

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the “MoU”) is made between the Seychelles Fishing Authority (hereinafter referred to as SFA), P.O. Box 449, Fishing Port, Victoria, Seychelles, represented by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mr Calvin Gerry, Island Conservation Society (hereinafter referred to as ICS), represented by the Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Michelle Murray; Islands Development Company (hereinafter referred to as IDC) represented by the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Glenny Savy, and SIOTI, represented by its President, Tony Lazzazara, and the SIOTI Partners.

To carry out the project called FAD WATCH.

1. OBJECTIVE OF THE “FAD WATCH” PROJECT

To prevent and mitigate at the maximum level possible FAD beaching and entanglement in coral reefs on the designated areas of the project where ICS is active during the second semester of 2019 and first semester of 2020 in the Seychelles Archipelago.

2. ACTIVITIES

FAD WATCH is a collaborative project requiring involvement of several organizations including: The SIOTI Fleet, ICS, IDC and SFA in five islands of Seychelles. Proposed activities include the following:

- Removal of FADs from reefs and beaches and proper storage by ICS island teams with assistance from IDC.
- Collection of FADs by purse seine supply vessels or IDC barge for proper disposal and/or recycling of FAD materials and satellite buoys on Mahé.
- Continuous data collection by ICS describing the types of FADs and the impact caused.
- Preparation of annual reports by a steering committee (Annex 1) using the data collected to assess tasks completed and future needs.
- Fishing companies to supply ICS with alerts (including coordinates, trajectory, and estimated timeframes) of probable FAD beaching events as and when the FAD comes within the 3 nautical miles buffer zone.
- During the first 3 months of the MOU, fishing companies to provide technical support to local partners (ICS, SFA and IDC) for software and training required for implementation of FAD Watch, relating mainly to communication of FAD positions.
- ICS and the SFA to assist in providing suggestions to improve the design of eco-friendly FADs.

3. IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

Island Conservation Society (ICS)

Responsible for the implementation and coordination of this project, ICS teams will intercept FADs at sea (whenever possible) and remove FADs from reefs and beaches on the following islands: Aride, Silhouette, Desroches, Alphonse, and Farquhar. Through the Steering Committee, will contribute to analysis and reports on data collected in the process of FAD collection and removal. In respect to the collaborative nature of this project, vessels and fishing companies will not be mentioned by name in any future reports. A list of the islands and the chart with the FAD beaching prevention areas will be provided to SIOTI in order to organize the FAD detection system.

Islands Development Company (IDC)

IDC will provide support to ICS on the islands listed above where FAD removal is taking place. This may include the use of boats and skippers, as well as land-based resources such as tractors to move and store FADs once they are removed from the water. IDC will need to call purse seine fleet support vessels if they are to visit islands to collect FADs for disposal/recycle. The alternative to this is that IDC barges take FADs back to Mahé, and they are then disposed of properly and/or recycled in collaboration with purse seine fleet.

The SIOTI Fleet

The SIOTI Fleet is composed of 42 vessels with French, Italian, Mauritius, Seychellois and Spanish flag. The SIOTI Fleet will alert ICS whenever a FAD arrives within 3 nautical miles of any atoll where ICS has a permanent presence (i.e. islands listed above), and provide GPS coordinates, trajectory and estimated projected time of beaching or entanglement in coral reefs. As long as the FAD remains within the 3 nautical mile zone, location updates will be provided to ICS at 2-hour intervals. The SIOTI Fleet will provide technical support to initially setup the necessary software on the island team's laptops and train the respective staff accordingly during the first 3 months of this MoU. They will also provide ongoing technical support to ICS throughout the duration of the MoU.

The fishing companies will work with ICS to improve the FAD Watch alert system to further minimize the risk of FAD becoming entangled on coral reefs or coming ashore on an ICS island. The fishing companies will instruct the companies that supply buoys to provide information to ICS and SFA in an easily readable format. The ICS/IDC and/or SFA should provide a detailed set of coordinates of the atolls where the new alert systems will be established.

