Strengthening the Blue Economy of the Western Indian Ocean

Electronic Monitoring & Drifting Fish Aggregating Device Management in Seychelles

A snapshot

Seychelles' tuna fisheries are at the core of its economy and overall fisheries sector, making the country one of the most fisheries-dependent economies in the world, with fisheries contributing up to around 20% of GDP and a significant share of exports. Port Victoria serves as a major regional tuna hub, supporting landing, transshipment, and processing activities. To safeguard this vital sector, Seychelles is implementing Electronic Monitoring (EM) systems--the use of onboard video cameras, GPS and sensors to monitor and verify fishing activities--and working to draft a National Drifting Fish Aggregating Device (dFAD) Management Plan that strengthens fisheries management. These activities will aim to bolster the Seychelles Fisheries Authority's Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) capabilities, deliver improved fisheries and conservation/economic wins, and ensure compliance with Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) regulations.

The *Strengthening the Blue Economy of the Western Indian Ocean* project, funded by International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Government of Germany, is supporting Seychelles in achieving its EM and dFAD activities, with The Nature Conservancy providing technical assistance and capacity building to Seychelles Fisheries Authority (SFA).

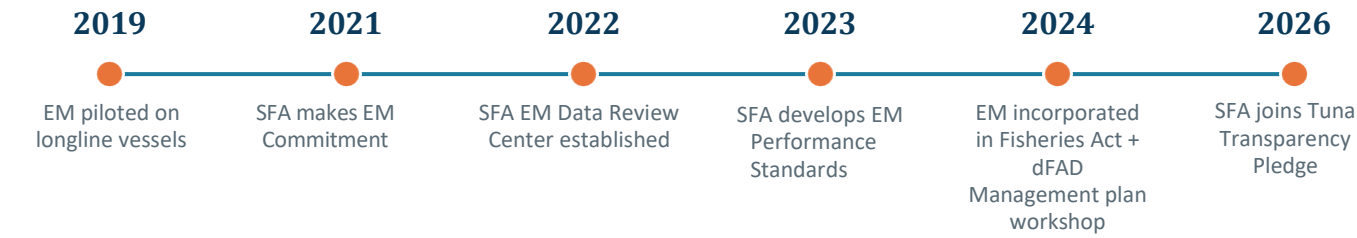
Electronic Monitoring

EM is expected to play a central role in improving compliance monitoring, enhancing the quality and availability of fisheries data, and reinforcing sustainability assurance across the sector. SFA has made steady and notable progress in implementing Electronic Monitoring (EM) in its fisheries sector over roughly the past decade. This progress can be summarized across four main phases: pilot testing, institutional development, operational expansion, and policy/legal scaling. SFA has progressed from small-scale pilots to an operational, data-driven EM system that is already improving compliance oversight. The current phase is focused on legal mandates and full fleet coverage, with a clear trajectory toward 100% electronic monitoring by 2027, positioning Seychelles as a global leader in transparent and accountable fisheries management.

Drifting Fish Aggregating Device Management

Seychelles developed the first draft of its nationalised Drifting FAD Management Plan in 2025 to comply with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) requirement for national FAD frameworks, and to address national priorities around dFAD use in the industrial tuna purse seine fishery. For the first time, stakeholders from industry, government, NGOs and science convened at a two-day national workshop in May 2025 to shape the draft. The workshop reached consensus on four shared goals: minimising ecosystem impacts, ensuring sustainable tuna stocks, improving governance and accountability, safeguarding the fishery's economic viability, alongside priority actions on dFAD tracking and recovery and a realistic transition to biodegradable materials. The plan sets out how Seychelles regulates dFADs within its fleet and waters, including definitions, monitoring systems and reporting requirements, and is being continuously updated to align with the latest IOTC measures (e.g. Resolution 24/02) and national policies such as the Marine Spatial Plan. Stakeholder feedback is now being incorporated ahead of submission to IOTC in March 2027.

The journey so far



PROGRESS IN SEYCHELLES · APRIL 2021 – JUNE 2026

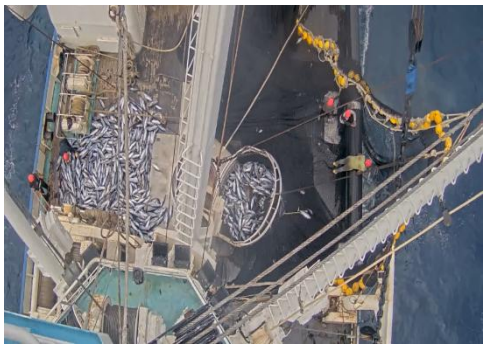
What we have achieved together

Electronic Monitoring

- One of the earliest adopters of EM in the Indian Ocean (since 2016)
- Established national EM review and analysis capacity
- Demonstrated real compliance and enforcement outcomes
- Moving toward fleet-wide adoption with legal backing
- Positioned as a regional leader in tuna fishery transparency

dFAD Management Planning

- Convened Seychelles' first-ever national dFAD workshop (May 2025), uniting 77 stakeholders
- Drafting a stakeholder-driven National dFAD Management Plan for IOTC submission in March 2027
- Backed by dFAD provisions in national fisheries law and updated regulations
- Advancing the transition to biodegradable, non-entangling dFADs



This project is supported by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Government of Germany. Within the Federal Government, the IKI is anchored in the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN). Selected individual projects are also the responsibility of the Federal Foreign Office (AA).

Supported by:
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection
based on a decision of the German Bundestag

IKI INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE

Contact: Dr Ameer Ebrahim · ameer.ebrahim@uq.net.au Ana Nadal · ana.nadal@tnc.org