

THE GLOBAL GOALS

# Voluntary National Review 2025

## Republic of Seychelles



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# Abbreviations & Acronyms

ABAS	– Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States
AfCFTA	– African Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB	– African Development Bank
CBS	– Central Bank of Seychelles
CEDAW	– Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	– Civil Society Organization
DESA	– United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
ECCE	– Early Childhood Care and Education
EEZ	– Exclusive Economic Zone
FAO	– Food and Agriculture Organization
FiTI	– Fisheries Transparency Initiative
GDP	– Gross Domestic Product
HIV	– Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	– Information and Communication Technology
ILO	– International Labour Organization
IMF	– International Monetary Fund
INFF	– Integrated National Financing Framework
LDC	– Least Developed Countries
MSME	– Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
NBS	– National Bureau of Statistics
NDC	– Nationally Determined Contribution
NDS	– National Development Strategy
NGO	– Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	– Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PUC	– Public Utilities Corporation
RBM	– Results-Based Management
SADC	– Southern African Development Community
SCR	– Seychellois Rupee
SeyCCAT	– Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust
SIDS	– Small Island Developing States
SDGs	– Sustainable Development Goals
SME	– Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
UNCT	– United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	– United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

# Abbreviations & Acronyms

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNRC – United Nations Resident Coordinator

UNRCO – United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office

UNSDCF – United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

VNR – Voluntary National Review

WIPO – World Intellectual Property Organization

WTO – World Trade Organization

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## Opening Statement

I am privileged to present Seychelles' second Voluntary National Review (VNR), a reflection of our nation's unwavering commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since our first VNR in 2020, the Seychellois people have demonstrated extraordinary resilience, solidarity, and determination in navigating the many challenges we have faced. Our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has been marked by the revitalization of key industries such as tourism and fisheries, underscoring the adaptive spirit of our people and the strength of our communities.

The world has undergone profound changes since our inaugural report, with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like ours—better described as Large Ocean States—being particularly vulnerable to the escalating impacts of climate change, global economic uncertainty, and external shocks. Yet, through it all, Seychelles has remained steadfast in its pursuit of a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future for all its citizens.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are deeply aligned with the principles enshrined in our Constitution. They reflect our nation's enduring dedication to political and economic sovereignty, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights and dignity. Our Constitution also enshrines access to essential services such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education, while placing great emphasis on environmental protection for the benefit of present and future generations.

Seychelles has adopted a clear and integrated approach to achieving sustainable development through its second cycle of the National Development Strategy (NDS 2024–2028) and our long-term Vision 2033. These frameworks articulate our ambition to foster a Seychelles that is prosperous, equitable, environmentally responsible, and resilient to emerging challenges.

The 2025 VNR process has provided a vital opportunity for reflection—on our achievements, on the persistent gaps that remain, and on the urgency of accelerating implementation in critical areas such as social protection, youth employment, gender equality, climate resilience, and the digital economy. It has reaffirmed the importance of transparency, inclusive governance, and collaboration across all sectors of society.

We continue to align our national budget with the SDGs through mechanisms such as the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) and SDG budget tagging. Sustaining our progress will require bold decisions, innovative financing solutions, and strong partnerships—both at home and abroad. Sound governance, effective public financial management, and investment in our people and natural resources remain central to our strategy.

Our oceans and the Blue Economy continue to be foundational pillars of our national development agenda. They are not only drivers of economic growth but also embody our vision of climate-smart, sustainable development, tailored to the unique realities of island nations.

The preparation of this VNR has been a truly collaborative effort, led by the state but enriched by the contributions of diverse stakeholders—government ministries and agencies, civil society, the private sector, academia, and development partners. I express my sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed their expertise, insights, and commitment to this process.

In particular, I commend the National Planning Department for its leadership and coordination; the technical working groups and focal points for their diligence; and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for its critical role in data collection and analysis. We are also deeply grateful to the United Nations system and our international partners for their continued support and constructive engagement, especially the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) for its invaluable assistance throughout the VNR process.

As we approach 2030, the path ahead demands urgency and determination. Seychelles remains fully committed to the principles of the 2030 Agenda and to building a nation that is just, equitable, and sustainable—for today, and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

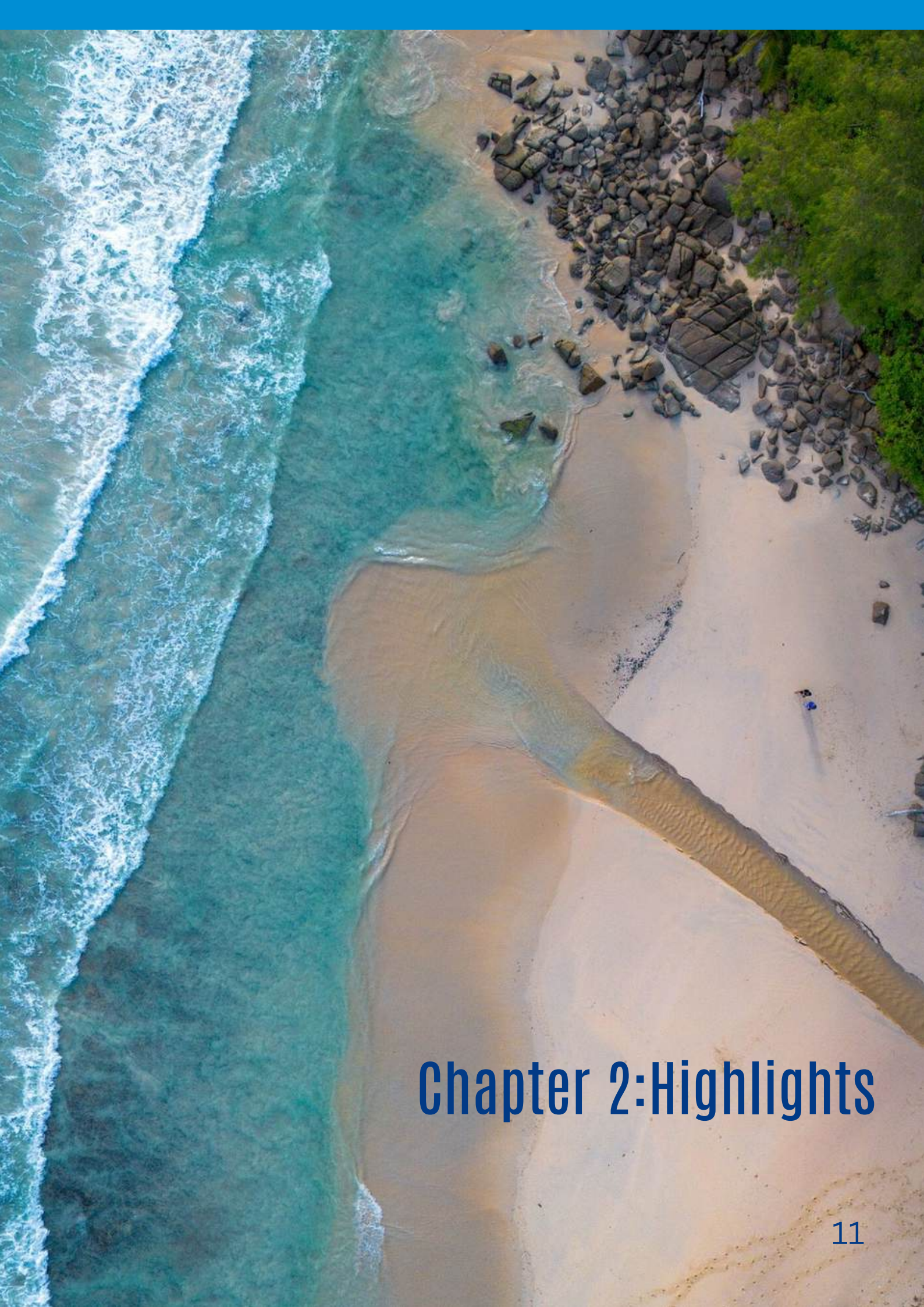


Mr. Wavel Ramkalawan

President

Republic of Seychelles





## Chapter 2: Highlights





The 2025 VNR process serves as a valuable platform to reflect on the development journey of Seychelles to date – acknowledging the achievements, identifying persistent challenges and recognizing the opportunities that lie ahead. It also marks a renewed opportunity to engage with citizens and reconnect with key stakeholders across the public and private sectors, civil society and academia since the previous reporting cycle. This process helped to reignite momentum and raise awareness around the SDGs and the country's broader development priorities.

Deliberate efforts were made to ensure that the 2030 Agenda is closely aligned with national priorities. As part of our commitment to fully integrate the SDGs into national frameworks, Seychelles developed the NDS 2024–2028. The strategy aligns its six priority areas to and addresses core development issues: good governance, justice and security, human capital development, human rights, inclusive growth, and environmental resilience and stewardship. These remain the cornerstone of our development agenda. Under this guiding framework, we have made measurable progress across all six areas, reinforcing our dedication to a sustainable and inclusive future for all Seychellois.

Seychelles is entering a pivotal phase of economic transformation, characterized by the emergence of new sectors and a notable resurgence in traditional industries such as tourism and fisheries. Central to the advancement of our blue economy, sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, and cultural tourism serve as key drivers of growth, reaffirming our steadfast commitment to long-term sustainability and inclusive prosperity.

Significant strides have been made to position Seychelles as a world-class financial services jurisdiction. The progress reflects our unwavering dedication to international standards, transparency and sound business practices. Our renewed commitment to global best practices reaffirms our role as a trusted and forward-looking player on the international stage.

We are also accelerating efforts to strengthen the digital economy and advance comprehensive reforms in the financial services sector. These initiatives are paving the way for enhanced e-government services, greater support for entrepreneurship and expanded access to education, healthcare and social protection.

In terms of transparency and good governance, we have enhanced accountability and institutions. In 2024, Seychelles was the highest-ranked African country in the Mo Ibrahim Governance Index and the 18th-highest-ranked global country in the Corruption Perceptions Index. This accomplishment is indicative of the fundamental principles of accountability, integrity and justice that govern our country.



### **Human capital development**

Social progress in Seychelles has been significantly driven by sustained investments in human capital. Enhancements in maternal and infant healthcare have contributed to a strong national universal health coverage index of 0.82, reflecting the country's commitment to accessible, quality health services. High literacy rates remain a point of national pride, underscoring the broad reach and inclusivity of our education system. The growing involvement of the private sector in delivering education across various levels further strengthens this foundation. As part of our ongoing education reforms, digital learning tools and e-skills are being integrated from early childhood through to vocational training. These initiatives are designed to build a future-ready, resilient and skills-based economy, ensuring that our workforce is equipped to meet the demands of an increasingly digital and knowledge-driven world.

### **Social protection**

In order to guarantee that no one is left behind, social protection has been reviewed and where necessary expanded and is currently being digitized to increase efficiency and to reach the most vulnerable populations, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, and low-income families. These endeavours maintain the social justice and inclusion that are fundamental to our vision.

### **Environment**

Over the past decades, Seychelles has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the conservation and preservation of its natural environment. Seychelles has significantly expanded its marine protected areas and pioneered innovative financial instruments, most notably the issuance of the world's first sovereign Blue Bond. In 2024, Seychelles formulated national strategies for climate finance resource mobilization, followed in 2025 by the adoption of a comprehensive disaster risk financing strategy. The government also initiated its inaugural Integrated Resource Plan to facilitate the expansion of renewable energy. Furthermore, Seychelles has secured access to emerging climate finance mechanisms, including the Resilience and Sustainability Facility of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Positioned on the frontlines of climate change, these strategic initiatives serve to reinforce national climate resilience and underpin long-term sustainable development.

### **Global partnerships**

Seychelles remains committed to fostering strong and strategic partnerships – both bilateral and multilateral – particularly with fellow SIDS. These collaborations are essential to advancing development support, driving innovation and sharing best practices. Despite high-income status, we continue to advocate for access to concessional financing, recognizing that economic categorization should not obscure our structural vulnerabilities. Our country's small size has never been a barrier to ambition or achievement, as demonstrated by our resilient recovery in the wake of the pandemic. Seychelles will continue to be a vocal advocate for resilience, sustainability, and equity on global platforms such as the UN High-Level Political Forum.



Guided by an inclusive and sustainable development model, we harness our unique ocean resources, embrace digital transformation and put forward community-driven solutions to set a powerful example on the world stage.

### **A common vision**

The 2025 VNR is presented to the global community not merely as a report of the accomplishments of Seychelles, but also as a call to action. Case studies in the report highlight local innovation and community resilience, and showcase best practices in SDG implementation. The VNR process serves as a crucial call to action as we approach the final years of the SDG implementation period leading up to 2030.

The world we construct today will be passed down to the Seychellois of tomorrow. We should continue to advance with unity, innovation, and determination, assured that the future we aspire to – one of environmental stewardship, equity, inclusive and shared prosperity – is within reach.

While we celebrate these advances, we recognize that challenges remain – particularly in building economic resilience, addressing skills gaps, and navigating global uncertainties. Nevertheless, we remain steadfast in our pursuit of sustainable development and are confident in our ability to overcome obstacles through innovation, strategic partnerships, and continued national effort.



# Introduction





# Introduction

The Republic of Seychelles is a SIDS in the Indian Ocean, comprising 115 islands, with a population of approximately 122,036, almost all of whom live on just three of the inner granitic islands of Mahé (home to 86% of people), Praslin and La Digue (11% combined). The capital, Victoria, lies 1,500 km east of mainland Africa. Other nearby island countries and territories include Comoros, Mayotte, Madagascar, Réunion (region of France) and Mauritius to the south; as well as the Maldives and Chagos Archipelago to the east.



Seychelles remains steadfast in its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. Building upon the progress outlined in its first VNR in 2020, the second VNR in 2025 provides an in-depth assessment of its strides, challenges and aspirations in achieving the SDGs. While the 2020 VNR established a foundation by aligning national strategies with the SDGs and highlighting initial achievements, the 2025 VNR is expected to showcase progress on these fronts, address emerging challenges and outline future priorities, reflecting the country's ongoing commitment to a sustainable and inclusive future.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Seychelles has made significant advancements across various sectors, including environmental conservation, economic diversification and social development. However, as a SIDS, it continues to face inherent vulnerabilities such as climate change impacts, external economic shocks and resource limitations. The 2025 VNR aims to evaluate progress, highlight lessons learned and reinforce strategies for sustainable development.

Guided by the principles of inclusivity and resilience, Seychelles remains dedicated to strengthening partnerships, leveraging innovation and fostering sustainable development that benefits all citizens. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is grounded in universal human rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Right to Development and other international human rights instruments. Seychelles reaffirms its commitment to these principles by ensuring that its development efforts are inclusive and leave no one behind.





This includes migrant workers – whose contributions are vital to key economic sectors such as construction, tourism, commercial fishing and the Seychelles International Trade Zone. The Government acknowledges the observations of the 2025 Committee on Migrant Workers, which recognized progress in strengthening legislative protections, while also highlighting the need for enhanced oversight to prevent labour exploitation, particularly among women migrant workers. Seychelles remains committed to advancing the rights and welfare of all workers as an integral part of its sustainable development agenda. This VNR serves as a platform to share experiences, best practices and policy recommendations, reinforcing the country’s role as a regional and global advocate for sustainable development.

Seychelles is actively enhancing its commitment to keeping the SDGs central to its national development priorities. This commitment was emphasized in Vision 2033, launched in 2019. The Vision is to be rolled out in the implementation of a series of three five-year national development strategies.

At present, the NDS 2024–2028, founded on six priority areas, is being implemented, guiding the country’s development. The six priority areas are:

Figure 1: Priority Areas of NDS 2024-2028







The insights from the VNR will inform the development and refinement of policies, ensuring they are aligned with sustainable development principles and effectively address identified gaps. It will also serve as a tool to raise awareness among stakeholders about the SDGs, fostering a collective commitment to their attainment and encouraging collaborative efforts.

The 2025 VNR is a pivotal instrument for Seychelles to monitor progress, recalibrate strategies and strengthen collective action toward achieving the SDGs by 2030. As a result, the process required collaborative efforts from a range of organizations and individuals, including government ministries, departments and agencies, members of Parliament, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the Human Rights Commission, the private sector, women, and vulnerable groups such as young people, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Committed to the principle of leaving no one behind, Seychelles recognizes the value of inclusive participation and continues to strengthen partnerships both locally and internationally as it advances toward a sustainable and inclusive future.



# Methodology & Process for Preparation of the 2025 VNR

Five years after submitting its first VNR, Seychelles now embarks on its second reporting cycle, to reaffirm its commitment to global sustainable development objectives. Aligned with the current NDS (2024–2028), the foundation for achieving the 2030 Agenda has been firmly established. The Seychelles 2025 VNR is closely aligned with the country's second NDS (2024–2028) and the Vision 2033 monitoring framework. These strategic national planning tools provide a coherent roadmap for inclusive, sustainable development and long-term resilience. By integrating the SDGs into national priorities, the VNR reflects the country's commitment to evidence-based policymaking, accountability and results-driven implementation. The alignment ensures that progress on the SDGs reinforces the broader national aspirations of Seychelles for shared prosperity, environmental stewardship and human well-being.

The 2025 VNR provides a vital opportunity to assess progress since the first report was submitted in 2020. As the designated national focal point for the SDGs, the National Planning Department within the Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade has been entrusted with leading the VNR process. This includes coordinating stakeholder consultations, gathering inputs, and drafting the report.