The SIOTI Fleet will provide funding to ICS to cover costs of fuel, labour, equipment and project co-ordination, with the sum of \$----- agreed upon for the duration of this MoU.

SIOTI will provide funds to ICS in 3 installments: \$----- upon signing of the MoU; \$----- at 6 months after signing the MOU, and \$----- upon termination of the MoU.

SIOTI representatives will participate in the steering committee, assist ICS, IDC and SFA when necessary, and supervise the correct application of the FAD Watch project.

SIOTI will provide additional financial support for a short-term consultant to assist the steering committee in data analyses and report preparation.

Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA)

SFA would need to grant permission for purse seine support vessels to enter restricted zones and access islands in order to collect FADs. Where possible, SFA may assist with the collection and distribution of beached FAD coordinates as well as to coordinate the recycling of FAD satellite buoys when they come back to port.

4. DATA DISEMINATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY CLAUSE

All the information shared among the SIOTI Fleet, ICS, IDC and SFA shall be used solely for the purpose of this project. Data shared shall neither be used for purposes other than those indicated in the Project Objective nor shared with any other party not included in the Project. Moreover, FAD positions shall not be shared among the fleets comprising SIOTI. Data relating to the activities of individual vessels, vessel companies or Associations will not be disclosed to the public under any circumstances by SIOTI management or any of its partners. All reports and communications shall be produced in a collaborative way for scientific purposes with implementing agency representatives acting as co-authors as appropriate. Any reports other than scientific that a party would like to publish using FAD Watch information shall be approved by the parties.

5. TERMINATION

The duration of this MoU shall be for 12 months and become effective immediately upon signature. This agreement may be terminated if one of the parties decides it, informing the rest of the participants three months in advance.

ANNEX 1 – TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STEERING COMMITTEE

A steering committee will be established in order to monitor the progress of FAD Watch and assess the results of the project. For this purpose, the steering committee will:

- have access to all data collected during the project
- be responsible for conducting or coordinating analyses of FAD Watch data
- be responsible for interpreting results and key messages for public dissemination
- be responsible for recruiting and supervising a short-term consultant to undertake data analysis and report drafting
- be responsible for compiling or reviewing all reports pertaining to FAD Watch

- be responsible for approving communication activities in relation to FAD Watch, specifically public-facing technical reports, scientific papers and press and media releases
- provide advice to the parties on the implementation of the project

The steering committee will be composed of:

1. One representative of the French fleet
2. One representative of the Spanish fleet
3. One representative of the non-EU fleet
4. One representative of the SIOTI processors (Thai Union Europe or Princes Limited)
5. One representative of ICS
6. One representative of IDC
7. One representative of SFA

The steering committee will be supported by the SIOTI Coordinator. Participation of invited experts will be possible if agreed by the steering committee.

Meetings of the steering committee will be scheduled and organised by ICS and the SIOTI Coordinator. Teleconference will be provided to facilitate participation of all members. Notice for meetings of the steering committee will be issued at least 14 days prior the meeting.

SIGNED

For Island Conservation Society (ICS)

Ms. Michelle Murray

Chief Executive Officer

For Islands Development Company (IDC)

Mr. Glenny Savy

Chief Executive Officer

For Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA)

Mr. Calvin Gerry

Deputy Chief Executive Officer

For SIOTI

Mr Tony Lazzazara

SIOTI President

SIOTI Partners

For Atunsa INC

For Beach Fishing LTD

For CFTO

For Hartswater LTD

For Inpesca Fishing LTD

For IOSMS

For Interatun LTD

For Industria Armatoriale Tonniera

For Isabella Fishing LTD

For OPAGAC

For Orthongel

For Optuc

For Princes Limited

For Sapmer SA

For Thai Union Europe

For Tuna Fishing Company

Date: