



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

Highlights of 2017

FiTI International Secretariat

20.12.2017

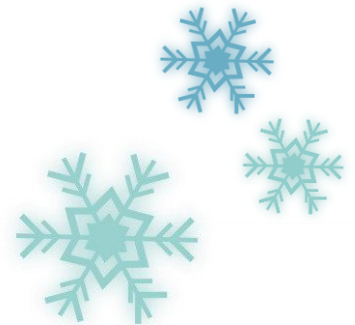


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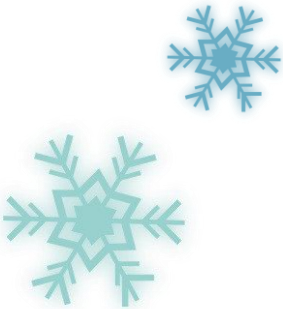
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Impressions



Season's greetings!



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Looking back at the last twelve months, I am proud to see the progress the FiTI has made. When we started the initiative in April 2015, our main initial task was to establish a governance framework for the FiTI that would provide a solid foundation for increasing transparency and participation in fisheries worldwide. With the adoption of the first global FiTI Standard and the establishment of the 1st International Board of the FiTI at the 2nd International Conference of the FiTI in Bali in April 2017, this task has been fulfilled.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the members of the FiTI International Advisory Group, who showed high dedication over the last two years in elaborating the FiTI Standard and in making the FiTI a reality. We also wish to extend our special thanks to the Technical Advisor of the Secretariat, Mr. André Standing, for his continuous support and expertise.

I would also like to thank the pilot countries of the FiTI. Their support and trust in the initiative have accompanied the development of the FiTI from the beginning. Now that the initiative has entered its implementation phase, these countries and hopefully many more will be able to see tangible benefits of enhanced transparency and participation in their fisheries.

With this short summary, we are looking back on the many highlights of 2017. But as the year is coming to an end, we are also excited to open a new chapter for the FiTI: its implementation phase which puts the FiTI Standard into practice. Amongst others, we are looking forward to receiving the first Candidate Applications of countries in 2018, transitioning the FiTI International Secretariat from Berlin/Germany to Victoria/Seychelles and appointing a new FiTI Chair.

Thank you again for all your support in the FiTI. I wish you all a peaceful and happy holiday season and am looking forward to pursuing this important initiative with you in 2018.

Peter Eigen

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Eigen'.

Chair of the FiTI International Board

2nd International Conference of the FiTI

The 2nd International Conference of the FiTI, kindly hosted by the Indonesian Government on 27 April 2017 in Bali, was a major milestone for us. The adoption of the first FiTI Standard and the establishment of the first International Multi-Stakeholder Board marked the beginning of the implementation phase.

On the invitation of H.E. Susi Pudjiastuti, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia, over 200 participants from governments, the industry, small-scale fishing associations, civil society organisations, academia and media met in Bali.



H.E Susi Pudjiastuti, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia

“Indonesia is proud to be hosting this important conference, which marks a milestone of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative. Our country supports this initiative. With a coastline of over 80,000 kilometres, Indonesia needs to empower coastal communities to protect their marine ecosystems. Enhanced information about who fishes what in our waters will significantly support our measures to combat fisheries crimes.” H.E. Susi Pudjiastuti



Together with Indonesia, four other countries (Mauritania, Senegal, Seychelles, Guinea) have already begun laying the foundations to start the implementation process for the FiTI in accordance with the national laws and policies of each respective country. Representatives from these countries emphasised the progress made in preparing for FiTI implementation and reiterated their commitment to the FiTI.

In a Communiqué adopted at the end of the Conference, the **Bali Communiqué on the Fisheries Transparency Initiative**, the participants encouraged countries from all around the world to join the FiTI as part of their efforts towards sustainable fisheries management.

The conference also included an announcement from the then Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Seychelles, H.E. Michael Benstrong, who conveyed the willingness of the Government of the Seychelles to host the FiTI International Secretariat.

Highlights of 2017



For more information:

- **Press release:** Bali Conference launches new era of transparency in fisheries (27 April 2017): <http://bit.ly/2BzioXL>
- **Bali Communiqué on the Fisheries Transparency Initiative** (27 April 2017): <http://bit.ly/2jNMAHx>
- **2nd International Conference (FiTI website):** <http://bit.ly/2rj2YGx>

FiTI Standard



Another major milestone was the adoption of the first global FiTI Standard. The FiTI Standard is a global agreement on what information on fisheries should be published online by public authorities. It comprises 12 transparency requirements and is applicable to all countries. The FiTI Standard provides governments, the fishing industry (both large-scale and small-scale), and civil society with a comprehensive and credible way to achieve and maintain high levels of transparency on the management of the marine fisheries sector and the activities of fishers and fishing companies.

While the FiTI Standard provides this comprehensive list of transparency requirements, it does not expect all countries to have complete data for every transparency requirement from the beginning. Instead, public authorities must disclose the information they have, and where important gaps exist, they must demonstrate improvements over time.

“Through this Standard, the FiTI makes a unique contribution to the sustainable development of fisheries by setting clear requirements on what is expected from countries regarding transparency and multi-stakeholder participation in fisheries.” Peter Eigen, Chair of the FiTI International Board

The FiTI Standard is the outcome of extensive discussions with a FiTI International Advisory Group, that included representatives from governments, large-scale and small-scale fishing sector organisations, multinational and regional fisheries organisations and civil society groups working on fisheries and marine conservation.