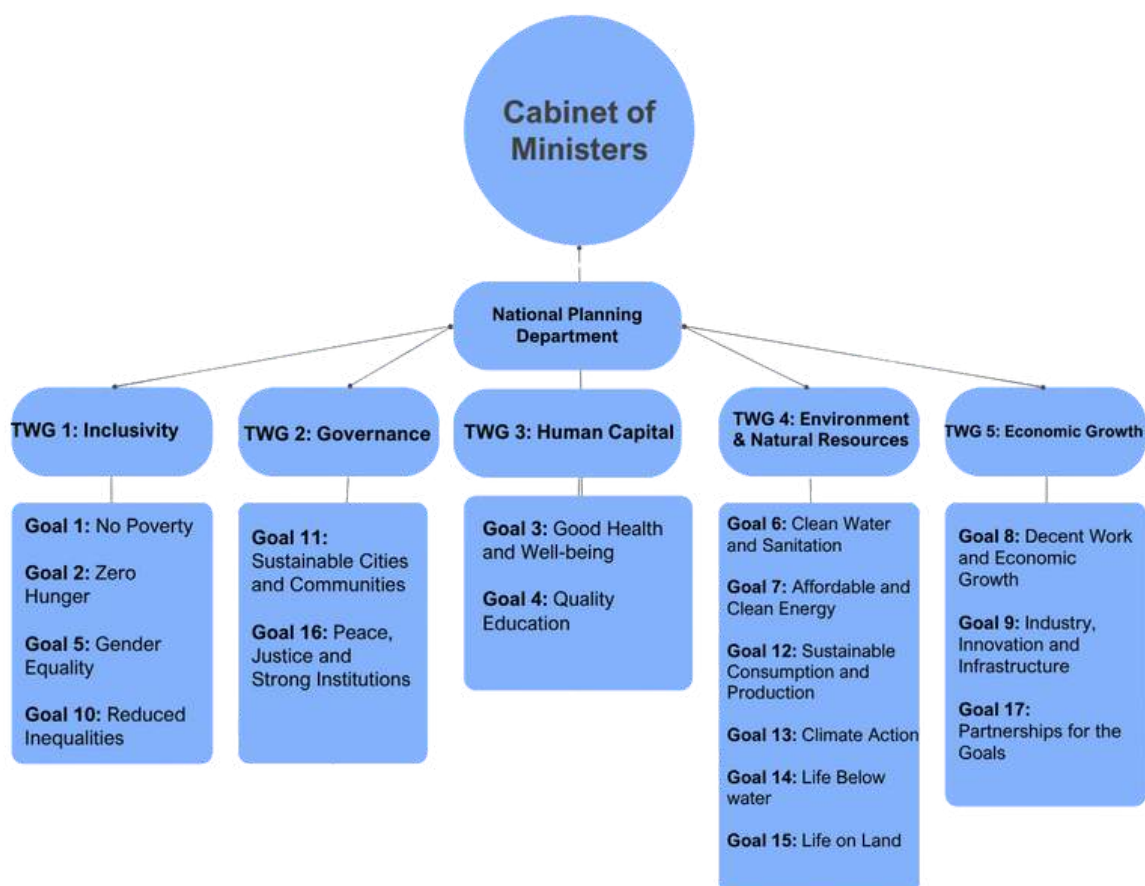
From the outset, it was recognized that while the Department played a central role, the active participation of key partners is essential to the review's success. Notably, NBS and the Department of Foreign Affairs have made significant contributions. NBS was responsible for ensuring data accuracy and quality, while the Department of Foreign Affairs oversaw compliance with international conventions and obligations.

The National Planning Department initially designed the methodology and process for the review, which was then submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval. It was decided that five technical working groups would be established, each under the leadership of a designated staff member from the Department. The technical working groups comprised representatives from government departments and agencies, the private sector, civil society and academia.



This collaborative structure enables effective data gathering, validation, and implementation of feedback mechanisms to refine the report. The review prioritizes key national challenges, such as climate resilience, sustainable tourism, and social inclusion, ensuring that findings reflect both achievements and areas requiring further action. The figure below provides structure of how the technical working groups were organized.

Figure 2: Structure of Technical Working Groups







As part of the VNR process, a dedicated consultation was held with NGOs and CSOs, facilitated by the Citizens Engagement Platform of Seychelles and with the United Nations serving as the convener and independent moderator. Importantly, the consultation was conducted entirely in both English and Seychellois Creole to ensure accessibility and meaningful participation. This approach significantly contributed to the robustness and inclusivity of the VNR process, ensuring that a diverse range of voices were heard and integrated.

Figure 3: Consultations with Civil Society





Consultations were held with members of the National Assembly in June 2025, providing a valuable opportunity for a candid and constructive exchange on the nation's sustainable development journey. Parliamentarians were briefed on key areas of progress, including advancements in governance, the fiscal sustainability of public finances, digital transformation, and the development of new and improved infrastructure. The photos below capture moments from this important consultation.


Figure 4: Consultation with the National Assembly



The discussions also served as a platform to acknowledge and address persistent challenges such as the country's economic vulnerability to external shocks, demographic shifts, the risks and impacts of climate change, and the importance of preserving local culture and traditions. Issues related to social wellbeing—such as substance abuse, youth engagement in education, and the personal and professional development of young people—were also thoughtfully explored.

The stakeholder consultation methodology ensured that the VNR process remained inclusive, data-driven, and action-focused. Through continuous dialogue and collaboration, Seychelles strengthens national ownership of the SDGs, facilitating informed policymaking and sustainable progress toward Agenda 2030.





# Chapter 5

## Policy & Enabling Environment



# National Development Strategy 2024-2028



The NDS of Seychelles serves as the country's main development instrument and blueprint, integrating the SDGs at the global level and Agenda 2063 at the regional level. The Strategy adopts a comprehensive approach to socioeconomic and environmental development, guiding national priorities, and fostering synergies across sectors. This coordinated approach minimizes inefficiencies and reinforces policy coherence. Sustained political will, consistent implementation, and institutional stability remain essential to sustaining long-term development, ensuring that the NDS and broader policy frameworks remain responsive and effective in achieving sustainable development for all.

The NDS 2024–2028 builds upon the successes and challenges of its predecessor which spanned from 2019–2023. The current NDS addresses these challenges by focusing on key actions and adapting to changing economic and social conditions, emphasizing flexibility and proactive planning. The NDS therefore provides the perfect conduit for SDG implementation, in line with the country's priorities.

The following priority areas are identified, putting forth desired outcomes and the accompanying strategies to ensure the outcomes are achieved.

## Priority Area 1: A Modern Public Service

### Sustainable Development Goals



### Agenda 2063 Goals

- A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being of all citizens
- Transformed Economies
- Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place

### ABAS Goals

- Foster safe, healthy and prosperous societies
- Partnerships
- Data collection, analysis and use
- Science, technology, innovation and digitalization

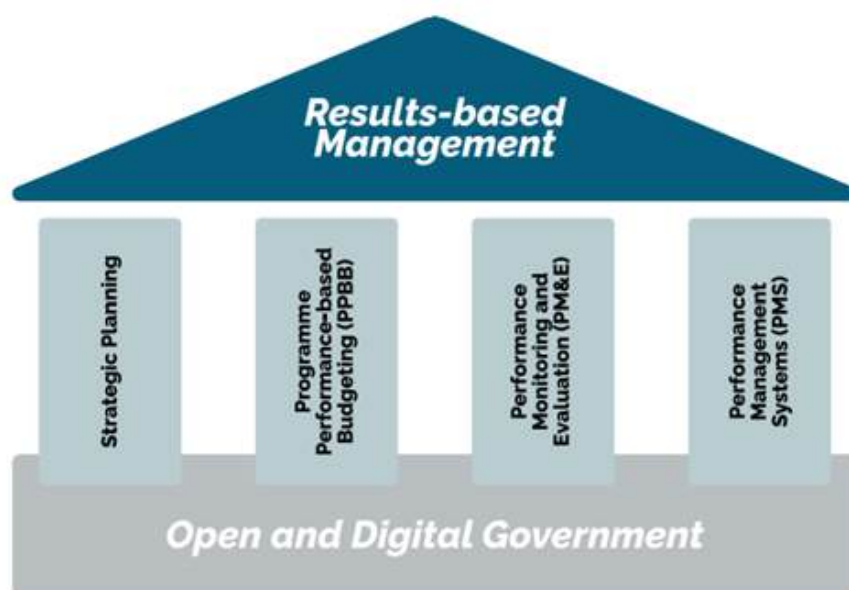


In striving for a modern, effective public service, it is essential to prioritize responsiveness, efficiency, and the ability to meet citizens' needs. Modernization requires the continuous design and refinement of public services, policies, and programs, often through iterative processes that emphasize improvement. A data-driven approach is critical to effectively tracking progress, enabling the government to make informed decisions, set clear goals, and tackle persistent challenges. However, implementing a modern public service goes beyond systems and processes – it also requires a shift in human resources and organizational culture. To enhance service delivery and better manage public expectations, key priorities include leveraging technology and data, fostering a cohesive public service identity, and breaking down institutional silos.

Technology is a crucial driver of good governance, with digital platforms playing a pivotal role in improving service delivery and enhancing public trust. Seychelles has taken significant steps to accelerate the digital transformation of its public sector, including conducting diagnostics, implementing legal reforms, and benchmarking against model countries. The country also benefits from the technical assistance of development partners such as the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). To guide this digital transformation, a high-level steering committee, currently chaired by the Vice President, who also serves as Minister of Finance, National Planning and Trade, has been established to spearhead the development of the digital economy.

The 2025 VNR and NDS 2024–2028 build on key frameworks highlighted in their respective predecessors, including the Results-Based Management (RBM) policy that has been in effect across the public service since 2013, aiming to enhance the effectiveness and accountability of the public sector. The RBM policy provides a governance structure that emphasizes strategic management and data-driven decision-making. The framework was fully implemented in 2022, as the government recognized the need to optimize public spending and address gaps in public service delivery, with transparency and openness being central to its successful execution. The diagram below illustrates the RBM Framework.

Figure 4: Pillars of RBM





These four pillars collectively promote a performance-driven, accountable, and transparent public service. The government aims to create a more efficient civil service by adopting strategic human resource management. This shift requires moving away from traditional management approaches toward a more strategic style based on planning cycles and aligning policy deliverables.

The NDS outlines key outcomes and strategies aimed at transforming public sector performance, strengthening governance, and enhancing service delivery. A core outcome is the establishment of a performance-based, corruption-free, and accountable public service. This will be achieved through the full implementation of RBM, the adoption of effective corruption prevention measures, and the promotion of sustainable public financial management. To address human resource challenges and foster a culture of continuous learning, the NDS also envisions the establishment of a dynamic public service college, which will serve as a hub for capacity-building and professional development. Additionally, the strategy prioritizes increased access to and efficiency of government services through digital transformation, with digitalization embedded as a key tool for modernizing the public service and improving citizen engagement.





# Priority Area 2: Transformative Economic Agenda

## Sustainable Development Goals



## Agenda 2063 Goals

- Transformed Economies
- Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place
- Blue Ocean Economy for accelerated economic growth
- Modern Agriculture for increased productivity and production

## ABAS Goals

- Build Resilient Economies
- A secure future
- Environmental Protection and Planetary sustainability
- Conserve and sustainably use the ocean and its resources
- Productive populations



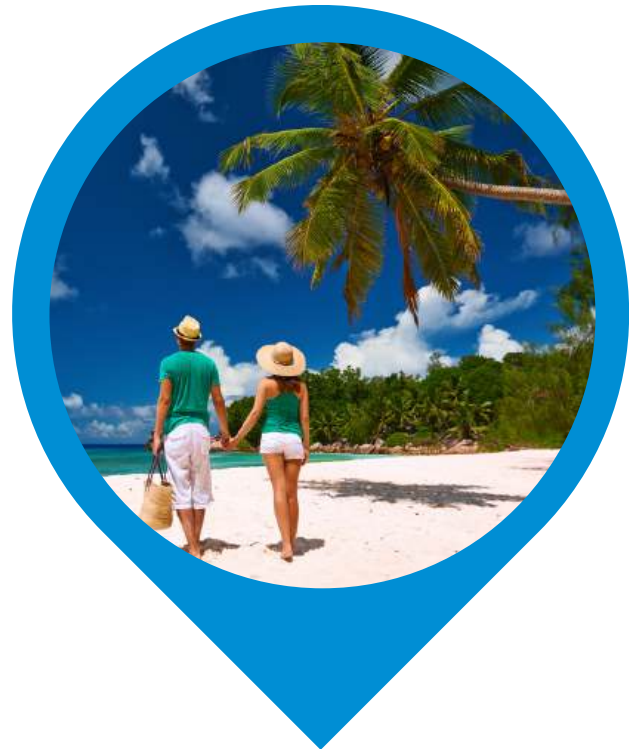
The Transformative Economic Agenda (TEA) represents a bold vision for Seychelles' future – one that embraces an inclusive and sustainable approach to economic growth. At its core, the TEA focuses on driving transformational change by prioritizing three key sectors: tourism, agriculture, and fisheries and the blue economy. The overarching goal is to achieve sustainable economic diversification, setting the country on a path of higher, more resilient growth. This focus aligns with lessons learned from the pandemic and with the country's long-term commitments under the SDGs and Agenda 2063 at the regional level. Policies under the TEA are designed to be environmentally conscious and to support the country's broader sustainability goals. By identifying key enablers and supporting mechanisms, the TEA aims to narrow gaps, attract investment, and address cross-cutting challenges, ensuring the successful implementation of this transformative economic agenda.

While the need for diversification is not a new concept, it remains central to the country's long-term development objectives. Past national strategies have highlighted goals such as fostering a more conducive business environment, improving infrastructure, enhancing digital integration, and boosting import substitution. These objectives reflected the economy's challenges – over-reliance on tourism, heavy import dependence, and a lack of sustainable export growth – issues that limited value addition and hindered the expansion of the manufacturing sector. In the TEA, these challenges are not just acknowledged but are seen as essential cross-cutting measures to enable transformation. TEA calls for comprehensive analysis to better integrate economic activities and to consider the dynamic nature of resource gaps and external influences. Central to this strategy is the role of private sector investment, which must be actively fostered to drive growth.

### **Tourism**

The tourism sector aims to increase its overall economic yield by enhancing value addition and achieving earnings above pre-pandemic levels by 2025, despite short-term constraints. This will be done through product diversification, market differentiation, and expanding tourist expenditure beyond traditional services.

A dual strategy guides this effort: boosting revenue while building a sustainable, resilient, and integrated tourism model. Environmental and socioeconomic concerns are addressed through enhanced sustainability practices, greater local employment, improved service quality, and adoption of the *Sustainable Seychelles* label to reduce the sector's environmental footprint and promote conservation.





## Agricultural Development

The NDS is pushing for Seychelles to achieve self-sufficiency in select livestock and crop production by 2030, with a focus on improving food and nutrition security and reducing reliance on imports. The pandemic and other global instability highlighted vulnerabilities in the country's food security and agricultural model, revealing the need for structural changes to ensure long-term sustainability.



Current challenges include a lack of value chain synergies, inadequate infrastructure, and dependency on subsidies, which hinder investment and growth. The emphasis in the short term is on building the necessary capacity and infrastructure, updating policies, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices, while long-term efforts focus on modernizing the sector to ensure economic viability and food sovereignty.

## Fisheries and The blue economy

The NDS aligns with several ocean-related SDGs, particularly SDG 14: Life below water, by focusing on the sustainability and diversification of Seychelles' fisheries and blue economy sectors. The fisheries sector aims to increase value-addition and expand exports, supported by a new fisheries processing zone to create jobs and attract investment, contributing to SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth. The 2023 Harvest Strategy Policy ensures sustainable fishing practices, addressing SDG 14.4, which seeks to conserve fish stocks. The development of aquaculture for high-end exports aligns with SDG 2: Zero hunger, aiming to improve food security. Additionally, the Marine Spatial Plan supports SDG 14.5 by establishing protected ocean zones, and exploring marine biotechnology and extractive industries addresses SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure, while also ensuring sustainable use of marine resources.







# Priority Area 3: A Healthy Nation

## Sustainable Development Goals



## Agenda 2063 Goals

- A high standard of living, quality of life and well being of all citizens
- Healthy and well-nourished citizens

## ABAS Goals

- Foster safe, healthy and prosperous societies
- A secure future
- Safe and healthy societies
- Productive populations

The NDS 2024–2028 recognizes that health is not solely the responsibility of the healthcare system but a national priority requiring coordinated efforts across all sectors. It promotes preventive care, healthy living, and investment in physical and mental well-being to build a more resilient, productive society. The strategy is aligned with SDG 3 and Agenda 2063, reflecting the commitment to ensure that all people in Seychelles can achieve the highest attainable standard of health. A healthy population is the foundation for economic growth, reducing intergenerational burdens, and securing a better future for all.

Through the NDS, Seychelles is committed to increasing both life expectancy and healthy life expectancy by addressing the root causes of disease and promoting healthy living across all age groups. This includes targeted efforts to reduce key risk factors such as poor diet, physical inactivity, and substance abuse, while strengthening mental health services and applying the One Health approach, which aims to mitigate health risks at the human-animal-environment interface, through an integrated and collaborative approach. The strategy emphasizes revitalizing the “Health-in-All Policies” framework to ensure that health considerations are embedded across all sectors of governance.



To improve the quality and reach of healthcare services nationwide, the plan focuses on enhancing primary, secondary, and tertiary care through the implementation of a comprehensive primary health care package and a quality improvement initiative for hospital care. Strengthening the health system itself is also a key priority, with measures such as the rollout of an e-Health Information System, the development of a Human Resources for Health Strategy, and efforts to secure sustainable healthcare financing. These combined actions aim to build a resilient, efficient, and equitable health system capable of meeting current and future challenges.

