

2023 Work Plan of the National Multisectoral Group of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) of São Tomé e Príncipe

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Approved by the National Multisectoral Group: [30/11/2023]

This Work Plan will be made public after approval by the GMN.

INTRODUCTION

The Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) is implemented in São Tomé e Príncipe through a National Multistakeholder Group (GMN), composed of 9 representatives from government (3), private sector (3) and society organized civil (3).

Government Representatives	Privat sector Representatives	Civil society Representatives
1. Direção Nacional das Pescas e Aquacultura	1. Associação dos Pescadores e Palaiês de Neves	1. ONG MARAPA
2. Serviços de Marinha e Capitania dos Portos	2. Associação Tlabá sô cada Té	2. ONG OIKOS
3. Instituto Marítimo e Portuário (IMAP)	3. Cooperativa de Pesca Semi-industrial	3. Associação Programa Tatô

The MSG has as main takes the following:

- Collect data, information, and recommendations on the group it represents
- Prepare and implement the annual work plan
- Prepare of the annual report
- Incorporate and propose follow-ups (eg, see if the laws are aligned with the group's proposed recommendations)
- Give attributes to each sector, make recommendations for improvements in the sector and promote transparency in the fisheries sector
- Propose timelines for fisheries sector to meet FiTI requirements
- Promote transparency in the relationship with international fishing vessels that fish in São Tomé e Príncipe's water
- Promote synergies closer to communities to provide better support to the sector
- Improve transparency in the fisheries inspection domain
- Financial contribution for the implementation of FiTI (when possible)
- Contribute to improve São Tomé e Príncipe's research capacity on the main exploited resources - small pelagic (mackerel, mackerel), shark, frigate tuna (small tunas recommended by ICCAT)
- Contribute to the implementation of an on boarding observers' program

This action plan represents the sixth and final stage before a country can officially join the FiTI as a "Candidate Country", aligned with the FiTI Standard (Part I, Section A.6), including the main lines of activity for the year 2024, after approval of its adhesion as a candidate country.

Action Plan - 2023

Objective 1: Obtain the official status of São Tomé e Príncipe as a “FiTI Candidate Country”

This objective aims to ensure that São Tomé e Príncipe completes the membership stages, thus laying the NMG to produce the first FiTI Report in 2024.

	Activity	Deadline	Main results	Responsibility	Budget/supporting institution
1.1	Submit São Tomé e Príncipe's official candidacy to the FiTI International Board	November 2023	São Tomé e Príncipe submits its official application, completing the six stages of membership, and is accepted as a “FiTI Candidate Country”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the application file: NMG and secretariat • Approval of the application file: GMN 	No budget is necessary
1.2	Official announcement of the status of the country, if approved as a candidate member	November 2023	All main stakeholders at the fisheries sector and general civil society being informed about the process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NMG 	No budget is necessary, as the NMG members will use their own channels

Objective 2: Submit São Tomé e Príncipe's first FiTI Report (consisting of information for calendar year 2024)

This objective aims to support the next FiTI reporting process, resulting in the compilation, approval, and public dissemination of the São Tomé e Príncipe FiTI Report 2022.

	Activity	Deadline	Main results	Responsibility	Budget/supporting institution
2.1	Elect the 2024 FiTI Report Compiler	January 2024	A smaller group inside the GMN is engaged to act as the Report Compiler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GMN 	no costs
2.2	Establish a methodology to collect the needed information, compile and prepare the report	January 2024	A methodology to collect the needed information, compile and prepare the report is approved and well establish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GMN 	no cost
2.3	Educate relevant government agencies and main stakeholders on upcoming requirements of the FiTI Reporting process	February and March 2024	The FiTI Focal Point analyses where the information for the FiTI Report is and the level of perception of its holders A specific action plan is prepared and implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FiTI Focal Point FiTI National Secretariat 	EUR 5,000 (Fund provider to be identified)
2.4	Collect, compile, and organise the needed information for the 2024 FiTI Rapport	Across 2024	A data base of collected information is created and continuously updated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Report Compiler 	EUR 3,000
2.5	Prepare the first draft of the 2024 FiTI Rapport	November 2024	A first draft of the 2023 FiTI Rapport is prepared and submitted to the NMG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Report Compiler 	EUR 2,000

2.6	2023 FITI Rapport validation	November 2024	The GMN collectively approve the FiTI Report, including recommendations to increase levels of transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NMG 	EUR 4,000 (Fund provider to be identified)
2.7	2023 FITI Rapport is made public	December 2024	Wide dissemination of the FiTI Report 2023 to local and regional stakeholders through various communication and awareness-raising activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NMG • Government institutions • FiTI Point Focal • FiTI National Secretariat 	EUR 1,500 (Fund provider to be identified)

Objective 3: Increase the visibility of São Tomé e Príncipe's engagement in the FiTI at local and regional levels

This objective aims to ensure that a wide range of stakeholders (at national and regional level) are made aware of the country's continued engagement in the FiTI and the role of transparency and participation in sustainable fisheries management.

	Activity	Deadline	Main results	Responsibility	Budget/supporting institution
3.1	Make public the main findings of the FiTI report 2023	December 2024	A wide range of stakeholders (at national and regional level) are made aware of the country's continued engagement in the FiTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FiTi National Secretariat	EUR 1,500

Objective 4: Strengthen administration and governance of FiTI implementation in São Tomé e Príncipe

This objective aims to strengthen the internal administration and governance of the São Tomé e Príncipe FiTI GMN to ensure effective, efficient, and effective implementation of the initiative in the country.

	Activity	Deadline	Main results	Responsibility	Budget/supporting institution
4.1	Organise at least 6 GMN meetings	Across 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FiTI National Secretariat	EUR 20,000 (Fund provider to be identified)

4.2	Invite intergovernmental organizations based in São Tomé e Príncipe (national or international) to act as Observers (without voting rights) to the NMG	Across 2023	A list of publicly available names and contact details of GMN Observers is prepared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FiTI Focal Point 	No cost
4.3	Prepare the 2025 Action Plan	December 2024	A Work Plan in accordance with Section B.3.4 of the FiTI Standard is approved by the GMN and made available to the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FiTI Focal Point • GMN 	EUR 2,000
4.4	Analyse the performance and participation levels of the GMN members and adjustments to the ToR, if needed	December 2024	The GMN reflects on its composition and ToR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMN 	No cost

Potential constraints and mitigation options in 2024

Bellow we list several potential constraints to implement this Work Plan that could impact it's the operational effectiveness and possible mitigation measures:

- **Financial support:** as it will be the first year, some costs are needed to support travelling for in-person meeting and to print some dissemination materials. If no fund is allocated, some results can be impacted.
 - **Mitigation:** Given the weak economic situation in the country, the secretariat and focal point will be seeking for alternative donors. In other hand, whenever it is not possible to meet in person, online condition will be created. Also, when not possible to print materials, digital format will be used.
- **Politic situation:** if a change in leadership and the new government withdraws its support for the FiTI, this can pose serious challenges to the continued implementation of the FiTI. the initiative in São Tomé e Príncipe.
 - **Mitigation:** to prevent this, education on the importance of this process is to cover all parliamentary and politic stakeholders.
- **Resistance to transparency:** it must be recognized that there may be some resistance or suspicion from certain stakeholder on the involvement in the FiTI that can cause some disruptions.
 - **Mitigation:** education on the importance of this process is to be a continuous process.