played a key role in helping our country to attain the highest level of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita in Africa, as it is an important source of employment, export revenue and food security.

The functions of the Authority laid out in Section 5 of the SFA (Establishment) Act are:

- (a) to promote, organize and develop fishing, fishing industries and fishing resources in Seychelles;
- (b) to assist in the formulation of the national policy with respect to fishing, fishing industries and fishing resources and in the implementation of that policy;
- (c) to conduct negotiations, or engage in meetings, seminars or discussions, with regard to fishing or fisheries or the establishment or operation of fishing industries, whether at a national or international level, on behalf of the Republic or otherwise;
- (d) to identify the manpower training requirements of Seychelles with regard to fishing and fishing industries; and
- (e) those mentioned in any other written law.

The Authority is governed by a Board of Directors and led by the Chief Executive Officer appointed by the President. The Authority is the executive arm of the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy on matters relating to fisheries management. The new Board of Directors was appointed in February 2021 and

the new Chief Executive Officer in September 2020. Also a new Deputy Chief Executive Officer was recruited in December 2021.

Hence, it has a very important role for the country as it is managing the second most important pillar of the economy of Seychelles; Alongside tourism, it constitutes a pillar of the economy and one on which the country's growth prospects depend critically upon. The SFA works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy (MFBE), the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MACCE), the Seychelles Coast Guard (SCG), the Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA), Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority (SMSA), other Government institutions, fishermen and boat owners' associations, local and international NGOs, universities, suppliers, development agencies and other partners. Stakeholder consultations are held on a regular basis regarding the development of the sector.

The SFA's motto seeks to address sustainability as well but in a different way as it does so in its everyday activities within the fisheries sector. The SFA is also governed by the Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy 2019 which states that one of the government's main objectives is to "Foster optimum utilisation of fisheries and aquaculture resources to ensure ecological and socioeconomic sustainability in resource-use and domestic developments, while recognising traditional norms".

Currently SFA has nine Departments under its core and support functions to ensure that it is able to undertake the above-mentioned functions. It operates with a team of highly qualified and experienced staff with a dynamic set of skills and academic knowledge. As of January 2019, the SFA is a financially autonomous state-owned enterprise (SOE) which generates and manages its own revenues and spending. The main programmes for SFA revolve around its core function of managing fisheries and provision of services to serve the fishing sector.

SFA requires a structure and staff that enables maintenance of a diverse range of technical fields, including: fisheries science and management, natural resource economics, statistics, programming and database management, biology and ecology, as well as administrative and technical support for research vessels, monitoring and surveillance platforms, laboratories and IT. Only by maintaining sufficient capacity will SFA be able to address challenges such as overfishing, overcapitalization and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, which requires the strengthening of fisheries governance and capacity for the implementation of

operational management plans for each fishery, as specified in the Fisheries Act (2014). Fisheries co-management and civil society engagement constitute important opportunities for sharing governance responsibilities, but also require dedicated SFA support for capacity building, monitoring and administration. SFA is further called upon to support the development of infrastructure, services and training for the sector, while also being responsive to acute challenges or emerging issues such as harmful algal blooms and climate change. The importance of education and training cannot be underestimated if SFA is to deliver on this varied mandate.

A review of SFA's operations and performance is timely for a number of reasons. These include the recent adoption of new legislation and policy for the sector, an increasing need for fishing controls to rebuild stocks, and a greater emphasis on transparency, efficiency and performance within the public sector. SFA currently suffers from a lack of capacity to deliver its mandate, caused by losses of professional staff to the private sector and the need for more capacity building.

Given that the Seychelles fishing industry is dynamic and ever-evolving, hence requiring constant review of policies to meet emerging challenges, the SFA actively supports stakeholders engagement and strives to maintain a good relationship with all parties involved be it on community, national and international level by engaging in workshops and meetings for the development and amendments of the different policies and agreements.

In 2021 SFA paid to GOS a dividend SCR75.0 million, one of the highest in its history.

SFA has also invested over SCR 40.0 million in community projects in many districts over the three main island, one of which is still pending completion in 2022. This has been a major turnaround in the way SFA is executing its mandate.

2. SFA's Information Officer details

Mrs Selma Edmond was firstly appointed as the Seychelles Fishing Authority's Information Officer and after her resignation, Mrs Veronica Barbé was appointed on 20th April 2021 to date.

3. MISSION AND VISION OF THE SFA

The vision of SFA is:

Excellence in sustainable fisheries management and development

The mission is :

To ensure optimal utilization of the fisheries resources for the benefit of the Seychellois people through sustainable management, ecosystem-based approaches and integrated development.

The core principles of the Authority aims to enable the Authority to implement its mandate in a manner which promotes good governance, transparency, participation and accountability and according to internationally recognized best practices in fisheries management.