The NDS calls for significant improvements in the quality of healthcare services across Seychelles as a key step toward advancing universal health coverage (UHC). While progress has been made, including a rising UHC index, critical gaps persist in service quality, equity, health outcomes, and patient satisfaction. To address these challenges, the NDS prioritizes the strengthened implementation and monitoring of the primary health care package, ensuring accessible and preventive care at the community level. Additionally, the strategy aims to improve secondary and tertiary services through a defined framework and a national quality improvement initiative, targeting the effective management of non-communicable diseases and promoting more responsive, patient-centred care.

The NDS strives for the development of a well-performing health system in Seychelles, addressing the reliance on foreign workers. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for a sufficient, adequately trained, and motivated local workforce, especially as many health workers approach retirement. The strategy aims to enhance efficiency in healthcare delivery by focusing on cost awareness, conducting cost-benefit analyses, and prioritizing preventive and primary care. Additionally, the NDS emphasizes the importance of reliable health information systems, fostering an integrated approach to data management that improves healthcare quality and performance across the sector.

# Priority Area 4: Promotion of Law and Order



## Agenda 2063 Goals

### Sustainable Development Goals



- Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched
- Peace, security and stability is preserved
- A stable and peaceful Africa
- Fully functional and operational African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)
- Full gender equality in all spheres of life

### ABAS Goals

- Foster safe, healthy and prosperous societies
- Data collection, analysis and use

Seychelles takes pride in offering a safe environment for all. However, recent years have seen rising criminal behaviour, judicial backlogs, and resource challenges in addressing these issues. To maintain social harmony and address rising crime, a new approach is needed – one that tackles both criminal behaviour and its root causes, such as socioeconomic and cultural factors. Immediate actions are needed to address the evolving drug problem, while long-term policies should address broader determinants of criminality.

The NDS also recognizes that law enforcement and case processing must be restructured, ensuring the protection of detainee rights. Key determinants of criminality, such as high youth unemployment, informal labour market participation, and poverty, need to be tackled through coordinated socioeconomic policies. Reducing inequalities and improving access to opportunities will help mitigate crime in the long term, particularly in low-income areas. This approach aligns with SDG 16, aiming to ensure safety, security, and a sense of peace for all in Seychelles.





The Seychelles Police Force has adopted a comprehensive approach to reducing crime, with a focus on building community trust and confidence. Key initiatives include the “*Respe nou Vwazinaz*” (“Respect our Community”) initiative, designed to foster collaboration between the police and the public, encouraging crime reporting and improving overall safety. Additionally, the introduction of a competency framework for police officers will ensure a professional, compassionate workforce. Technological innovations will play a significant role, with the introduction of digital tools for centralized crime recording, case management, and analytics. A feedback system will also be established to facilitate public complaints against police misconduct, further strengthening accountability.

The NDS also emphasizes criminal justice reforms, focusing on digitalization, automation, and the implementation of a robust sentencing framework. Alternative sentencing measures will be introduced to relieve pressure on infrastructure, while tailored rehabilitation programs will address addiction-related offenses. The framework will work to increase the prosecution of priority volume crimes, enhancing confidence in the justice system’s ability to manage crime efficiently.



Border security will be bolstered through the implementation of digital systems for early detection and intelligence-sharing between regional and national coordination centres. Strengthening these operations will also address biosecurity threats, enhancing the country’s ability to safeguard both public safety and economic stability. These integrated strategies aim to reduce crime, enhance public trust in law enforcement, and fortify the nation’s legal and security systems.



# Priority Area 5: A Modern Education System in Line with Future Needs

## Sustainable Development Goals



## Agenda 2063 Goals

- Well-educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science technology & innovation.
- Engaged and empowered youth and children

## ABAS Goals

- Foster safe, healthy and prosperous societies
- A secure future
- Safe and healthy societies
- Productive populations

As a core pillar of the Seychelles NDS, education reform is a national priority aimed at transforming the system to meet current realities and future demands. The goal is to produce empowered, well-rounded individuals equipped with the skills needed in a dynamic labour market and to support long-term socioeconomic development.

To close performance gaps and strengthen the foundation of learning, the government will urgently review and modernize key policies and legislation – including the Education Act and Tertiary Education Act – laying the groundwork for a responsive, forward-looking education system.

The NDS emphasizes early childhood and primary education to build essential skills, while developing curricula that prepare students for both academic and vocational paths. These reforms will extend through the secondary and tertiary levels, supported by strengthened teacher training through institutions like the Seychelles Institute of Teacher Education.

Curriculum content is being aligned with national development priorities, focusing on areas such as tourism, environment, financial education, digital literacy, the blue economy, and entrepreneurship. Committees have been established to guide this process and ensure holistic student development.



Special attention is being given to STEM subjects to support innovation and economic diversification. A new technical stream of excellence for vocational training is being developed for upper secondary students, with support from both bilateral and multilateral partners.

Given the increasing importance of digital skills, the Ministry of Education – through its leadership in the Digital Economy Agenda – is implementing an action plan to equip students with information and communication technology competencies across all levels, including infrastructure, teacher training, and curriculum integration.

This education reform strategy is central to achieving the goals of the NDS and creating a modern, inclusive, and future-ready Seychelles.

#### Inclusion in Educational Institutions

Promoting inclusive education is a central component of the Seychelles NDS and directly supports the SDGs, particularly SDG 4: Quality Education, which calls for inclusive and equitable quality education for all, and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities.

This strategy focuses on ensuring that students with physical, behavioural, or learning differences are fully integrated into the education system through inclusive policies, equitable resource allocation, and adaptive teaching practices. The Inclusive Education Policy affirms that mainstreaming learners with disabilities should be the standard, with special schools used only in exceptional cases.



To support this, the Ministry of Education encourages part-time integration between regular and special schools, with special schools functioning as training and resource centres for mainstream staff. This fosters collaboration and capacity-building, enabling teachers to tailor learning experiences to the diverse needs of students.

A pilot project is also underway to expand inclusivity across schools, addressing disparities linked to academic ability and socioeconomic background. Through differentiated teaching methods and inclusive classroom environments, the initiative promotes integration and equal





opportunity for all learners. By embedding inclusive practices in the education system, Seychelles is not only advancing its national development goals but also fulfilling its international commitment to the SDGs – ensuring that no child is left behind in accessing quality, equitable education.

This NDS Priority Area promotes a culture of life-long learning to boost employability and workplace productivity. Key efforts include reforming tertiary institutions to better meet labour market demands through updated programmes, modern infrastructure, and equipment.

A new Human Resource Development Plan, led by the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs and guided by the NDS, will address skills gaps and youth unemployment. It will also shape government-sponsored scholarships to align education with national development needs.

Career guidance in schools will be strengthened to help students choose pathways that support economic transformation. Greater collaboration with training institutions and the private sector will ensure programmes remain relevant and responsive to workforce demands.

# Priority Area 6: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Resilience



## Sustainable Development Goals



## Agenda 2063 Goals

- Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities
- Blue/Ocean Economy for accelerated economic growth

## ABAS Goals

- Build Resilient Economies
- Environmental Protection and Planetary sustainability
- Scale-up climate action and support, including climate finance, in line with existing commitments and obligations under UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement Agreed
- Scale-up biodiversity action
- Conserve and sustainably use the ocean and its resources
- Mainstream disaster risk reduction

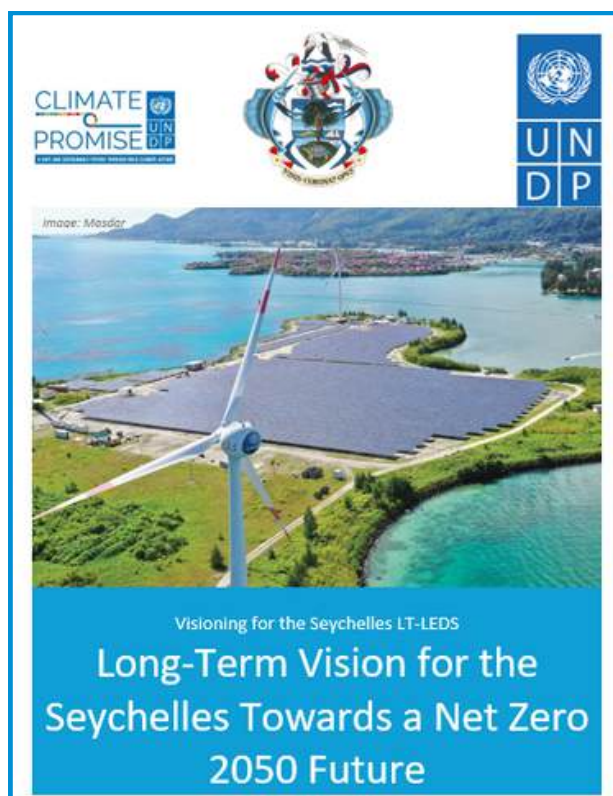
Although Seychelles contributes less than 0.003% to global greenhouse gas emissions, the country remains firmly committed to climate action. In line with its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and the SDGs – notably SDG 13 (Climate action), SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy), and SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) – Seychelles aims to reduce emissions by 26.4% (293.8 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e) by 2030 compared to a business-as-usual scenario, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

To meet these targets, the Government is implementing a range of mitigation strategies, including a major shift away from fossil fuel dependency through energy sector reform. Central to this is the development of an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) – a roadmap that identifies cost-effective, coordinated policies to meet energy demands and increase the share of renewables to 25% by 2030, with a long-term goal of reaching 100% renewable energy by 2050.

In parallel, with the support of UNDP, Seychelles has formulated a Long-Term Vision of its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy under the Paris Agreement. This Vision and Strategy will guide the structural transformation needed to reach the net-zero target, including energy transition, technological innovation, and sustainable infrastructure.



Figure 5: Long Term Vision of the LT-LEDs



To further support its mitigation agenda, the Government is promoting cleaner transportation options through its e-mobility project, encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles. Through these efforts, Seychelles is demonstrating climate leadership and aligning national development with global sustainability commitments.

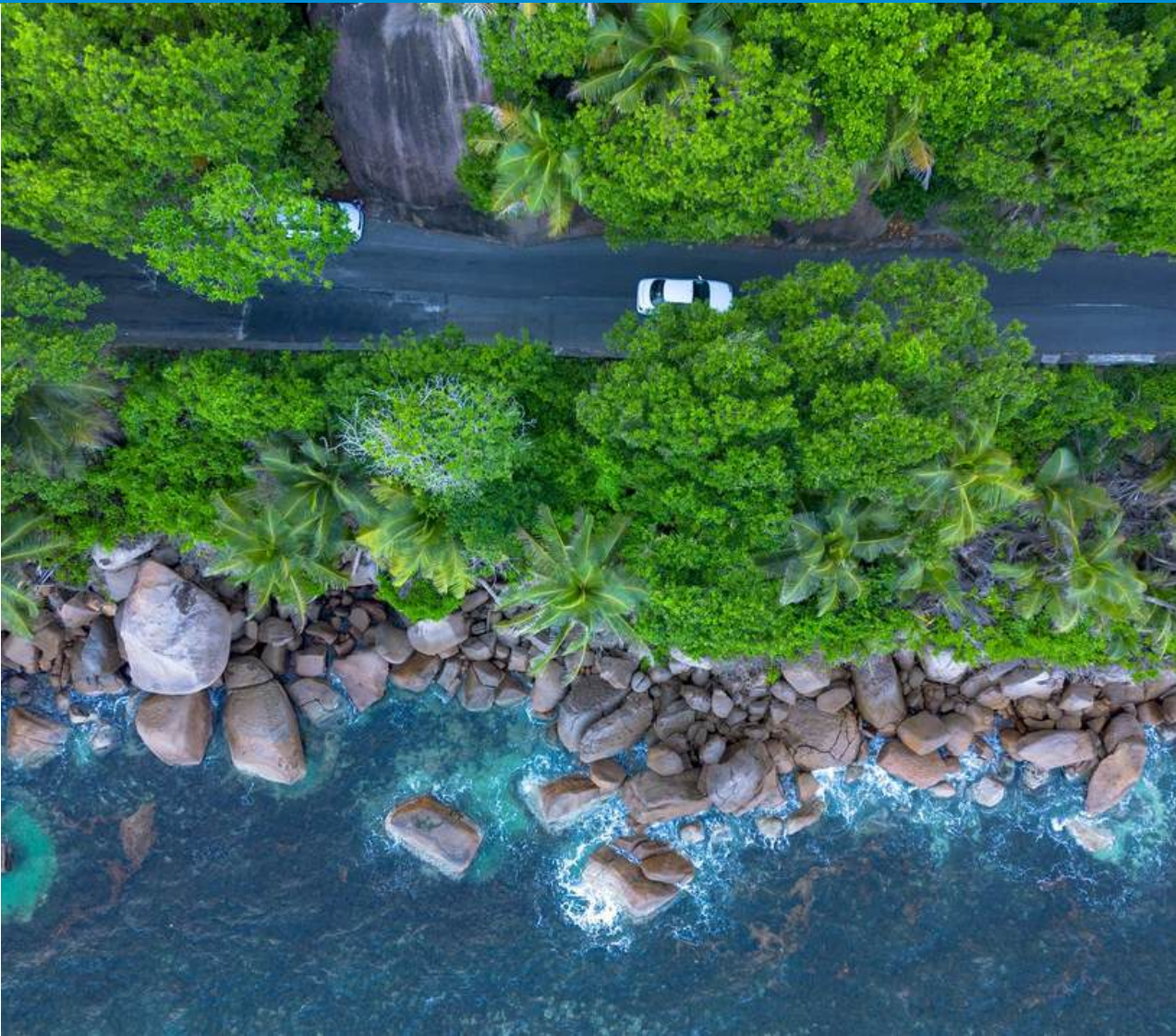
Seychelles is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, particularly along its densely developed coastal zones. In line with SDG 13 (Climate action) and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), the government is prioritizing adaptation through climate-resilient infrastructure, mainstreaming climate considerations in all planning, and enhancing disaster risk management. Efforts include implementation of the Coastal Management Plan, combining hard and nature-based solutions to reduce erosion and flooding, and the develop-

ment of a national Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy. The Disaster Risk Management Division (DRMD) is strengthening national preparedness through vulnerability assessments, and improved forecasting, in addition to a new Disaster Risk Financing Strategy launched 2025.

In support of SDG 15 (Life on land) and SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation), Seychelles is also scaling up ecosystem restoration and invasive species control, while integrating climate risks into public investment and sectoral planning. The country continues its global leadership in conservation, with over 30% of its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and nearly 50% of its land under protection. Sustainable use of biodiversity is being promoted through enhanced policy frameworks, supporting both the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets and SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production).

Waste management remains a pressing challenge. With landfill capacity nearing its limit, the government is implementing the Solid Waste Masterplan (2020–2035) and exploring a circular economy approach. The plan aims to reduce landfill waste by 30%, increase organic waste diversion, and implement Extended Producer Responsibility to shift waste disposal costs from government to producers – contributing to climate mitigation and sustainability goals.





By integrating the SDGs into its NDS, Seychelles has effectively embedded these global targets within the country's overarching development framework. This alignment ensures that sustainable and inclusive growth remains the cornerstone of national progress. As both domestic and international stakeholders engage with the NDS, they are inherently guided by a framework where the SDGs are already harmonized with national priorities. This proactive approach guarantees that sustainable development principles are not treated as add-ons but are seamlessly mainstreamed across all sectors and initiatives, fostering coherence, accountability, and long-term resilience in the country's development trajectory.





# SDGs in Key Sectoral Strategies and Frameworks

## Nationally Determined Contribution (2.0)

Seychelles' updated NDC reaffirms its commitment to aligning national development with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, aiming to limit global warming to below 1.5 to 2 °C above pre-industrial levels. As a recognized leader in environmental stewardship and ocean governance, Seychelles also calls on all Parties to raise their climate ambitions in line with the latest scientific evidence and their obligations under the agreement.

The country has pledged to reduce economy-wide absolute greenhouse gas emissions by 26.4% by 2030. Through enhanced mitigation measures, Seychelles aims to bring emissions down, focusing on interventions in the energy sector – including transport – and waste management.

In parallel, Seychelles is advancing adaptation strategies centred on the blue economy, and implementing innovative responses to climate challenges in key areas such as water security, coastal protection, food security, and community resilience – all integral to SDGs 2, 6, and 15.

The NDC also features a dedicated chapter on ocean climate action and blue carbon as nature-based solutions, reinforcing the country's commitment to sustainable ocean management. Seychelles has pledged to protect at least 50% of its seagrass and mangrove ecosystems by 2025 and 100% by 2030, with external support – efforts that are critical not only for achieving national net-zero targets by 2050 but also for advancing SDG 14 and leveraging natural climate solutions to meet broader sustainable development goals.

This integrated approach ensures that climate action in Seychelles remains at the heart of its sustainable development agenda, reinforcing the interlinkages between environmental sustainability and the full spectrum of SDG implementation.



## National Health Strategic Plan (NHSP)

At the national level, the health sector is guided by the National Health Sector Plan (NHSP) 2022–2026 (see Goal 3). The NHSP aligns with Seychelles' national vision for health, which aims for *"the attainment, by all people living in Seychelles, of the highest level of physical, social, mental, and spiritual health, living in harmony with nature."* Achieving the goals outlined in the NHSP requires bold, innovative actions.

The NHSP sets out the health sector's goals and strategic directions, ensuring coherence with national, regional, and global commitments, including the SDGs. Particular attention is given to SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being). Key objectives of the NHSP include increasing life expectancy and healthy life expectancy, achieving and sustaining Universal Health Coverage (UHC) across all dimensions, preparing for, preventing, detecting early, and responding to health emergencies, and promoting healthier populations. Through these actions, the NHSP aims to create a resilient, sustainable health system for Seychelles.





