

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the MoU) is entered into between the **Seychelles Fisheries Authority** (hereinafter referred to as SFA), represented by its Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Jan Robinson, the **Asociación de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores** (hereafter referred to as AGAC), a registered association represented by its Director General, Dr. Julio Morón, and the **Sustainable Indian Ocean Tuna Initiative** (hereafter referred to as SIOTI), represented by its President, Mr. Tony Lazazzara, collectively hereinafter referred to as the "Parties".

### **1. OBJECTIVE OF THE MOU AND OF THE FAD WATCH PROJECT**

This MoU establishes a cooperative framework for the implementation of the FAD Watch Project, aimed at preventing and mitigating the risks of stranding and entanglement of drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (dFADs) in coral reefs, beach, shore and other shallow water habitats of Seychelles.

### **2. SCOPE AND ACTIVITIES**

FAD Watch is a collaborative initiative involving the SFA, the Seychelles Coastguard, SIOTI, AGAC and other partners approved by the Parties. The key activities under this MOU include the following:

- a. Deployment of the Seychelles Coastguard vessel *Saya de Malha*<sup>1</sup> to recover dFADs stranded in shallow marine habitats of Seychelles.
- b. Deployment of the Seychelles Coastguard vessel *Saya de Malha* or any other asset from collaborative partners deemed to be suitable to intercept and recover dFADs at drift that pose a risk of stranding in shallow marine habitats of Seychelles.
- c. Return of recovered dFADs to Mahé for disposal, reuse or recycling by agents of the SIOTI and AGAC fleets and/or any local provider of such services.
- d. Provision of one daily position dFAD satellite buoy data in designated zones to SFA to facilitate identification of at-risk areas and to support effective planning of *Saya de Malha* campaigns.
- e. Analyses and risk assessment based on dFAD data collected by the service provider Thalos through the online tool (ShoreManager/FAD Watch app.) developed in the previous FAD Watch project.
- f. During campaigns, when *Saya de Malha* is at sea, provision of hourly position data of dFAD satellite buoys in designated zones to SFA and the Seychelles Coastguard to facilitate cost-effective recovery of dFADs.
- g. Data collection by scientific observers of dFAD recovery aboard *Saya de Malha*, including habitat interactions, dFAD identification and design (as detailed on the FAD Recovery Data Form).

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<sup>1</sup> FAD Watch may, with the agreement of the Parties, and in line with Seychelles regulations, be extended to collectors other than SGCV *Saya de Malha*.



- h. Verification by SFA will include checking recovered buoy information against the IOTC dFAD Register, confirmation that the buoy was in the pre-determined designated zone and period of the campaign, confirmation of ownership and marking the recovered dFAD as retrieved in the dFAD Register. SFA will provide SIOTI and AGAC with dFAD data collected during the campaigns.
- i. Preparation of annual technical and financial reports by a Steering Committee (Annex 2) using the data collected to assess tasks completed and future needs and, if agreed between the Parties, the production of information papers on FAD Watch for the appropriate scientific body of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.
- j. Reviews of the boundary areas of the selected islands.
- k. Implementation of at least two missions per year, at least one within each inter-monsoon period with a view to expanded coverage to all islands included in the programme.
- l. Organisation and delivery of pre-mission training sessions, including for Seychelles Maritime Academy (SMA) students participating in the mission.
- m. Provision of satellite internet connectivity to Saya de Malha during missions to enable real-time communication and data transmission.

### **3. IMPLEMENTATION AND COLLABORATION**

This MoU shall be implemented by mutual agreement, consultation and periodic assessment between the Parties. Modalities, procedures and protocols on how to effectively coordinate and cooperate to execute the activities may be further developed and agreed between the Parties, including the execution of appropriate legal agreements.

Other collaborating partners may participate in the activities covered by this MoU, subject to the agreement between all Parties prior the formal written authorisation of the SFA. Potential partners may include, but are not limited to, Island Conservation Society (ICS), the Islands Development Company (IDC), Save Our Seas Foundation (SOSF), the Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF) or other Seychelles-based NGOs. Such partners must comply with all terms and conditions of this MoU, including those pertaining to data sharing and confidentiality and reporting (as detailed in Section 5).