Mandate of the Seychelles fishing Authority

The SFA mandate, as provided for under Section 5 (a) of the SFA (Establishment) Act, 1984 and Section 4 of the Fisheries Act, 2014. is to maintain sustainable fisheries resources management and fisheries development and can be detailed as followed:

- Fisheries resources development and management
- Fisheries research
- Fisheries statistics
- Fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance
- Fisheries licensing
- Fisheries infrastructure development
- Fisheries post-harvest development
- Aquaculture development
- By-catch management/control

Additionally, SFA is presently involved in the following *support activities* which are attributed to powers provided for under Section 6 of the SFA (Establishment) Act, 1984:

- Fishing ports management

- Property management
- VMS installation and maintenance
- Fuel sales to fishermen
- Fuel incentive claims and refund
- Ice production and sales

Its core values are :

To implement the SFA mandates in a manner which promotes good governance, transparency, participation and accountability and according to internationally recognized best practices in fisheries management as per below listed :

1. **Integrity & professionalism:** Work with highest level of professional ethics, responsibility and respect to gain the trust of our constituents.
2. **Adaptability:** Be proactive and flexible in our approaches and make use of best available science and technology to execute our duties in line with the social and economic priorities.
3. **Inclusiveness and teamwork:** Promote teamwork, engage our co-workers and stakeholders and valorize the diversity of our workforce and stakeholders while working towards common results.
4. **Leadership:** Consistently leading the way by empowering and developing staff to own and drive work programs.
5. **Stewardship:** Promote sustainable resource management and ecosystem-based approaches among all stakeholders.
6. **Equity:** Be fair and provide equal opportunity to present and future generations.

5. ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS

SR No	ATI ACT REQUIREMENTS	No
1)	The total number of ATI requests for access received;	2
2)	<u>TYPE OF INFORMATION</u>	
	The number of requests for personal information	2
	The number of request for public domain information	
	The number of request for third party information	0
	The number of request for commercial and confidential Information	0
	The number of request for law enforcement information	0
	The number of request for privileged documents	0
	The number of request for protection of life and safety of an individual information	0
	The number of request for National Security and defence	0
	The number of request for International relations	0
	The number of request for Economic interest of the state	0
	The number of request for Academic or professional examination and recruitment process information	0
	The number of request for proposal submitted to Cabinet	0
3)	The number of requests for access granted in full;	1
4)	The number of requests for access refuse in full;	0
	The number of requests for access refuse in part;	0
5)	The number of times each provision of Part III (EXEMPTIONS) was relied on to refuse access in full;	0
	The number of times each provision of Part III (EXEMPTIONS) was relied on to refuse access in part;	0

6)	The number of cases in which the periods stipulated in section 11 were extended in terms of section 12;	0
7)	The number of review applications lodged with the head of the information holder;	0
8)	The number of reviews lodged on the ground that a request for access was regarded as having been refused in terms of section 14;	0
9)	The number of cases in which, as a result of a review, access was given to information;	0
10)	The number of request transferred to another Public Body	0
11)	The number of request abandoned after request	0
12)	The number of request but no records exist	-

In reference to **point 12** we have to admit that besides request under ATI, the SFA is being requested to provide work related information on a frequently basis, be it project related, monitoring and surveillance, processes to access fisheries related funding, certified information on registered fishermen etc.. to name a few. SFA is constantly in contact with investors and stakeholders leading and consulting on many subject matters internally and externally.

Also it is to note that there have been no records for the first quarter of 2021 in view that there was no proper handing over upon resignation of the previous Information Officer.

II. Any facts which indicate an effort by the body to administer and implement the spirit and intention of the Act according to its submitted plan;

The SFA is on the verge of trying its best to become compliant to the Act. As previously stated, all efforts are being made to make this happen, with the ongoing actions taken by the CEO. Once being compliant to all provisions of the Act, the SFA will be in a better position to continually administer and implement the act accordingly. The engagement of all parties following the educational session will help to adjust all necessary efforts for its good implementation.

One main effort is the launching of our website and social media platforms e.g. face book account for aquaculture and post-harvest development.

Also SFA is actively engaging in advertising its product: such as value addition, job offer, and also to have mass participation in stakeholder's meetings and workshops.

III. Particulars of any penalties imposed against any person under this Act;

YES NO (If yes, list down)

No penalties has been imposed against any person under this Act.

1) DECLARATION

I declare that in accordance to Section 54 of the Access to Information, Act 2018, the Annual Report are to the best of my knowledge, true, accurate and complete as per the requirements.

VERONICA BARBE



30/03/22

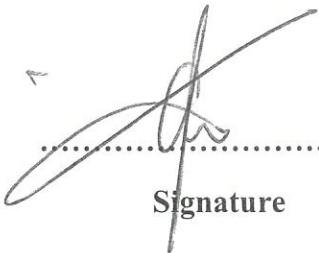
Name of Information Officer

Signature

Date

I confirm that this Annual Report is verified and true, accurate and complete to my knowledge as the Head of Information Holder of **(Insert the name of Public Body)** on the date stated below.

NICHOLAS ELIZABETH



Name of Head of Information Holder

Signature

Dated this 30 of MARCH, 2022.



OFFICIAL STAMP