# Structural Challenges in Implementing the 2030 Agenda

Seychelles faces unique structural challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, primarily due to its geographical, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities. Seychelles, despite many successes in recent years, faces structural challenges.

## GEOGRAPHY AND LIMITED LAND MASS

As a small island State, Seychelles faces significant geographic isolation and inherent development constraints, including a limited land area that restricts large-scale economic activities. The small population and domestic market hinder the country's ability to leverage economies of scale, making it challenging to sustain a diverse range of industries and public services.

The relatively elevated cost of transport and trade, driven by geographic remoteness, further undermines economic competitiveness. Seychelles remains heavily dependent on imports, with over 90% of



consumed goods sourced from abroad. This heavy reliance exposes the country to global supply chain disruptions, threatening the steady availability of essential goods and services. In addition, dependence on imported food, fuel, and commodities leaves Seychelles highly vulnerable to global price volatility, further compounding its economic and food security challenges.

Seychelles adopts a fiscally cautious approach due to the risks posed by external shocks, such as those experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic and, more recently, global instability, geo-political tensions and conflicts. These global disruptions often lead to macroeconomic challenges, forcing the government to reallocate resources to stabilize the economy.

In terms of debt management, Seychelles faces the ongoing challenge of balancing debt-financed expenditures and investments while ensuring that debt remains at sustainable levels. In line with its prudent macroeconomic strategy, the government aims to achieve a 50% debt-to-GDP ratio by 2030. As a result, there is limited capacity to finance development through additional debt.



## POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHY



As of the end of 2024, the total resident population of Seychelles, including both Seychellois and non-Seychellois, is estimated at 122,038 (NBS 2024 End-Year Estimated Resident Population). This reflects an annual increase of 1,455 individuals, for an annual growth rate of 1.2%. The Seychellois population alone is estimated at 101,093 as of the end of 2024, representing a growth of 491 persons or 0.5% over the previous year.

### **Age and Sex Structure: Future Demographic Shifts**

In 2024, the total fertility rate for the entire resident population declined to 1.7, down from 2.0 in 2023, indicating a notable reduction in the average number of children a woman is expected to have over her lifetime. A similar pattern was observed among the Seychellois population, with the total fertility rate decreasing from 2.2 in 2023 to 1.85 in 2024.

Projections from NBS indicate that over the next 40 years, Seychelles is expected to undergo profound changes in its age and sex structure. A steady decline in the population of children (ages 0–14) is anticipated for both genders, with a slightly sharper decrease among males. Projections indicate that this age group will shrink from 19.8% of the total population in 2024 to 14.9% by 2040, and further to 11.7% by 2064. This trend reflects a persistently low birth rate, gradually narrowing the base of the population pyramid.





The working-age population (ages 15–64) is also forecasted to decline steadily. From 71% in 2024, it is expected to drop to around 64% by 2064. Within this group, sharper declines are projected among males, particularly in the 25–29 and 30–34 age brackets, likely due to higher male emigration or demographic attrition. This points to a widening gender imbalance within the workforce. The shrinking and ageing of the working-age population could undermine economic productivity and strain the labour market, potentially raising the dependency ratio.

Conversely, the older population (65 years and over) is expected to grow significantly. Currently at about 9% of the total population in 2024, this cohort is projected to rise to 11% by 2030, 14% by 2040, 20% by 2054, and 24% by 2064. This represents nearly a threefold increase, making older adults a substantial demographic group. Notably, the proportion of people aged 80 and over will be significantly higher among females.

Seychelles is set to experience a broad demographic transition, marked by a shrinking youth population and a growing elderly cohort. These shifts could lead to a reduced future workforce, posing challenges to economic growth and social welfare systems. An ageing workforce may necessitate policy adjustments, such as increasing retirement ages or encouraging younger migrants to bolster the labour force.

To navigate these demographic changes effectively, Seychelles will need to craft and implement innovative strategies that address the dual challenge of supporting an ageing population while fostering sustainable population growth, economic stability, and gender balance.

The limited scope for economies of scale due to market size are crucial factors in this context. As it stands, large economic developments and investments need to be economically viable and attractive, especially when considering whether private sector and institutional investors are adequately motivated to support them. Addressing these concerns is essential for leveraging potential investment opportunities.



## ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY



The economic vulnerability of Seychelles presents a major obstacle to achieving the SDGs, particularly those related to decent work, economic growth, and reduced inequalities. The country's economic base, relying predominantly on a few key sectors such as tourism, fisheries, and financial services, makes it highly susceptible to external shocks. For instance, the tourism sector – the country's primary source of income and foreign exchange earnings – is extremely sensitive to global crises, including pandemics, geopolitical tensions, economic slowdowns, and extreme weather events. These

disruptions have ripple effects across employment, foreign exchange earnings, and public revenue, as experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Compounding this vulnerability is limited access to affordable financing, as high debt levels and constrained fiscal space reduce the government's ability to invest in diversified, resilient, and inclusive economic development. Addressing these challenges is essential for building a more sustainable and shock-resistant economy in line with the 2030 Agenda

## HUMAN RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS

Human capacity limitations and institutional challenges significantly hinder the progress of Seychelles toward the SDGs. Seychelles faces a shortage of skilled labour, due to its limited population size, which affects the ability to staff and sustain key sectors such as healthcare, education, and public administration. In addition, technical capacity constraints often impede the effective planning, implementation, and monitoring of development strategies. Strengthening human resource development, enhancing institutional capacity, and investing in robust data infrastructure are critical steps to ensure Seychelles can meet its SDG commitments effectively and sustainably.



## ACCESS TO CONCESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

In 2015, Seychelles attained high-income status, having surpassed the required threshold for gross national income per capita (Atlas Method, World Bank) in 2014, marking a significant milestone in the country's socioeconomic development. However, this achievement has unintentionally made it more challenging for Seychelles to access concessional financing for development. As a result, the country now faces additional hurdles in securing traditional concessional funding and is increasingly reliant on more expensive financing options.

## CHALLENGES WITH EXECUTION OF PUBLIC FINANCES

The Government's capital budget has experienced persistent underspending, particularly in climate-related endeavours and infrastructure projects, due to procurement delays, planning inefficiencies, and limited capacity. This has resulted in budgetary losses, cost overruns, and delays in project implementation, forcing agencies to reallocate funds or seek supplementary appropriations. From 2017 to 2022, capital expenditure execution was, on average, 41.6% below budget, with a 61.1% shortfall in 2022, or 3.5% of GDP. To address this, the Ministry of Finance has introduced measures, including detailed appraisals of project proposals, for inclusion in the Medium-Term Expenditure Strategy and the Public Sector Investment Program.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Seychelles is acutely vulnerable to climate change and environmental risks, posing significant challenges to the achievement of the SDGs, particularly those related to climate action, life below water, and life on land. The country faces frequent exposure to natural disasters such as tropical storms, sea-level rise, and coastal erosion, which regularly threaten critical infrastructure, livelihoods, and human settlements. Rising sea levels are especially concerning, as they compromise freshwater availability, agricultural productivity, and the long-term habitability of low-lying areas.

Additionally, the country's rich yet fragile biodiversity is under growing pressure from coastal development, marine pollution, and climate-induced stress, threatening the integrity of ecosystems that are vital for tourism, fisheries, and local communities. These vulnerabilities highlight the urgent need for resilient infrastructure, ecosystem preservation, and climate adaptation strategies to ensure sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda.





# Institutional Mechanisms for SDG Implementation





Given the population and geographic sizes of Seychelles, SDG reporting at the subnational and local levels has not been undertaken, to date and has only been undertaken at national level in the 2020 VNR report. At the very highest level, the Presidency and the Cabinet of Ministers provide the oversight and strategic direction for the country's desired development path. They consider and approve national policies and projects. The Presidency and the Cabinet of Ministers provided the go ahead for the VNR process, requiring the drafting team to return to cabinet to present findings and results.

The **National Planning Department** within the Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade continues to spearhead the public sensitization, coordination and reporting of the SDGs at national level. From a public financial management perspective, the Ministry continues to ensure alignment of the Medium-Term Expenditure Strategy and national public budget to the six priority areas of the NDS 2024–2028, thus ensuring alignment to global and regional frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063.

The **Foreign Affairs Department** provides strategic support in mobilizing United Nations partners. Under the Department's purview, the Permanent Mission of Seychelles to the United Nations continues to collaborate with United Nations and other partners – both bilateral and multilateral – to mobilize support and resources for our development efforts, which are inextricably linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals.

Data remain key for the monitoring and evaluation of SDG implementation. **NBS** plays a vital role in the VNR process by actively collaborating with a diverse range of partners from the public, private, and civil society sectors to gather and compile data aligned with the SDG targets and indicators. This ongoing collaboration ensures that accurate and comprehensive data is available for reporting on the progress of the SDGs. Furthermore, NBS continues to strengthen its position as the central authority responsible for collecting, processing, and analysing critical data essential for the country's overall socioeconomic development, ensuring that this data is effectively utilized for informed policy-making.

Similarly, various ministries, departments, and agencies within the public sector serve as key implementers of the SDGs. For example, entities overseeing sectors such as energy, agriculture, health, education, labour market policies, and social safety nets are tasked with ensuring that their daily operations, as well as their medium- to long-term strategies, integrate the core principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These agencies are crucial in embedding the SDGs into national development plans and ensuring their successful implementation at every level of governance.

Across various communities, civil society organizations – including faith-based groups – play a crucial role as grassroots drivers of development. They actively implement initiatives that align closely with the core themes and objectives of the SDGs. It is important to emphasize that every citizen has a vital role to play in advancing the country's development and in contributing to the successful realization of the SDGs.

Whether it involves taking meaningful action to protect and preserve our natural environment, engaging in productive economic activities that generate employment and stimulate wealth creation, or participating in efforts to enhance healthcare and education systems, all citizens are called upon to be proactive contributors. The active involvement of every Seychellois is essential to ensuring sustained and inclusive progress, fostering a society where development is a shared responsibility and benefit.

## The Joint Steering Committee Meeting for the Cooperation Framework (2024–2028)

In a significant move toward advancing the SDGs, the Government of Seychelles and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) convened a Joint Steering Committee meeting to oversee the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024–2028. This UNSDCF unites 23 United Nations agencies in their collective contribution to the Seychelles NDS. The Joint Steering Committee is co-chaired by the Minister for Finance, National Planning and Trade, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) for Mauritius and Seychelles. The Committee meets regularly to provide overarching strategic guidance for the implementation of the cooperation framework, ensuring alignment with the NDS.

Furthermore, the Committee brings together senior representatives from both the United Nations and the Government of Seychelles to provide strategic guidance, ensure strong co-ownership, and align efforts with national priorities, thereby ensuring the successful implementation of the UNSDCF. In 2024, the Committee agreed on joint work plans and priorities, focusing on three key outcome areas:

Figure 6: UNSDCF outcome areas:



## United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Result Groups

Result groups play a central role in guiding the implementation of the UNSDCF. Their key responsibilities include reviewing and updating the joint work plan to ensure alignment with evolving priorities and identifying opportunities for collaboration, joint programming, and resource mobilization across UNSDCF pillars. Result groups are also encouraged to engage in joint policy advocacy where relevant.

In addition to supporting implementation, result groups are tasked with ongoing monitoring and annual results reviews, contributing to the United Nations Annual Results Report and the final evaluation of the UNSDCF.

The result groups operate within a governance structure that includes quarterly meetings and reporting to the Joint Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Ministry of Finance and the UNRC. The Committee meets annually to provide strategic oversight, endorse the joint work plan, align efforts with national and global developments, and guide overall implementation. The Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs serve as the main government counterparts.

To ensure effective coordination, each result group must have at least one co-chairing United Nations agency physically present in-country and is supported by a collaborative secretariat comprised of the Government, the United Nations agency chairing the group, and the UNRCO. There are currently three result groups: (i) People, (ii) Prosperity, and (iii) Planet. As their names suggest, each focuses on a specific thematic area.



# Leaving No One Behind

The principle of leaving no one behind is a core pillar of SDG implementation in Seychelles, with particular emphasis on identifying and empowering vulnerable groups through enhanced data collection and inclusive policymaking.

The Constitution of Seychelles, as the country's supreme legal framework, enshrines fundamental human rights and freedoms, guaranteeing equality, dignity, and non-discrimination for all individuals. It establishes a democratic system that upholds access to essential needs – including food, shelter, education, and healthcare – while promoting active participation in sustainable development. The Constitution also emphasizes the responsible exercise of individual rights, in balance with respect for others' freedoms and the broader interests of society.

As a signatory to numerous international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Seychelles is committed to upholding and advancing the rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Demonstrating its commitment to inclusivity, Seychelles launched the Fast Track Card for persons with disabilities in December 2022, aimed at improving access to essential services and prioritizing their needs. To institutionalize and enhance the impact of this initiative, the Family Department is formalizing memoranda of understanding with key ministries, departments, and agencies. The signing of the first memorandum with the Judiciary marked an important step toward a whole-of-government approach to promoting inclusivity and protecting rights. However, the rollout has not been without challenges. Some institutions have been slow or hesitant in fully recognizing and implementing the provisions of the Fast Track Card, highlighting the need for continued advocacy, capacity-building, and alignment across sectors to ensure the initiative reaches its full potential.

Efforts are also ongoing to address the needs of individuals affected by substance abuse, particularly drug and alcohol dependency. The Government, in collaboration with local and international partners, is expanding rehabilitation and reintegration programmes focused on prevention, recovery, harm reduction, and social reintegration. These programmes aim to provide a holistic approach that includes medical care, psychosocial support, skills development, and community-based reintegration, ultimately restoring dignity and improving life outcomes for affected individuals and their families.

At the same time, Seychelles is taking deliberate steps to ensure responsible and safe migration, in full alignment with national laws and human rights principles. With a significant share of the population comprising migrant workers, the Government acknowledges the significant contributions migrants make to the country's economic development – particularly in key sectors such as construction, tourism, and domestic work. Policies and frameworks are being strengthened to promote fair treatment, protect the rights of migrant workers, and foster social cohesion, while ensuring that migration is managed in a way that is sustainable, secure, and respectful of the country's sovereignty and developmental priorities.



# Progress on the Goals



## Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Poverty in Seychelles is traditionally measured by a monetary indicator, using data from Household Budget Surveys normally conducted by the Seychelles NBS. The Survey collects data on households' income, expenditure, and consumption to calculate the national monetary poverty line and other international poverty lines for comparison. The Survey was last conducted in 2018 and the new instalment started data collection in July 2024 to end in 2025, with the report tentatively expected for January 2026.

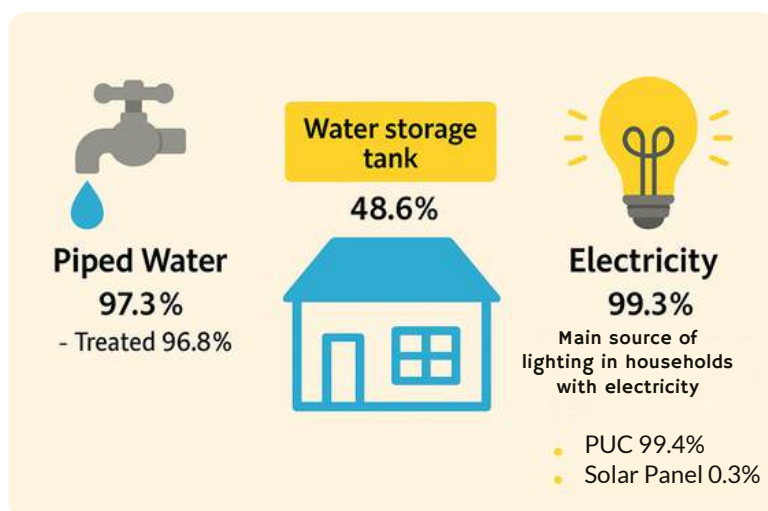
As per the Population and Housing Census of 2022, one household has on average 3 persons dwelling under one roof with living arrangements of children 1–17 years as follows:



	9 in 10 children live in the same household as their biological mother
	5 in 10 children live in the same household as their biological father
	44% children live in the same household as their biological parents (both mother and father)

When asked about their income status, 78.1% of households reported being average, 0.9% rich and 20.9% poor. Among these poor households, 62.8% are female-headed while 37.2% are male-headed.

Figure 7: Household access to water and electricity (2022)

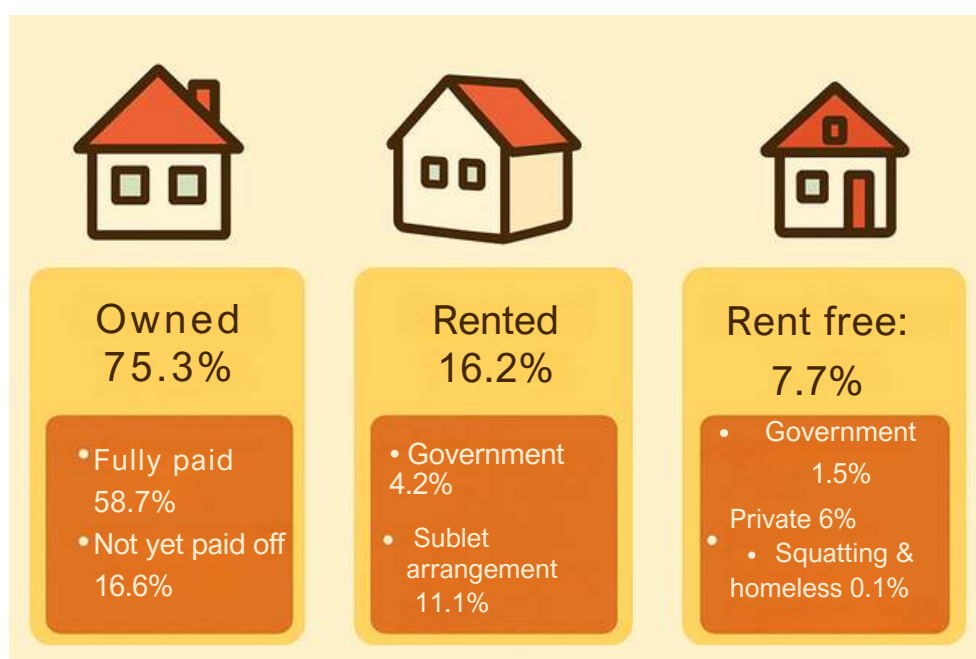


Other indicators of the standards of living in households are their access to the internet, which was 77% in 2022, compared to 32% in the previous Census of 2010, with 95% of households having flush toilets connected to either a septic tank or a sewerage system. Other indicators are shown below in terms of household access to water and electricity.