### **4. IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The SIOTI and AGAC fleets are composed of 41 vessels with French, Italian, Mauritian, Kenyan, Omani, Seychellois, Spanish and Tanzanian flags. SIOTI and AGAC will alert the SFA, through the ShoreManager tool, whenever a dFAD arrives within designated zones of Seychelles (Annex 1) (African banks, d'Arros, Aldabra, Bird, Denis, etc) and provide buoy ID, service provider, time-stamp, GPS co-ordinates and speed. As long as the dFAD remains within the designated zones, location updates will be provided to SFA daily (at 24-hour intervals). Once the SFA has communicated the campaign dates, the frequency of dFAD location updates will be increased to an hourly interval for the duration of the campaign. SIOTI and AGAC shall provide funding for the service provider, while the service provider will train personnel designated by the SFA on the use of the software and alert users to any changes relating to the product or services provided.

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SIOTI and AGAC shall provide financial support to SFA to cover the costs of deploying Saya de Malha on at least two (2) campaigns, from August 2025 to July 2026, to recover or intercept dFADs. The financial contribution per year shall not exceed EUR 100 000.

SIOTI and AGAC will jointly fund the campaigns and other financial support by SIOTI and AGAC to FAD Watch in accordance with a contribution scheme agreed by their partners, as agreed between them prior to the signature of this MoU.

SIOTI and AGAC will continue to provide funding to the chosen service provider, Thalos, to ensure that the online tool ShoreManager meets the needs of FAD Watch in providing FAD information in designated zones. SIOTI and AGAC will request the service provider Thalos to develop the software made available to the SFA and the Seychelles Coastguard, and other partners as appropriate, taking into account the needs identified by the FAD Watch Steering Committee.

SIOTI and AGAC representatives will participate in the FAD Watch Steering Committee and assist SFA and the Seychelles Coastguard in planning the campaigns of Saya de Malha financed by SIOTI and AGAC, in designing data collection, management and analysis.

#### **Seychelles Fisheries Authority (SFA)**

SFA shall act as the national implementing agency. SFA will receive the funds provided by SIOTI and AGAC, for the FAD Watch campaigns including the use of Saya de Malha and other platforms, where appropriate, in the year from August 2025 to July 2026, totalling EUR 100 000, and use those funds to cover the operational and other related costs associated with the campaigns.

SFA will request and compile expenditure receipts from the Seychelles Coastguard on operational costs of the campaigns and share records of expenditure with SIOTI and AGAC.

SFA will identify and board suitably qualified and trained Seychellois and other vetted scientific observers on Saya de Malha and other platforms, where appropriate, for the campaigns funded by SIOTI and AGAC to collect data on dFAD recovery and interception according to protocols designed by the Steering Committee. Training and the FAD Watch Data Form shall include data collection and classification, including the dFAD designs, as provided by the applicable IOTC resolutions. SFA shall ensure that the data form approved by the FAD Watch Steering Committee is used for collecting data. The observer or designated mission manager will produce a report on the campaigns according to a report format designed by the Steering Committee. SFA will seek to involve local and international scientists in missions to enhance data collection, research outcomes, and knowledge exchange. In addition, SFA will send the Steering Committee mission reports, data, completed forms and photos taken during the campaigns.



## **5. DATA SHARING AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

All data and information shared under this MOU shall be used solely for the purpose of the FAD Watch Project. Data and information shared shall not be used for any other purpose and shall not be disclosed to any third party without the prior written consent of all Parties.

In addition, if any results or reports are published, the terminology and definitions used shall remain consistent with those stipulated in the observer forms, which shall serve as the official reference for the purposes of this MOU. Drifting FAD position data shall not be shared among the fleets comprising SIOTI and AGAC. Data relating to the activities of individual vessels, vessel companies or associations shall remain confidential and shall not be disclosed to any third party including to the public under any circumstances by SFA, SIOTI or AGAC management or any of their partners. All reports and communications shall be produced in a collaborative way for scientific purposes by implementing agency representatives acting as co-authors as appropriate. Any report that a party would like to publish using FAD Watch information shall be subject to the review and approval by all Parties. For all reports or communications, a minimum review period of two weeks must be observed before publication.

