



EU - SEYCHELLES

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT



WHAT IS A SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT?

The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) between the European Union (EU) and its partners allow, on one hand, EU shipowners to fish in waters outside the Union against payment of financial compensation for access, and, on the other hand, to contribute financially to fisheries governance and the development of the partner country's fisheries sector.

The SFPA provides a transparent governance framework within which EU vessels fish for part of the surplus of available fisheries resources covered by the agreement between the two parties.

These agreements focus on resource conservation and environmental sustainability and do not compete with local fishing activity.

AT A GLANCE

The EU pays a financial contribution of EUR 30 700 000 over the six years of the Protocol:

- EUR 15 500 000 over 6 years for access to the resource
- EUR 15 200 000 over 6 years dedicated to supporting the fisheries sector.

WHAT IS THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE EU AND SEYCHELLES?

The current SFPA signed between the EU and Seychelles consists of an agreement and an implementing protocol:

- The current Agreement establishes the general principles of the fisheries partnership, such as sustainability of exploitation, transparency of activities, delimitation of the fishing zone in which EU vessels may operate and preservation of fisheries resources.
- The 6-year implementing protocol (2020-2026), its annex and appendices specifically define the stocks that can be exploited, the modalities of this activity, the corresponding amounts of financial compensation for this access to the resource, as well as those for sectoral support and their payment modalities.

WHERE IS FISHING FOR EU VESSELS ALLOWED?

- Community vessels may carry out fishing activities in fishing zones located in the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

WHICH SPECIES ARE COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT?

- EU vessels fish for highly migratory species, such as tropical tunas.

WHAT ARE THE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EU VESSELS?

- Fishing opportunities are managed by licences and, in the case of industrial pelagic fishing, by quota (50 000 tonnes/year).

WHAT ARE THE SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS CONTAINED IN THE AGREEMENT?

- EU vessels are obliged to take on board Seychellois seamen.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covers 1.3 million km². Seychelles has rich fishing grounds which include the migratory routes of important large pelagic species, including skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) and bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*).



HOW IS THE FISHING ACTIVITY OF EU VESSELS MONITORED AND CONTROLLED?

- Vessels shall each year carry out a technical inspection, systematically declare their entry into and exit from the fishing zone and the types and quantities of fish caught;
- The Seychelles and European authorities regularly carry out joint inspections;
- Scientific monitoring of catches is carried out by Seychelles scientific observers on board of EU vessels. Seychelles and European scientific experts meet regularly to analyse fish stocks and inform policy-makers in their decisions;
- An EU-Seychelles Joint Committee shall meet annually to analyse and decide on the entire fishing activity carried out under the Agreement.

WHICH EU VESSELS CAN FISH IN SEYCHELLES WATERS?

The Protocol allows 40 EU purse seiners and 8 EU longliners to fish in Seychelles waters. The fishing opportunities are distributed among Spain, France, Italy and Portugal.

HOW THE USE OF FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADS) BY EU VESSELS ARE MANAGED?

- EU fleet can only use natural or biodegradable materials for FADs and non-entangling designs. It shall also retrieve them from Seychelles waters when they become non operational.
- EU ship-owners payments also include a specific contribution to a dedicated Fund that Seychelles has put in place to improve environmental management and the observations of marine ecosystems in its waters.
- The EU is also a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) responsible for the management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean.

WHAT IS THE EU SUPPORT FOR THE FISHERIES SECTOR?

The Sectoral support aims at developing responsible fishing and sustainable fisheries, based on priority areas of actions reflecting the priorities of Seychelles national fisheries policy, and other related policies having an impact on the following areas:

- support and management measures for fisheries, including small-scale fisheries and aquaculture;
- sanitary and quality management in the fisheries sector and also to support domestic and export capacities;
- fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- promotion of scientific capacity and cooperation in the field of fisheries, including collection, processing, analysis and communication of catch data;
- support infrastructural and other relevant actions for the development of domestic fisheries.

WHAT ARE THE ENVIRONMENTAL OBLIGATIONS CONTAINED IN THE AGREEMENT?

- EU vessels only fish the available surplus i.e. the quantities not fished by Seychelles vessels. This helps to preserve fish stocks and ensure their sustainability.
- Other species may be temporarily banned by the Seychelles authorities for preservation purposes.

WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EU AND SEYCHELLES?

The EU and Seychelles encourage economic, commercial, scientific and technical cooperation in the fisheries sector and related sectors. They encourage the exchange of information on fishing techniques and gear, preservation methods and the industrial processing of fisheries products.

DID YOU KNOW?

The EU-Seychelles SFPA is mirrored by a fishing agreement between the Seychelles and the EU for access to 8 Seychellois flagged purse seiners and 2 supply vessels to the waters of Mayotte under the EU jurisdiction (an EU outermost region since 2014).

27 June 2024

DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

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