Figure 8: Ownership of dwellings in the Population and Housing Census of 2022



The ownership of dwellings in the Population and Housing Census of 2022 is broken down as in Figure 8 above.

Affordable housing in Seychelles is supported through government initiatives like the Housing Subsidy Scheme and financial products offered by the Housing Finance Company. The Scheme, established to assist first-time homebuyers, provides a non-repayable subsidy added to the applicant's housing loan. This subsidy aims to reduce the financial burden on lower-to-middle-income Seychellois citizens seeking to construct or purchase homes. In recent years, the Government has revised the subsidy rates to reflect rising construction costs, with adjustments made in 2023 to ensure continued support for eligible applicants. In 2024, a new subsidy was introduced for the interest rates on loans for lower-earning applicants.

Additionally, the Housing Finance Company offers various loan products, including home loans for construction, renovation, and purchase of residential properties. These loans are tailored to the financial capacity of Seychellois citizens, with repayment terms designed to be affordable and accessible. Together, these initiatives aim to enhance access to homeownership and improve housing affordability in Seychelles. Between 2020–2024, approximately SCR 93.7 million of the Government budget was allocated for social housing with 2024 seeing a budget allocation towards the establishment of over 250 units of affordable housing



The most recent data on poverty primarily come from administrative records maintained by the Agency for Social Protection, along with contributions from other government bodies involved in social protection and well-being. These institutions monitor certain poverty indicators, and various measures are currently being implemented to alleviate poverty.

Over recent years, Seychelles has undertaken several initiatives to strengthen social protection systems. A notable initiative is the revision of welfare weights in May 2022 and a second revision in 2023. The latter saw eight revised statutory benefits and a new one – multiple birth benefit – which all came into effect on 1 January 2024. The long-awaited revisions addressed benefits in the areas of employment (maternity and paternity), guardianship (foster child and foster parent), child assistance (semi-orphan and abandoned child/orphan), death (survivor), health in Praslin and La Digue (expectant mother allowance) and families (multiple births).

An overview of the (monthly) rate changes in the statutory benefits is provided below:

**Figure 9: (monthly) rate changes in the statutory benefits**

Statutory Benefit	Old Rate	Revised Rate	% Increase
Maternity	SCR 2,480	SCR 6,633.47	167%
Paternity	SCR 1,240	SCR 3,316.75	167%
Semi-orphan	SCR 1,300	SCR 2,350	81%
Abandoned Child/Orphan	SCR 1,540	SCR 3,134	104%
Foster Child	SCR 1,300	SCR 3,134	141%
Foster Parent	SCR 1,500	up to SCR 25,000	
	(now abolished)	(one off payment)	
Survivor	SCR 2,480	SCR 5,224	111%
Expectant Mother Allowance	SCR 1,500	SCR 5,000	233%
Multiple Births (New)	-	SCR 3,134 (for second child) and SCR 6,633.47 capped (for triple birth and above)	

**Source: Agency for Social Protection**



In the event that beneficiaries find that the allowances are insufficient for their needs or have been reduced or terminated, they are still able to apply for social welfare assistance. The Agency for Social Protection works closely with fellow partners such as the Department of Employment with referrals of those on social assistance to employment re-skilling schemes or the skills development programme so as to encourage and enable beneficiaries to find employment and break the cycle of continuous welfare.

Complementing efforts include the “Breakfast for All” initiative funded by the Dedicated Funds under the Ministry of Education, which ensures that all students are able to start the day with a healthy meal. Below is an overview of the registration statistics for this programme.

The data presented here reflect only those students registered in the breakfast programme. However, the actual number of beneficiaries is likely higher, as the breakfast is made available to all students, including those not formally registered.

**Figure 10: Registration for “Breakfast for all” program**

	2022	2023	2024
% of Total Primary State School Population*	71	75	72
% of Total Secondary State School Population	18	13	14

\*Total Primary State School Population includes Creche Years 1 and 2 as well as Primary 1-6

Considering the various social assistance opportunities available to the citizens of Seychelles, the United Nations Committee on Migrant Workers (2025) highlighted ongoing concerns regarding the limited access of migrant workers in Seychelles to workplace benefits, including social protection. While the State has acknowledged this gap and noted proposals under consideration to extend both social protection and pension coverage to migrant workers, disparities remain. The Committee recommended that Seychelles take concrete steps to ensure that migrant workers and their families enjoy social protections on an equal footing with nationals, in line with the principles of non-discrimination and inclusive development.





Important interventions to note are the introduction of the Financial Assistance for Job Retention Scheme and the Seychelles Employee Transition Scheme, initiated by the Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade, from April 2020 to March 2021 in response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local labour market. The Financial Assistance for Job Retention Scheme provided financial assistance directly to struggling employers to pay their employees' salaries and pensions. The Scheme covered both local and expatriate workers for the first three months and stipulated no processing of redundancies. However, due to ongoing uncertainty, financial constraints, and the fact that the effects of the pandemic lasted longer than forecasted, the Government only provided coverage for Seychellois workers from July 2020 onwards. In addition to these coverage changes, employers were also, at this point onwards, allowed to apply for redundancy, albeit subject to decisions by the Employment Department within an established framework.

Financial assistance was also extended to the self-employed to sustain their business operations during this time. To mitigate the risk of a rise in long-run redundancies, especially in the tourism sector, the Seychelles Employee Transition Scheme registered workers made redundant to provide job matching assistance and re-skilling opportunities for entry into new sectors. In addition, the Employment Department ran the Unemployment Relief Scheme, subsequently terminated in March 2021. This scheme registered jobseekers, long-term unemployed individuals and social welfare recipients and provided employment opportunities in various sectors.

As a means of curbing the effects of poverty on households, several initiatives are in place across various sectors to promote income generation and sustainable livelihoods. These include the facilitation of land for agricultural purposes as well as free testing facilities for plant and animal health. Within the fisheries sectors, concessions are made available on fuel, ice, among others as well as the exclusion of any berthing fees of fishing vessels.

In December 2022, the National Assembly approved amendments to the Seychelles Pension Fund Act, increasing the retirement age from 63 to 65 years, effective 1 January 2023. This encourages able-bodied citizens to continue their livelihoods and their contributions to society while also ensuring the sustainability of the pension system that will in turn support beneficiaries upon retirement.



Recalling the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States (ABAS), which highlights concerns that poverty – including extreme poverty – along with unemployment, inequality, and social exclusion, continue to disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, particularly women, children, young people, persons with disabilities, and older persons, thereby undermining the productive capacities of SIDS. In full awareness of these challenges, Seychelles remains committed to addressing the root causes of poverty and empowering people to overcome hardship and realize their full potential.

Several factors contribute to the challenges in achieving comprehensive SDG 1 reporting during the period of the 2025 VNR. The most recent comprehensive data sources include the Population and Housing Census conducted in 2022 and the Household Budget Survey, which began in 2024 and is expected to be completed by 2025. Due to delays and the staggered timing of these surveys, timely and consistent data availability remains a concern. Additionally, to bridge data gaps, proxy indicators have been employed where direct measurements were unavailable, which may affect the precision of poverty estimates. Survey non-response has further complicated data reliability, as certain populations remain underrepresented. Furthermore, the Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade is currently implementing the Aid Information Management System, with ongoing data migration causing fragmentation and delays in consolidating official development assistance received that focus on poverty reduction. This transitional phase has led to incomplete datasets and coordination challenges.

### **Case Study: Strengthening Social Protections Systems**

As part of reforms supported by the World Bank to strengthen social protection in Seychelles, the Agency for Social Protection was tasked with modernizing the role of the Agency and implementing a comprehensive system that allowed for the monitoring of payouts that allowed for an audit trail. As such, the implementation of the electronic Social Protection System is driven by the need to modernize and optimize the administration of social protection programmes. Current methods and processes often face challenges such as inefficiency, errors, fraud, and delays in service delivery. A digitalized system aims to address these issues, ensuring quicker, transparent, and more accurate processing of social benefits.

The objective of System is to automate and streamline the delivery of social protection services by using digital technology. This includes improving the efficiency of benefit distribution, reducing administrative costs, enhancing data management, and ensuring that beneficiaries receive their entitlements in a timely manner.

The goal of the System is to provide a more accessible, transparent, and equitable system for distributing social protection benefits to eligible individuals. It aims to improve service delivery, reduce barriers to access, and ensure that vulnerable populations receive timely and accurate support.

Expected to go live by the fourth quarter of 2025, the electronic Social Protection System also interlinks with several other digital systems across other sectors. This in turn acts as a foundation for a social registry that once expanded will serve as a data bank for all citizens registered with a national identity number.

Another initiative under the World Bank is the establishment of a socioeconomic needs assessment that assesses the eligibility of beneficiaries based on economic as well as non-economic dimensions of poverty. Implementation of this assessment is expected in 2025.



## Summary

Poverty in Seychelles is primarily measured using monetary indicators based on Household Budget Surveys conducted by NBS. The last Survey was in 2018, with a new survey ongoing from 2024 to 2025, expected to report in early 2026. According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, the average household has three people, with most children living with their biological mother (9 in 10) but fewer with their biological father (5 in 10). Only 44% live with both parents.

Households perceive their income status as 78.1% average, 20.9% poor, and 0.9% rich. Female-headed poor households (62.8%) are more common than male-headed ones (37.2%). Living standards have improved, with internet access rising to 77% in 2022 from 32% in 2010, and 96.8% of households having treated piped water. The government supports affordable housing through subsidies and financing schemes, allocating SCR 93.7 million for social housing between 2020–2024.

Social protection efforts include a significant increase in welfare benefits in 2023, across categories such as maternity, paternity, and orphan support, and introducing a new benefit for multiple births. The Agency for Social Protection coordinates welfare programmes and collaborates with employment agencies to encourage job reskilling and reduce welfare dependency. The “Breakfast for All” initiative ensures all students receive a balanced meal at the start of the school day.

Challenges remain, including limited social protection access for migrant workers and ongoing efforts to extend coverage. COVID-19 response programmes like Financial Assistance for Job Retention and Seychelles Employee Transition Scheme supported workers and businesses affected by the pandemic, focusing on salary support and re-skilling. Other poverty alleviation measures include facilitating agricultural services and fisheries concessions. To note, the retirement age was increased from 63 to 65 in 2023 to sustain the pension system and encourage continued workforce participation.

Despite these efforts, challenges with timely, reliable data due to survey delays and fragmented development assistance data continue to affect comprehensive SDG reporting. Seychelles remains committed to addressing poverty and empowering its vulnerable populations to improve their well-being and opportunities for a better future.





## Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Because of the topography of Seychelles, lower-lying coastal areas are the most favourable for several competing sectors, such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries, housing and protection. Agriculture, with its 400 hectares of land dedicated to cultivation, contributes approximately 1.6% to the country's GDP. Agriculture is emphasized in the NDS 2024–2028, where the sector features along with fisheries and tourism under Priority Area 2: The Transformative Economic Agenda, which promotes diversification of key economic sectors. Agricultural priorities include promoting sustainable farming,

improving food and nutrition security and enhancing traditional farming practices through the use of innovative farming methods such as hydroponics and vertical farming as a means to optimize land use.

Recognizing the critical importance of food security, ABAS supports initiatives like the global roadmap of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to achieve zero hunger without breaching the 1.5 °C threshold. This includes promoting climate-resilient agrifood systems, enhancing sustainable agricultural practices, and ensuring equitable access to nutritious food. Such actions are vital for SIDS, where climate change poses significant risks to food production and security..

As part of its proposal for the United Nations Food Systems Summit, Seychelles has committed to attaining ambitious targets of self-sufficiency in select livestock and crop production by 2030. The primary agricultural products include sweet potatoes, cassava, breadfruit, bananas, cinnamon and tea, mainly grown on the slopes of Mahe, as well as poultry and pork, and there are several initiatives in place to support their production and rearing. These include free laboratory services for plant and soil diagnostics, plant health and animal health and two red meat abattoir facilities on Mahe and Praslin.



These laboratories are vital infrastructures that ensure zero levels of zoonosis, in line with the one health approach, integrating human, animal, and environmental health. Other infrastructure serving farmers includes solar-powered cold storage facilities, water pumping facilities and markets being constructed to connect the farmers to their customers. Supporting agricultural policies include the Agricultural Land Policy (2010) and the Agriculture Act (1966) as well as an ongoing revision of the Livestock Subsidy Policy and the Agrotourism Policy and Seychelles Organic Policy under development.



Additionally, the Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry have several initiatives that complement the efforts in the agricultural sector with promotion across renewed avenues for production and value addition in sugar cane, vanilla, cinnamon, and honey. These include the completion of feasibility studies for cinnamon, honey and vanilla as well as identifying land for cinnamon cultivation and processing.

Moreover, the *Industrial Policy* (2023) aims at promoting a sustainable economic transformation by diversifying into higher value-added and green industries that offer attractive employment for Seychellois. The *Seychelles Made Policy* (2023) supports the development of locally made products, which use local content to ensure maximum value is retained in the local economy, and helps differentiate and market them.

The Seed Capital Grant Scheme, first launched in 2017 to assist start-ups with a capital of SCR 50,000 in their early stages of development was increased to SCR 200,000 in 2022 and serves several sectors, including agriculture and fisheries. Of the total allocated seed capital funds for 2022–2024, 22.07% and 6.9% was allocated to agriculture and fisheries respectively. Furthermore, promotion of these sectors is up-scaled through the Seychelles Investor Map, launched in 2023, which aims to direct domestic and foreign private capital to investment opportunities at the intersection of the SDGs, national priorities and viable business models. These projects have also been covered and discussed in schools as part of awareness-raising of the SDGs and national priorities.



Other financing schemes available for these sectors are facilitated by the Development Bank Seychelles, with available development loans as shown in figure

**Figure 11: Fisheries & Agriculture financing schemes facilitated by the Development Bank Seychelles**

Loan	Amount		Interest Rate
	Minimum	Maximum	
Agricultural Development Fund	SCR 25,000	SCR 5 million	2.5% for loans up to SCR 3 million 5% for loans above SCR 3 million
Fisheries Development Fund	SCR 15,000	SCR 5 million	3%
Blue Investment Fund Scheme	SCR equivalent to \$10,000	SCR equivalent to \$3 million	4%
Development Bank Seychelles Scheme	SCR 50,000	SCR 5,880,000	10%
Small and Medium Enterprise Scheme	SCR 50,000	SCR 3 million	5% on the first SCR 1 million 7% on the next SCR 2 million





## Fisheries

The extensive EEZ of Seychelles, covering 1.374 million km<sup>2</sup>, makes it a major player in the global tuna industry, with Port Victoria one of the busiest industrial fishing ports in the Western Indian Ocean. The fisheries sector accounts for about 25% of the country's GDP, of which 22% overall is contributed by the industrial fisheries and fish processing sector. The fisheries sector is comprised of three main segments: artisanal fisheries, with local fishers using small, motorized boats; semi-industrial fisheries, which involve small, locally owned long liners; and industrial fisheries, consisting of foreign-owned purse seiners and large industrial longliners. In February 2025, Seychelles became the first country in the history of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) history to attain a 'compliant' status with the FiTI Standard, underscoring its dedication to sustainable fisheries management and transparent governance.

Artisanal fisheries remain vital for food security, employment, and cultural identity. With fish as an essential part of local Creole cuisine and sought by visitors to the country, the Seychelles Fisheries Authority offers various concessions and services to support the domestic fisheries market. These include a fuel incentive scheme, business tax exemptions for registered fishers (and farmers) and concessions on the import duties of inputs. Local fishers are also given berthing facilities with no charge and ice that is heavily subsidized by the Government of Seychelles. Additionally, access to the markets is facilitated through intermediaries such as the Seychelles Trading Company - a State-owned enterprise - who purchase the fish off local fishers and resell in their outlets. There is also positive feedback in terms of various tourism establishments having strong relationships with several fishers and fish vendors to ensure their guests receive the freshest catch. Moreover, the Development Bank Seychelles loans above ease access to finance for registered fishers.

The Seychelles Fisheries Authority is playing a key role in advancing the country's aquaculture sector as part of its blue economy strategy. With the goal of diversifying the fisheries sector, improving food security, and creating economic opportunities, the Authority has made significant progress in research, infrastructure development, and industry collaboration. The Authority's aquaculture programme, guided by the Seychelles National Aquaculture Policy 2023–2027, focuses on research, production trials, and scaling up commercial aquaculture. The key areas of focus include marine finfish, echinoderms, shellfish, and macroalgae cultivation, ensuring a multi-species approach that balances ecological sustainability with economic viability. These areas of focus resulted in the following achievements:

- Finfish trials: Achieved a feed conversion ratio of 1.3–1.5 for Golden Pompano and Mangrove Snapper.
- Sea urchin production: Successfully settled 5,500 larvae using cost-effective feed alternatives.
- Microalgae production: Scaling up to 100 litres per day of high-value species for hatchery use.