SFA shall designate users from the Fisheries Management and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Divisions who can access the ShoreManager software, including scientific observers who will board Saya de Malha. SIOTI and AGAC will also nominate designated users of the ShoreManager software, which will be limited to a single representative of each of the organisations (AGAC, ANABAC, ORTHONGEL) and the SIOTI Coordinator. Designated users of the ShoreManager software are not permitted to share ShoreManager information or extracted data with the public or third parties without prior written approval of the signatories to this MoU, with the exception of the Seychelles Coastguard for the operation of Saya de Malha dFAD recovery and interception campaigns.

Nothing in this clause shall prevent the disclosure of data to competent national authorities where required by law.

## **6. STEERING COMMITTEE**

The Parties shall, no later than three (3) months after the commencement of this MoU, establish a FAD Watch Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the activities under this MoU. The Steering Committee shall review and provide recommendations on all reports and publications related to the programme and shall have final authority to approve the release of any reports or publications in the public domain.

The composition and terms of reference of the Committee are set out in Annex 2.



## **7. COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION**

This MoU shall enter into force on the date of the last signature and remain effective for a period of twelve (12) months, unless terminated earlier in accordance with Article 8.

## **8. AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION**

- 8.1 This MoU may be amended or extended by written agreement signed by all Parties through their duly authorised representatives.
- 8.2 Any Party may terminate this MoU by giving three (3) months' prior written notice to the other Parties.
- 8.3 Unless agreed otherwise, upon termination of this MoU, the rights and obligations of the Parties defined under any other instrument pursuant to this MoU, including legal instruments, shall cease to be effective.

## **9. USE OF NAMES, EMBLEMS AND LOGOS**

No Party shall use the name, emblem or logo of any Party in publications, reports, or communications without the prior written consent of that Party.

## **10. LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY**

Each Party shall be responsible for the acts and omission of its personnel and contractors and shall indemnify the other Parties from liability arising from its own negligence, misconduct or breach of this MoU.

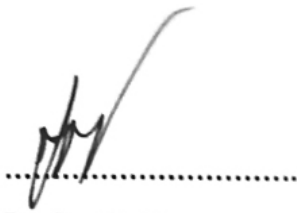
## **11. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Any dispute between the Parties arising from the interpretation or implementation of this MoU shall be resolved amicably through consultation between the Parties.

## **12. COUNTERPARTS**

This MoU may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed to be an original copy of this MoU and all of which, when taken together, will be deemed to constitute one and the same MoU.





**Dr. Jan Robinson**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**Date:** 28/1/26

**For the Seychelles Fisheries Authority (SFA)**

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por 50152892N JULIO  
MORON (R: G28657104)

JULIO MORON

(R: G28657104)

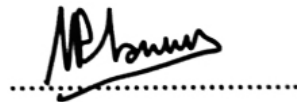
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**Dr. Julio Moron**

**Director General**

**Date:** .....

**For the Asociación de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores (AGAC)**



**Mr. Tony Lazazzara**

**SIOTI President**

**Date:** 08 Jan 2026

**For the Sustainable Indian Ocean Tuna Initiative (SIOTI)**

## **ANNEX 1 – ISLANDS COVERED BY THE FAD WATCH PROJECT**

- Assomption
- Astove
- Cosmoledo
- Desnoeufs
- Providence
- Farquhar
- Poivre
- Alphonse
- Marie Louise
- Remire
- Desroches
- Silhouette
- Aride
- Platte
- Coëtivy
- Marine Spatial Plan Zone 1 (incorporating Aldabra)



## **ANNEX 2 – 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 implementation;
- 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 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; and
- provide advice to the parties on the implementation of the Project.

The steering committee will be composed of:

1. Two representatives of SFA
2. One representative of Seychelles Coastguard
3. One representative of SIOTI
4. One representative of AGAC
5. One representation of ANABAC
6. One representative of ORTHONGEL
7. One representative of the SIOTI processors (Thai Union Europe or Princes Limited)

The Steering Committee will elect a Chair and Co-chair at its first meeting and will be supported by the SIOTI Coordinator. Participation of invited experts will be possible if agreed by the Steering Committee. Minutes of meetings will be taken by the SIOTI Coordinator and will be circulated at most two weeks after each meeting.

Meetings of the Steering Committee will be scheduled every two months, or as otherwise agreed by the Parties, and organised by SFA and the SIOTI Coordinator. Teleconference will be provided to facilitate participation of all members. Notice for meetings of the steering committee will be issued by the Chair at least 14 days prior the meeting.