The FiTI Standard was established by acclamation by the participants of the 2nd International Conference of the FiTI on 27 April 2017 in Bali.

For more information:

- **FiTI Standard:** <http://fisheriestransparency.org/fiti-standard>

FiTI International Board

We were also proud to launch the 1st International Board of the FiTI in 2017. The 1st FiTI International Board was formally established during the 2nd International Conference of the FiTI. To ensure stability and knowledge transfer during the transition from the conceptual phase to the implementation phase, it was agreed by the former International Advisory Group that the 1st FiTI International Board would be primarily recruited amongst the representatives of the FiTI International Advisory Group. This pragmatic approach allows sufficient time to ensure a formal election of Board members when all the parameters are in place.

The 1st FiTI International Board is chaired by Prof. Dr. Peter Eigen.

The Board currently comprises of 14 representatives from government, business (small-scale and large-scale) as well as organised civil society.



Representatives of the 1st FiTI International Board, with H.E. Susi Pudjiastuti

For more information:

- **Role and Activities of the FiTI International Board and Composition of the 1st Board:**
<http://fisheriestransparency.org/fiti-international-board>

FiTI Countries

As of today, five countries have initiated their national multi-stakeholder process: Guinea, Indonesia, Mauritania, Senegal and the Seychelles.

During the entire year of 2017, the FiTI International Secretariat continued supporting these countries in establishing their own dedicated FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group¹, preparing the way for an efficient and timely implementation from 2017 onwards. For this, the International Secretariat conducted various country missions and engaged with national and international stakeholders. Furthermore, the Secretariat released its first Guidance Note “The sign-up steps for countries intending to implement the FiTI” in October 2017 to provide practical guidance to countries on how to complete the requirements set out in Part I, Section A of the FiTI Standard to become FiTI Candidate (*the six sign-up steps*).

The FiTI International Secretariat also continued its outreach to relevant actors from all around the world. For this, the Secretariat also participated in several regional and international events, for instance in Belgium, the Caribbean, France, Germany, Guinea, Indonesia, Japan, Senegal, the Seychelles, and South Korea.

The FiTI International Secretariat also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Programme Régional Côtier et Marin (PRCM) to promote the initiative and support the implementation in the countries of the Western Africa sub-region.

Launch of the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group in Mauritania,

*Nouakchott,
January 2017*



For more information:

- **How to become a FiTI Candidate Country:** <http://fisheriestransparency.org/sign-up-steps>

¹ The FiTI is built on multi-stakeholder governance, ensuring that stakeholders from government, companies and civil society are equally represented. This multi-stakeholder governance will be applied at the international level through an FiTI International Board as well as in all participating countries through FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Groups.

2018 Outlook

While we are looking back at a successful 2017, we are also excited about upcoming activities and endeavours for 2018.

Here are just a few highlights to look forward to:

- Conducting 3rd International Board Meeting on 23/24 January 2018 (Berlin/Germany)
- Receiving FiTI Candidate Applications from our pilot countries
- Increasing the number of participating countries
- Appointing a new FiTI Chair
- Transitioning the FiTI International Secretariat from Germany to the Seychelles
- Strengthening the international governance structure
- Establishing an own legal foundation for the FiTI
- Promoting the FiTI amongst other relevant stakeholders, in particular retailers and investors



Victoria, Seychelles

Appendix: About the FiTI

There is a widely shared understanding of the need to achieve sustainable and responsibly managed marine fisheries. But coastal states and fishing nations face a complex challenge: ensuring that fishing and fish trade contribute to income, employment, food and nutrition for millions of people, while also conserving marine biodiversity for future generations.

While there are many aspects to achieve sustainable fisheries, public availability of credible information is essential. However, even with a greater public interest in the fisheries sector, basic information still often remains out of the public domain. Such information includes the status of fish stocks and marine ecosystems, conditions attached to fishing authorisations, the contracts of fishing access agreements signed between fishing nations and coastal states or the amount of fish taken from the ocean. But without such information, the quality and credibility of decision-making can be undermined, while the prospect of effective oversight and accountability diminishes.

The Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) has been developed as a unique effort that complements and supports other national, regional and global efforts for achieving responsible fisheries governance. The FiTI is a global initiative and does not focus on a single country or on a region. Also, the FiTI is not owned or operated by one organisation nor does it represent the work of a single interest group. Instead, the diversity of different stakeholders is a central feature of how the FiTI works, for national implementations as well as international governance.

The Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) is a global multi-stakeholder initiative. The purpose of the FiTI is to increase transparency and participation in fisheries governance for the benefit of a more sustainable management of marine fisheries. The FiTI is implemented in countries through National Multi-Stakeholder Groups, consisting of representatives from government, business and organised civil society. Each country will regularly publish credible information on access to marine fisheries, following the global FiTI Standard.



Under the FiTI, each country will regularly publish information on access to marine fisheries which is needed for better and more democratic decision making in fisheries. Through this, the FiTI supports the SDG targets 14.4, 14.7 and 14.b.



The FiTI is a global multi-stakeholder initiative. The FiTI is implemented in countries through National Multi-Stakeholder Groups, consisting of representatives from government, business and civil society. Through this, the FiTI supports the SDG target 17.16



**The FiTI International Secretariat wishes you
a joyful holiday season!**

**We are looking forward to further collaboration
in 2018 and beyond
with all interested stakeholders throughout the globe.**

**If you wish to participate or contribute to the FiTI,
please get in touch with us!**



www.fisheriestransparency.org



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FisheriesTI



Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