- Scientific recognition: Over 10 research presentations at international and regional conferences.
- Aquaculture training and awareness: Engaged over 50 industry stakeholders in workshops and technical sessions.
- Financial investment: Secured SCR 2 million from the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) and \$70,000 from FAO for aquaculture development.

The Seychelles Fisheries Authority's aquaculture programme is a leading initiative in the region, demonstrating a balance between scientific innovation, economic development, and environmental responsibility. With continued research, strategic investments, and strong regulatory frameworks, Seychelles is well-positioned to become a hub for sustainable aquaculture. The ongoing progress in species trials, infrastructure expansion, and stakeholder engagement highlights the sector's potential to contribute significantly to the national economy and food security.

The agricultural and fisheries sectors face a range of challenges that, while distinct, share many commonalities in pursuing sustainable growth. In agriculture, data collection and analysis are insufficient, and inconsistencies limit the ability to accurately track progress and implement targeted interventions. Land availability for key agricultural infrastructure is increasingly constrained, with significant underutilization of existing allocated land and competing land uses. Expansion to outer islands is being explored, but logistical and infrastructural limitations are likely to increase operational costs, which may ultimately be passed on to final consumers.

A key structural constraint across both sectors is the country's heavy dependency on foreign labour, which raises concerns about long-term sustainability and resilience – particularly in light of an ageing local workforce and the additional costs employers incur when recruiting expatriate workers. This challenge is compounded by the country's relatively small resource base and low investment capacity, which restrict the scaling of modern, sustainable production systems.

Additionally, limited alignment and synergy across national laws and related policies on food production hinder cohesive governance, creating duplication of roles and responsibilities, enforcement gaps, and reduced policy effectiveness.

The fisheries sector similarly struggles with limited space necessary for further development. Both sectors face a pressing need for a younger, more skilled workforce capable of adopting innovative, climate-smart, and sustainable practices, as the current labour force continues to age. Addressing these interlinked challenges is essential for enabling a successful transition of the agriculture and fisheries sectors toward resilient and sustainable food systems in line with SDG 2.

### Case Study – Local Food Producers Association

The Local Food Producers Association demonstrates a strong commitment to strengthening the local food system in Seychelles and making substantial progress towards achieving Zero Hunger through a series of diverse initiatives, including promoting sustainable farming practices, improving water infrastructure, and investing in agricultural education.



Since 2022, the Association has partnered with French NGO *Agrisud International* to promote agroecology in Seychelles. This collaboration includes training, monitoring, and ongoing support for LFPA farmers, as well as training Ministry of Agriculture extension officers to spread agroecological practices sector-wide. With support from a Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) grant, the Association hosted a workshop titled “For a Local and Healthier Agriculture” to promote agroecology among farmers, associations, institutions, and the public. It also organized a film festival featuring three films – including *Kiss the Ground* and *The Seeds* – to raise awareness about sustainable agriculture and pollinators.

In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Diageo Foundation, the Association reactivated a key water reservoir at Anse à la Mouche, benefiting 13 farmers and the Seychelles Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture. The water catchment project improves irrigation efficiency, boosts agricultural output and supports food security, while promoting practices like drip irrigation.

The Association has also worked with R2R UNDP on implementing Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) for ensuring fruit and vegetable production aligns with environmental standards. The LFPA is poised to launch PGS in Seychelles, pending the active collaboration of key partners from government, local communities, and farmers’ associations.

To ensure long-term sustainability, the Association has partnered with the Seychelles Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture, Agrisud, and the Ministry of Agriculture to integrate agroecology into the Institute’s curriculum through a SeyCCAT-sponsored project. This initiative aims to equip future agricultural professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to apply environmentally friendly farming techniques, helping to reduce pollution and soil erosion.

The Association has also built a farmers’ market at Anse à La Mouche, allowing members to sell directly to consumers. This reduces costs, eliminates intermediaries, and improves access to healthy, locally grown food.



## Summary

The agriculture and fisheries sectors in Seychelles are critical to food security, economic diversification, and sustainable development. However, both face spatial, structural, and capacity challenges. The country's limited low-lying coastal land is highly contested by sectors such as tourism, housing, and conservation. Agriculture occupies only 400 hectares and contributes around 1.6% to GDP, while fisheries contribute approximately 25%, driven largely by industrial tuna fishing.

Under the NDS 2024–2028, agriculture is prioritized alongside fisheries and tourism under the Transformative Economic Agenda. The government is promoting sustainable farming, food security, and climate-smart innovative methods like hydroponics and vertical farming. Seychelles aims for self-sufficiency in select livestock and crop production by 2030, as committed at the United Nations Food Systems Summit. This ambition is supported by a combination of infrastructure, financing, and policy measures. Free diagnostic labs provide vital services for plant, soil, and animal health – critical for ensuring disease prevention and food safety under the one health approach. Farmers also benefit from subsidies and grants, such as the revised Livestock Subsidy Policy and the expanded Seed Capital Grant Scheme. Solar-powered cold storage facilities help reduce post-harvest losses, while policy developments like the Agrotourism and Seychelles Organic Policies aim to align agriculture with sustainability goals, market access, and tourism linkages – ensuring that agricultural development is both economically viable and environmentally responsible.

In fisheries, Port Victoria plays a vital role in the global tuna industry. The sector includes artisanal, semi-industrial, and industrial segments and recently earned “compliant” status under the FiTI. Artisanal fisheries remain crucial for livelihoods and culture, supported by various concessions, tax breaks, and subsidies. The aquaculture program, guided by the Seychelles National Aquaculture Policy (2023–2027), focuses on multi-species cultivation and has made progress in research, production trials, and stakeholder engagement.

Both sectors are constrained by an ageing workforce, dependence on foreign labour, limited land availability, and underutilization of existing land. Expansion to outer islands is being explored, but high logistical costs may impact affordability. The country's small resource base and limited investment capacity further restrict growth. Additionally, the lack of harmonized legislation and fragmented policies impede coordinated development and governance.

To address these challenges, Seychelles is investing in capacity-building, targeted financing schemes (including loans and grants), and initiatives such as the Seychelles Investor Map and industrial development policies. These aim to promote green, value-added industries and increase local participation in production, ensuring that greater value is retained within the domestic economy. Continued innovation, policy alignment, and investment are key to building resilient, sustainable food systems in line with SDG 2.





## Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



The Seychelles Government prioritizes health as a fundamental aspect of its development agenda. The NDS emphasizes effective health protection, societal responsibility for holistic health, and the development of a high quality, people-centred healthcare system. Seychelles has improved its health status as a result of its significant economic progress over the years, which includes being a high-income nation.

The right of the citizens to health care, the State's

obligation to make health care available to all its citizens and the emphasis on individual responsibility for one's health are anchored in Article 29 of the 1993 Constitution. Universal health coverage, which provides all residents with free access to a full range of health services within the public sector at the point of use, is one of the country's greatest accomplishments. For patients whose medical needs cannot be satisfied locally, this also includes treatment abroad.

Health gains that took years of sustained effort to secure, can be quickly eroded. The COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected the health and wellbeing of the population, and threatened the building blocks of the health system. The National Health Strategic Plan 2022–2026 has been developed at a time when Seychelles, like the rest of the world, is confronting an ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. A new direction in health is now imperative, as we strive to protect pre-pandemic health gains, address past pervasive non-achievements and recover from the pandemic stronger than before.

A review of the implementation of the National Health Strategic Plan 2016–2020 showed that there was progress during that period, with the Ministry of Health offering a wider range of specialist services. Primary health care services are well integrated with medical, oral health and rehabilitative services offered under one roof in regional centres. A new health facility, the Family Hospital, was inaugurated in 2017, a record number of Seychellois doctors joined, and key health policies and Acts were developed and implemented.

The NDS 2024–2028 is the second of three strategic plans to achieve Vision 2033. The NDS goal for health, under Priority Area 3: A Healthy Nation is the “importance of having healthy citizens which effectively translates to having a healthy and productive workforce required to build a strong and resilient economy”. This goal is well-aligned with SDG 3 and Goal 3 of the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. Two broad strategic priorities under health goal are, firstly, to pursue effective health protection and promote empowerment and, personal and societal responsibility for holistic health, and secondly, to build a high-quality integrated healthcare system with a focus on people-centred care.



In alignment with national development priorities, the recently adopted ABAS reaffirms the urgent need to strengthen health systems in SIDS, recognizing their particular vulnerabilities to public health shocks, non-communicable diseases, and climate-related health risks. In line with ABAS commitments, Seychelles is working to ensure equitable access to quality health care, enhance pandemic preparedness, and integrate climate and health policies through a one health approach. Continued investment in universal health coverage, mental health services, and preventive care for non-communicable diseases remains a national priority.

Further, ABAS calls for strengthened health workforces, integrated early warning systems, and resilient infrastructure – all areas where Seychelles is advancing reforms to improve health outcomes and safeguard vulnerable populations. These efforts contribute directly to building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable health systems that can withstand external shocks and ensure well-being for all Seychellois.

The National Health Strategic Plan 2022–2026, which strives to accomplish all national and international health targets centred on promoting, safeguarding, and restoring the health and well-being of all Seychelles citizens throughout their life course, serves as the overall framework for the health sector. The Plan’s primary objectives are:

Figure 12: National Health Strategic Plan 2022–2026 objectives

## NHSP Objectives



As defined by the Annual Health Sector Performance Report 2023, life expectancy at birth reflects the estimated length of time a child born in 2023 can expect to live, if all the prevailing conditions remain the same as they were in 2023, throughout the life of the child. In 2023, life expectancy was 75.3 years for both sexes, 72 years for males, and 79 years for females, an increase for both sexes compared to 2022.

**Figure 13: Life Expectancy by sex (2023)**



### SDG Reporting 2023

New human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) cases detected (SDG 3.3.1) increased in 2023 (to 85), with 33 HIV-related deaths. There was an increase in tuberculosis cases (23 in 2023, SDG 3.3.2), with four deaths recorded, including a cluster of cases among injection drug users in September. Twenty new cases of hepatitis B (SDG 3.3.4), and 53 of hepatitis C were recorded. Syphilis cases increased from 47 in 2022 to 153 in 2023, including five cases of congenital syphilis. There were 1,553 live births in 2023, including 15 twins and 1 triplet. The adolescent fertility rate was 49 per 1,000 girls aged 15–19 (SDG 3.7.2). One maternal death (SDG 3.1.1.) occurred in 2023, and 19 babies died within one month of birth (SDG 3.2.2) – seven from a brief outbreak of infection in the neonatal intensive care unit in December.

Maternal and child health indicators (SDGs 3.1 and 3.2) are on track, whereas indicators around infectious diseases show some deterioration (SDG 3.3). SDGs encompassing self-harm (3.4.2), road traffic accidents (3.6.1) and homicides (SDG 16.1) showed improvements in 2023.

Public health initiatives, particularly in combating non-communicable diseases and infectious diseases, showed mixed results. While there were notable improvements in areas like maternal and child health and HIV treatment coverage, challenges such as obesity, substance abuse, and increasing cases of certain infectious diseases persisted.



## Universal Health Coverage

Seychelles remains steadfast in its commitment to achieving universal health coverage by ensuring that all citizens have access to high-quality healthcare services without financial hardship. Seychelles maintained its high universal health coverage index, scoring 0.82 in 2023 (SDG 3.8.1). The International Health Regulations core capacities index improved from 53 in 2022 to 55 in 2023. This score surpasses the average for the World Health Organization African Region, which was 46 in 2019, reflecting the commitment of Seychelles to healthcare accessibility.

The Average Service Coverage (ASC) Index (SDG 3.8.1) is calculated using a synthesis of 16 indicators. A key new addition for 2023 were the updated values for prevalence of NCD risks in the population. The updated universal health coverage ASC index was 0.82 in 2023, almost unchanged from 2022.

The remaining challenges in the journey of Seychelles towards universal health coverage are improvements in the quality of care, in particular reducing waiting times for visits and referrals, improving patient centredness, renovating obsolete infrastructure and enhancing health workforce competences in specialized areas among others. Looking ahead, the country needs to be able to cater for the needs of an ageing population and build a cadre of professionals who can provide care for older persons, palliative care, domiciliary care and deal with the rising prevalence of multimorbidities. To deliver on this, a healthy, adequately trained, motivated health workforce is needed. More collaboration between sectors is needed to address the root causes of social exclusion, which can prevent some individuals and households from accessing free and readily available health services and employment opportunities. These barriers contribute to issues such as substance use and unemployment in the country.



### Case Study: Expanding Immunization for a Healthier Seychelles

Vaccines remain among the most cost-efficient health interventions. Since its establishment in 1974, the Expanded Programme on Immunization has been a major success in protecting children and communities in Seychelles from life-threatening diseases. Through steady improvements, the country has introduced new vaccines that have significantly reduced illness and hospital admissions. All routine childhood vaccines are fully funded by the Government.

For example, Seychelles introduced the human papillomavirus vaccine for girls in 2014, expanding to boys in 2024, with coverage reaching 74% for girls and 64% for boys in 2023. This vaccine is helping to prevent cervical and other cancers, with early signs of a decline in cervical cancer deaths since 2021.

Other key additions include the Rotavirus vaccine (2017) and pneumococcal vaccine (2018), with coverage now at 98% and 97% respectively. These vaccines have dramatically reduced severe diarrhoea and pneumonia in children, leading to fewer hospital admissions.

The strong commitment of Seychelles to immunization is saving lives, preventing disease, reducing antimicrobial resistance, and strengthening progress towards SDG 3: Good health and well-being.





## Summary

Seychelles continues to demonstrate strong commitment to SDG 3 through universal health coverage, offering free, equitable access to a broad range of services. Anchored in the Constitution and guided by the National Health Strategic Plan (2022–2026), the country prioritizes people-centred care, disease prevention, and health system resilience. Life expectancy has improved, and maternal and child health indicators remain strong. However, growing challenges include rising non-communicable and infectious diseases, substance abuse, and the need for elderly and palliative care services. The country's robust immunization programme and commitment to integrated, climate-resilient health policies reflect its strategic focus on long-term public health. Continued investment in workforce development, quality care, and social determinants of health remains key to achieving SDG 3 targets.



## Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



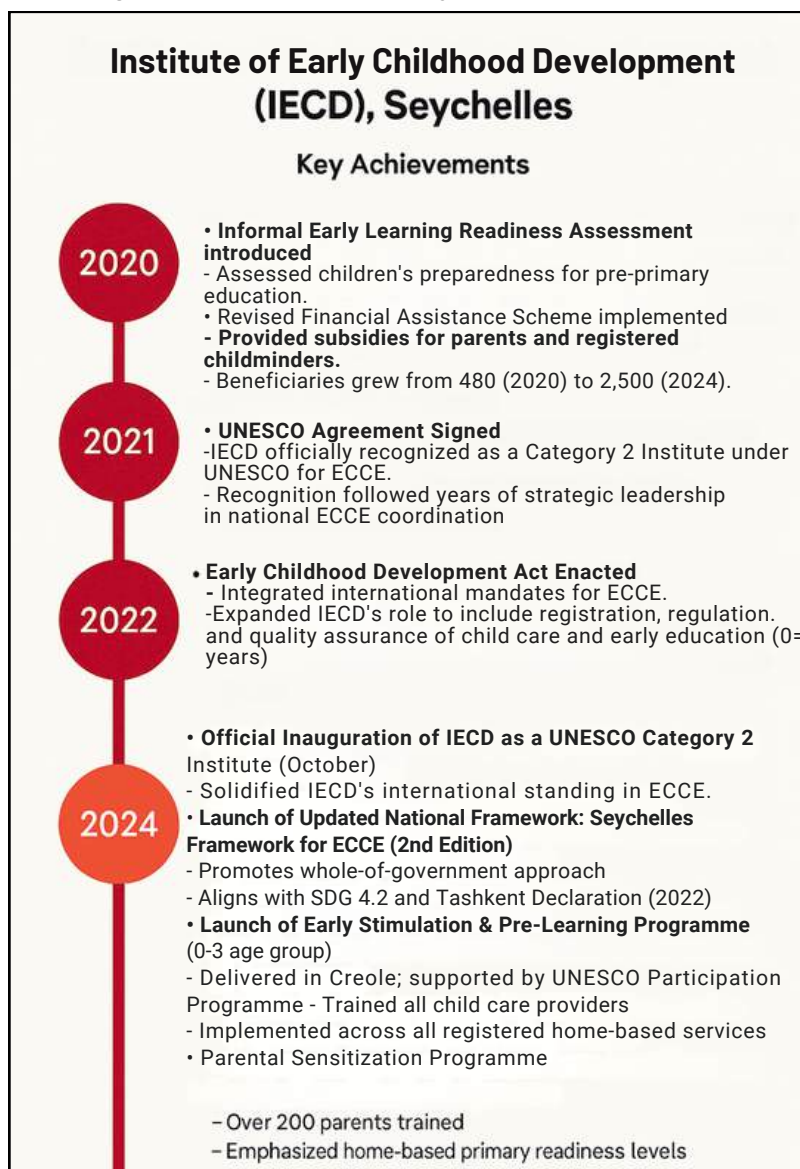
Education is widely acknowledged as a fundamental pillar of socio-economic development. Until December 2015, Seychelles provided 10 years of compulsory, free education, spanning ages 6 to 15—comprising six years of primary and four years of secondary education. As of January 2018, this provision was extended to 11 years, with the addition of a fifth year in secondary education. This expansion reflects the country's strong commitment to universal education.

Driven by this dedication to education and lifelong learning, Seychelles has achieved significant progress in literacy. By 2020, the literacy rate had risen to 96.7% for women and 95.8% for men. These achievements highlight the nation's sustained efforts to ensure equitable access to quality education, recognizing it as a critical enabler of sustainable development.

Figure 14: Milestones in Early childhood development

### Early Childhood Care and Education

Seychelles acknowledges the profound impact that investments in early childhood care and education (ECCE) can have on societal well-being. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), ECCE yields a 13% return through improved health, economic outcomes, and social cohesion. Over the years, the Government has demonstrated unwavering commitment to delivering high-quality ECCE, with significant achievements in maternal and child health indicators, robust financial support systems, and the implementation of policy measures aimed at enhancing ECCE provision and services. Figure 14 presents a timeline of key milestones in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in Seychelles, led by the Institute for Early Childhood Development (IECD).

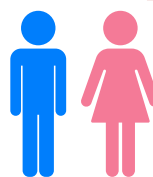


Over the years, the education sector in Seychelles has consistently received a substantial share of the national budget, underscoring the government's strong commitment to investing in human capital development. This sustained allocation of resources has supported the enhancement of educational infrastructure, the formulation of targeted policies, and the implementation of programmes aimed at elevating the overall quality of education.

In 2025, the education sector was allocated SCR 1.4 billion, representing 11.8% of the total public budget. This significant investment has contributed to key achievements, including a high net enrolment rate, strengthened early

childhood education, and a stable Adjusted Gender Parity Index (GPIA), which has remained around 1.0 in recent years. These outcomes reflect Seychelles' continued success in promoting equitable access to education and ensuring that no one is left behind.

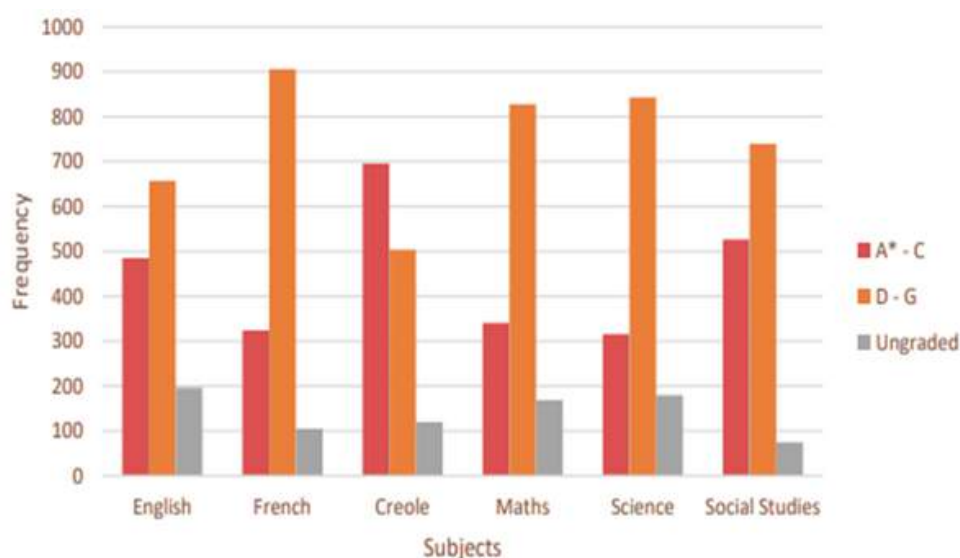
## Adjusted Gender Parity Index: 1.0



### Reforms in Secondary Education

Although Seychelles has attained universal education, challenges persist in terms of attainment levels. The gross enrolment ratio has remained consistently high over the years, with primary and secondary education both reaching 97% in 2023. Although, the gross enrolment ratio remains high, the attainment levels lag behind as depicted below.

**Figure 15: National Examinations Results by subject and by grade in state schools, 2023.**

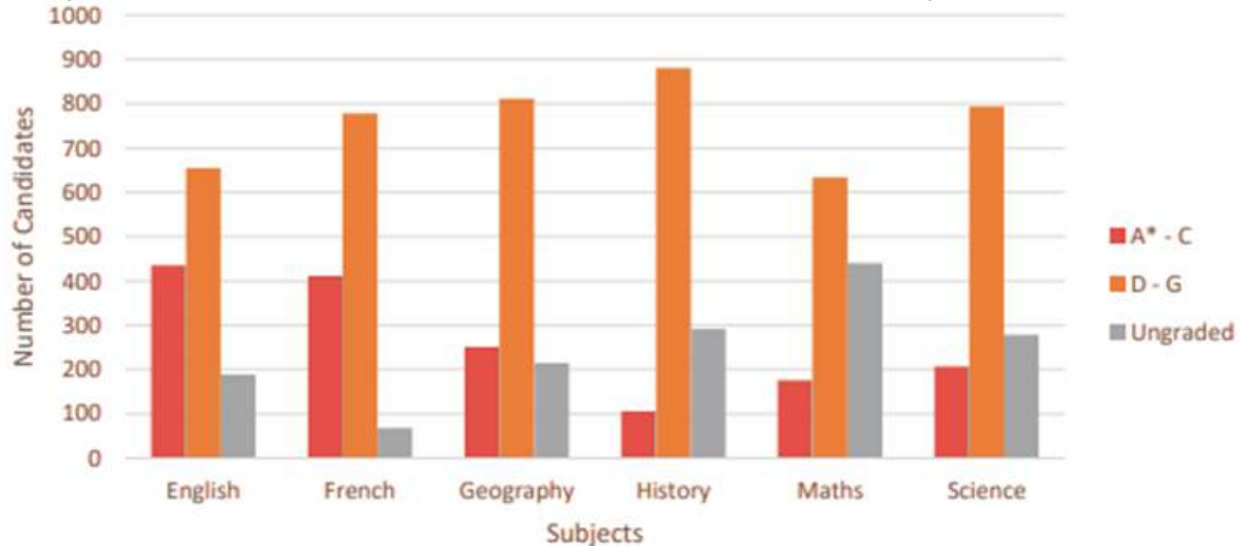


Source: AES Database, 2024



Figure 15 shows pass rates for six National examinable subjects in 2023 sat by Primary 6 students from state school. Social Studies had the highest pass rate (94%) and English the lowest (85%), while the overall pass rate stayed at 89%. Most students earned ordinary passes (D–G), except in Creole. English, Creole, and Social Studies had the most principal passes (A\*–C).

Figure 16: 2023 S3 Coordinated National Examination results for six subjects



The graph above illustrates the 2023 S3 Coordinated National Examination results for six subjects. French had the highest pass rate at 95%, while Mathematics had the lowest at 65%. The overall pass rate across all subjects was 81%. Most students achieved ordinary passes (grades D–G) in all subjects.

Despite a high gross enrolment ratio of 97%, the overall pass rate in the 2023 national examinations was lower, indicating a gap between access to education and academic performance. While enrolment remains strong, the results suggest challenges in learning outcomes, particularly in subjects like Mathematics, and a need to strengthen the quality of education to improve student achievement.

The challenges in the outcome levels propose that whilst the foundation for access to education has been firmly established, there is a need for continued focus on improving the quality of education whilst also emphasizing on a more holistic and integral development of the pupils. To address this, the Ministry of Education has undertaken several measures to enhance educational outcomes. These include the ongoing revision of curricula to ensure that it reflects the needs of the realities of today. Given the ever-evolving world, subjects such as entrepreneurship, financial education, environmental management and physical and social education have since been integrated in the school curriculum to ensure that students are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate and thrive in a rapidly changing global landscape.

To address systemic deficiencies in educational delivery and persistent challenges related to student academic performance and dropout rates, the Ministry of Education will implement a comprehensive Secondary Education Reform initiative.



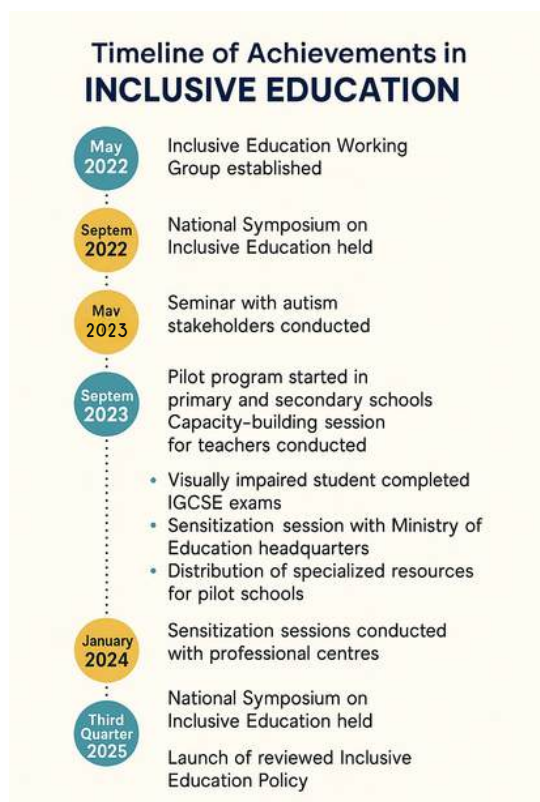


This reform aims to transition the existing system to a K-12 structural framework, organized into distinct Lower, Middle, and Upper Secondary divisions. The redesigned curriculum will incorporate diversified curricular pathways, including academic, technical, and vocational tracks, to better align with students' aptitudes and labour market demands. Implementation will proceed through a phased approach, commencing with phase one at Praslin and La Digue Secondary Schools in January 2026. Subject to evaluation and stakeholder feedback, the initiative will expand to full-scale implementation across all secondary institutions in Mahé by January 2027. This strategic intervention seeks to enhance educational equity, improve retention, and foster lifelong competencies through a robust, future-oriented learning ecosystem.

### Digital Learning in Schools

To further develop the digital economy sector, the Ministry of Education has developed a Smart Education Plan aimed at advancing digitalization in schools. The plan focuses on ensuring the right infrastructure and providing adequate resources to support the integration of technology into education. It takes into account all the necessary components to create a sustainable learning environment, positioning Seychelles to meet future challenges. The Ministry has recently launched a new ICT in Education and Training policy, established internet connectivity in all schools in partnership with Cable and Wireless and Airtel, two local telecommunications companies, introduced electronic devices for both students and teachers to facilitate learning, and implemented teacher training programs in ICT. These initiatives are part of the broader strategy to modernize education and ensure that both educators and students are well-equipped to thrive in a digital world. Through these ongoing efforts, Seychelles aims to not only maintain its progress in educational access but also to raise the quality of education using technology, ensuring that students are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the global economy.

Figure 17: Timeline on Inclusive education



### Inclusive Education

Seychelles has made significant strides in advancing inclusive education. Since its establishment in May 2022 by the Minister for Education, the Inclusive Education Working Group has played a key role in driving the integration of inclusive practices across state education institutions. The timeline on the left highlights the major milestones and achievements to date.



### **Case Study: Promoting Social Emotional Learning**

The education system aims to cultivate well-rounded individuals capable of addressing emerging challenges, promoting sustainable practices, and contributing meaningfully to society. Through this approach, Seychelles is ensuring that its education system remains relevant and prepares students for the demands of the future.

In line with this, in 2023, the Ministry of Education launched the pilot project Promoting Social Emotional Learning at Early Childhood, in three primary schools: Au Cap, Bel Eau, and Plaisance. The initiative focuses on helping young learners understand their thoughts and emotions, build self-awareness, and develop empathy, aiming to equip them with the social and emotional skills necessary for future success. The project is supported by an evidence-based social and emotional learning framework developed in collaboration with the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Peace and Sustainable Development, based in New Delhi.

The framework promotes key competencies such as kindness, interpersonal relationships, self and social awareness, mental focus, and empathy. To further enhance the implementation of this framework, the Institute has provided technical support, including capacity-building workshops for teachers across all educational levels. The project also emphasizes inclusive education and the integration of social and emotional learning principles into the curriculum, ensuring that all students benefit from a comprehensive approach to emotional and social development.



## Summary

Seychelles has made notable progress toward Goal 4 on education, recognizing it as a key driver of sustainable development. The country provides 11 years of free, compulsory education and has achieved high literacy rates—96.7% for women and 95.8% for men by 2020. Significant investment in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), supported by strong policies and health outcomes, reflects this commitment. In 2025, the education sector received SCR 1.4 billion (11.8% of the national budget). Despite near-universal enrolment, national exam results reveal gaps in learning outcomes, especially in subjects like Mathematics.

To address this, the Ministry of Education is rolling out a K–12 reform from 2026, offering academic, vocational, and technical pathways. Curriculum changes now include entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and environmental education. Digital transformation is underway through the Smart Education Plan, improving infrastructure, training, and access to technology. The Ministry also launched a Social Emotional Learning pilot in 2023, in partnership with UNESCO, to foster empathy, self-awareness, and interpersonal skills in early learners. These efforts aim to raise both the quality and inclusivity of education in Seychelles.



## Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Seychelles has established itself as a gender-responsive nation, implementing policies and institutional frameworks that actively address gender inequalities and promote equal opportunities. The Gender Secretariat, which sits within the Research and Policy Planning Division of the Department of Family under the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Family, plays a pivotal role in mainstreaming gender considerations across government programmes. Gender mainstreaming has been the foundation of the unit's work since the domestication of the Protocol on Gender and Development of the

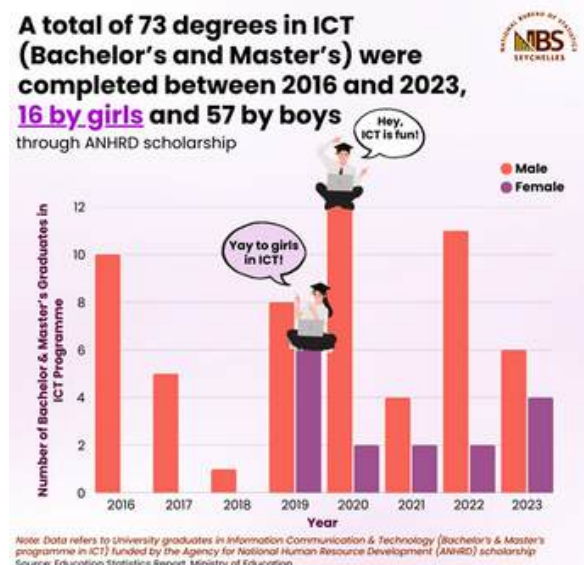
Southern African Development Community (SADC). Despite challenges in capacity, the Department remains committed to collaborating with various stakeholders to ensure gender considerations are integrated into policies and legislation. For example, the Secretariat actively participated in the 2023 review of the National Gender Policy as well as the Employment Act review, working alongside the Employment Department and other key actors. Targeted initiatives such as reducing gender-based violence and increasing women's participation in leadership – highlighted by the advocacy work of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus – demonstrate the country's commitment to addressing existing disparities.

Furthermore, Seychelles is progressively moving towards a gender-transformative approach by seeking to challenge and change underlying social norms and power structures that perpetuate inequality. The 2023 policy review, which incorporated broad stakeholder consultations and advocacy, reflects this ongoing shift toward transforming attitudes and fostering sustainable gender equality.

With the empowerment of women helping to ensure that Seychelles remains gender-sensitive, policies and legislation aim to provide equal opportunities and rights for all citizens – whether in housing, education, or other areas. For education, since its opening in 2009, 2,120 students have graduated from the University of Seychelles with 3 in 4 graduates being female

Figure 18 to the right shows the uptake in girls seeking degrees in ICT in 2019 followed by a steady completion rate from 2020 to 2022 with an increase once again in 2023

Figure 18: Uptake of Degrees in ICT 2019-2023



Source: National Bureau of Statistics





In terms of the composition of headship households, figure 19 shows the proportion of households headed by males and females as well as the gender shift in household headship over the past decades as per data collected during the Population and Housing Census of 2022.

Figure 19: Household headship by sex (Census)

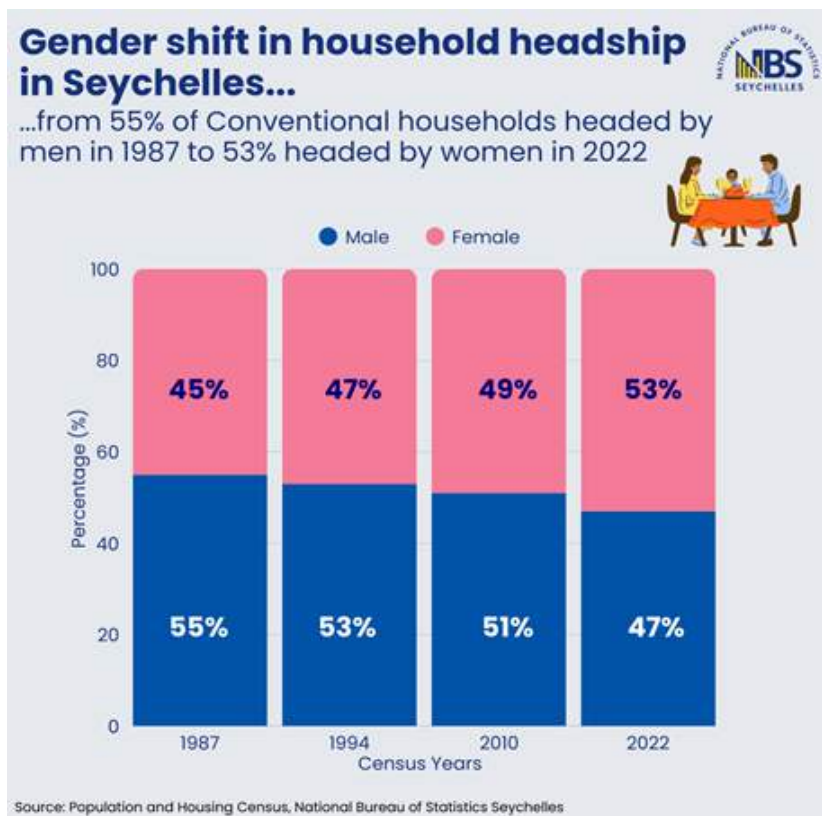
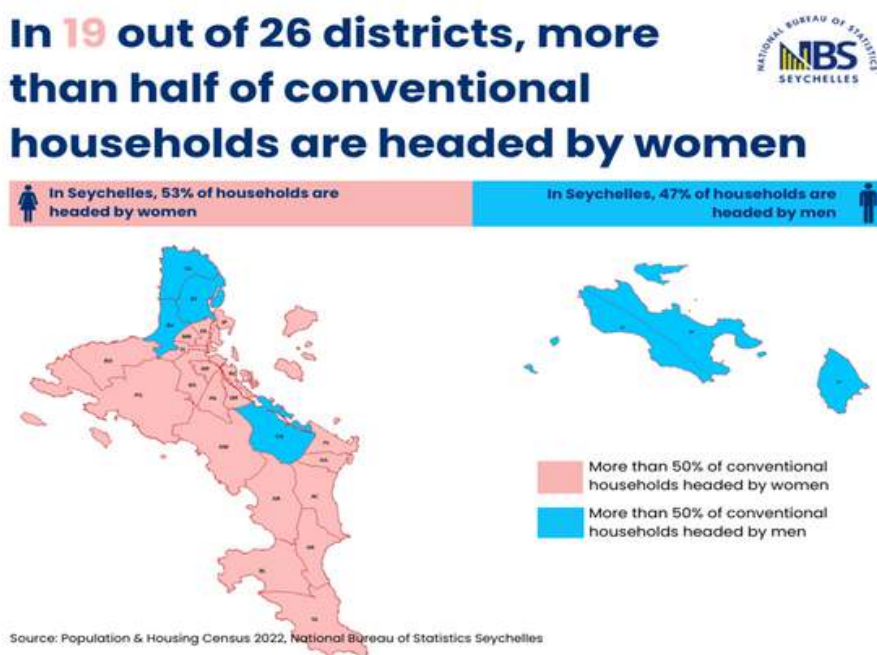


Figure 20: Geographic distribution of Household headship by sex (Census, 2022)



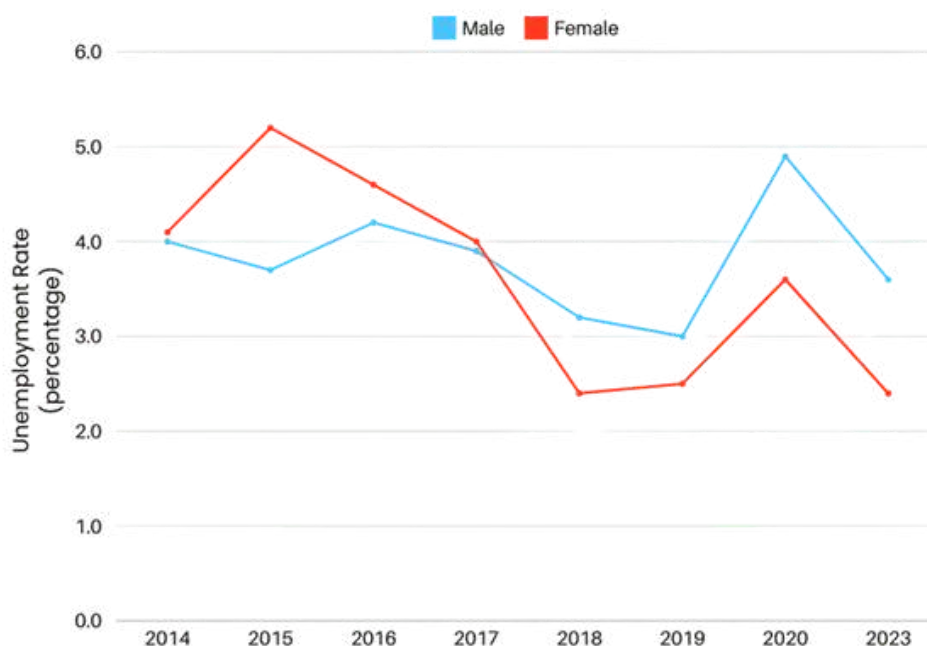


In many cases of gender disparities, the critical factor is gender norms shaping employment choices, i.e. societal and individual perceptions of what roles are “appropriate” for men and women. For example, caregiving and teaching are frequently seen as feminine roles, while engineering and construction are viewed as masculine. These norms can limit opportunities, discourage individuals from pursuing careers aligned with their interests or talents, and reinforce occupational segregation – regardless of actual ability or preference.

The employed Seychellois population is almost evenly split by gender, with 51% females and 49% males. Data from the Population and Housing Census 2022 reveals that it is the opposite case among the employed non-Seychellois population, the vast majority of whom are male at 86.9%, with just 13.1% female. As a result, among all employed residents, 60.7% are male and 39.3% are female.

A notable advancement in terms of gender roles was the increase in maternity leave from 14 to 16 weeks and the doubling of paternity leave from 5 to 10 days, effective 15 May 2018. Women’s unemployment rates were above men’s from 2014 to 2017, but since then they have decreased steadily, as depicted in figure 21 below.

**Figure 21: Unemployment Rate by sex, 2014-2023**



**Source: Labour Force Survey, National Bureau of Statistics**

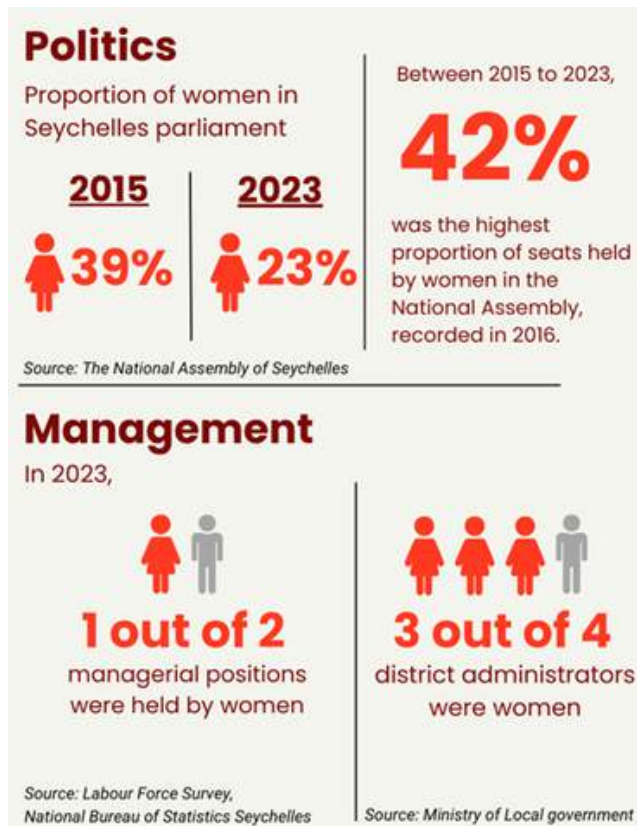
Women are, in fact, well-represented in several key sectors in Seychelles. They make up 54% of the country’s registered medical practitioners, indicating a strong presence in the healthcare field. At the same time, women account for 66% of full-time employees at NBS, suggesting a similar trend in technical and administrative roles. These figures point to the important role women play in both service delivery and data-driven governance.

Promoting gender equality in leadership is vital for sustainable development. Gender equality has improved steadily, with Seychelles ranking 4th in Africa in 2021, up from 9th in 2012, under women’s equality indicator.



Figures 22 and 23 present selected statistics on the progress of women in leadership, with Seychelles also ranking 4th among SADC member states in 2022, based on the proportion of women in the Cabinet of Ministers, respectively.

**Figure 22: Proportion of Women in Politics and Management positions**



**Figure 23: Ranking of SADC member states in 2022, based on the proportion of women in the Cabinet of Ministers**

	Country	Women Ministers 2022 (%)
	South Africa	50
	Mozambique	50
	Malawi	39
	<b>Seychelles</b>	<b>38</b>
	Namibia	35
	Madagascar	34
	Angola	33
	Tanzania	30
	Eswatini	29
	Zimbabwe	27
	Democratic Republic of Congo	27
	Botswana	18
	Zambia	16
	Lesotho	16
	Mauritius	14
	Comoros	-

Seychelles is home to approximately 20,943 non-nationals—an unremarkable figure in absolute terms, yet significant as they comprise around 17% of the country's total population as at December 2024. The United Nations Committee on Migrant Workers commends Seychelles for its efforts to enhance legal protections for migrant workers. Nevertheless, it observes that enforcement mechanisms, especially labor inspections aimed at preventing exploitation, remain in need of considerable reinforcement.

There are still several ongoing initiatives to ensure that all commitments made in sub-regional, continental and global spheres are achieved and considered to attain gender equity and accelerate the country's progress. These include the ongoing review of the Gender Policy and its Action Plan, which covers different thematic areas that are cross-cutting across all sectors. This document is aligned with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, the Beijing Declaration and the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).



Momentum is increasing under the Economic Cost of Violence Against Women and Girls framework and methodology launched in 2019 through Commonwealth-supported workshops in partnership with the Family Department and refresher workshops held in June 2024. These workshops, held over three days, were coordinated by the UniSey's Education and Socioeconomic Research Institute in collaboration with the Seychelles Association of Women Promoting Education Enlightenment and Empowerment and with the endorsement of the Commonwealth Secretariat. The Economic Cost of Violence Against Women and Girls is a statistical framework used to measure the economic cost of gender violence in a given country. It can be easily adapted to measure the economic cost of other social ills, such as substance abuse, pandemics, etc. It was developed by the Commonwealth, based on data collected from the Seychelles, with the aim of providing an economy-wide modelling approach that enables governments to identify important relationships and secondary effects linked with violence against women and girls.

Standard operating procedures have also been developed for collaborative work between stakeholders for gender-based violence and for application of the Domestic Violence Act 2020. Training as well as several stakeholder involvement efforts have been undertaken with regards to gender-based violence data management, the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act of 2021. Seychelles has also received many capacity-building opportunities in this line, one of which being the domestic violence workshop in November 2024, facilitated by experts from the U.S Embassy Office of Security Cooperation, the Defense Institute of Medical Operations and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Family. The workshop provided an opportunity to discuss strategies to support Seychelles in strengthening its Domestic Violence Act of 2020, improving victim support services and enhancing community safety. Key topics included understanding the fundamentals of domestic violence and gender-based violence, dealing with trauma, the importance of creating a gender-based violence shelter and fostering stronger partnerships between organizations in support of the victims.

Another key role of the Family Department is its commitment to international reporting, for example under the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa country report, Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and others, which monitors the country performance in regards to gender indicators and progress made, ensuring that the associated monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are aligned to the SDGs and National Priorities. Notable efforts have been made in producing the national report for implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development 25 commitments in the areas of population and social development.

ABAS is yet another agenda that underscores the importance of gender equality in achieving sustainable development. It calls for international support to strengthen health systems, build strong institutions, and empower women and girls. Additionally, the Agenda highlights the need to empower youth and foster safe, healthy, and prosperous societies, ensuring that gender considerations are integrated into all development efforts.





Seychelles faces several institutional and systemic challenges in advancing gender equality. The Gender Secretariat, currently staffed by only one officer, lacks the capacity to coordinate and support gender mainstreaming efforts across sectors effectively. Gender-disaggregated data remain limited, and key research to inform gender-responsive programmes is lacking. Outdated legislation continues to hinder progress, and there is insufficient support for updating laws to align with current realities. A recent positive development was the enactment of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act 2024, which came into force on 1 October 2024. This amendment introduced provisions for identifying, recording, and prosecuting crimes motivated by gender identity or gender-based hostility as aggravated offenses – previously not recognized under the law. This legal clarity is crucial for tracking gender-related crimes, a core requirement for effective SDG monitoring.

While Seychelles promotes gender equality through strong legal frameworks, it does not yet have a formal gender-responsive budgeting system. Gender considerations are included in national policies, but there is no comprehensive mechanism to track or publicly report gender-specific budget allocations. Despite its commitment to international frameworks such as CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action, systems for tracking and transparency remain underdeveloped.

Seychelles also grapples with challenges in international gender reporting. Some global indicators under SDG 5 are not applicable to Seychelles – for instance, those related to female genital mutilation or child marriage before the age of 18 years, which are prohibited by law. This is also the case with indicators in several other international reporting templates that are not fully applicable to the Seychelles context, resulting in reporting gaps that may distort the country's overall gender equality outlook in global comparisons. This is further complicated by the unique gender dynamics in Seychelles, where – contrary to global trends – men experience higher mortality rates and lower educational attainment than women, suggesting that boys and men are increasingly at risk of being left behind. These disparities underscore the need for more nuanced policies and interventions that address the specific vulnerabilities of both men and women.

Additionally, critical data gaps persist, such as the absence of a time use survey to assess the value of unpaid care and domestic work, and the lack of a demographic and health survey to provide data on women in unions before the age of 18 and reproductive health, further limits the country's ability to meet comprehensive monitoring requirements. The absence of appropriate or context-specific indicators in some global templates highlights the need for greater flexibility and localization in reporting tools to better reflect the realities of SIDS like Seychelles.



### **Case Study: Ms. Tally Domingue's Journey to Chief Fire Officer**

Ms. Tally Domingue began her career on 15 July 1997, as one of the first two women to join the Seychelles Fire Brigade. After six months of intensive training in firefighting, rescue, and emergency procedures, she started in operations and later transitioned to the Fire Prevention unit, where she conducted safety inspections and authored reports.

Her steady rise through the ranks reflects her growing expertise and leadership.

Promoted from Lance Corporal to Chief Fire Officer, with each promotion expanding her responsibilities – from frontline operations to strategic leadership. In 2006, she became a training officer, developing syllabi and leading fire safety education. The following year, she joined the Emergency and Disaster Management unit, coordinating operations and planning response strategies.

By 2008, she was seconded to the Department of Risk and Disaster Management, handling risk assessments and public education.

To strengthen her skills, Ms. Domingue pursued further education, achieving a Certificate in General Management from the University of Seychelles (2013–2014) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Risk, Crisis & Disaster Management from the University of Leicester (2012–2016).

Her commitment was recognized with outstanding employee awards in 2013 and 2014.

Ms. Domingue's journey to Chief Fire Officer, a promotion received in October 14, 2022, reflects a solid foundation in emergency response, consistent career progression, diversification into training and disaster management, formal education complementing practical experience and recognition for excellence and leadership.

Her story exemplifies the breaking of gender barriers in fire services, where women globally remain underrepresented – with just 3.2% of personnel and fewer than 8% of fire chiefs being women. Her rise to Chief Fire Officer highlights the importance of visibility, mentorship, and institutional support for diversity.

Mrs. Cathrina Laurence, her colleague since 1997, also advanced to Senior Divisional Officer and now heads the Life Safety Section. Today, the agency proudly includes 28 women, marking a positive shift toward gender inclusivity.



## Summary

Seychelles has made notable progress in advancing gender equality, supported by strong legal frameworks, gender mainstreaming policies, and high female representation in sectors like healthcare and statistics. The Gender Secretariat plays a central role, despite limited capacity, in coordinating gender-related initiatives, including legislative reviews and violence prevention strategies.

Women's empowerment is evident in leadership, education, and employment, with 75% of University of Seychelles graduates being female. Policies such as extended maternity and paternity leave and active efforts to combat gender-based violence reflect a gender-sensitive governance approach. Recent developments include the Penal Code (Amendment) Act 2024, which strengthens legal protection against gender-motivated crimes.

However, challenges persist. These include limited gender-disaggregated data, the absence of gender-responsive budgeting, outdated legislation, and critical data gaps – which could be mitigated through the implementation of tools such as time use surveys or demographic and health surveys, to better assess unpaid care work, reproductive health, and early union trends. Additionally, many international gender indicators do not apply to the context of Seychelles, which can distort its global gender equality standing.

Seychelles faces a unique gender dynamic in which men experience higher mortality rates and lower educational attainment than women, highlighting a growing vulnerability among boys and men – especially those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. This group is increasingly at risk of being left behind in the country's development efforts, yet their specific challenges remain largely unaddressed. Many face limited opportunities, are more prone to dropping out of school, and are at greater risk of substance abuse and related issues. These trends carry significant long-term social implications and call for more balanced, gender-responsive policies and interventions. Targeted efforts that promote inclusive education, skills development, and tailored support services are essential to ensure no one is left behind.

Furthermore, the rights of migrant workers – especially women – remain a concern, with enforcement gaps in protecting against exploitation. Seychelles continues to align with international commitments such as CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the SADC Protocol, and is working to strengthen institutional mechanisms, monitoring tools, and policy coherence to accelerate progress toward gender equality in line with SDG 5.



## Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



Goal 6 emphasizes the importance of integrated water resources management, the preservation and restoration of water-related ecosystems, and ensuring universal access to safe and sustainable water and sanitation. Seychelles has made notable efforts in advancing SDG 6 through a strong commitment towards comprehensive water management strategies, sustainable consumption practices, and conservation initiatives. The primary sources of water in Seychelles are reservoirs, rivers, dams and desalination, which are managed through a combination of regulatory frameworks, technological

advancements, and community engagement to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience in the face of climate change.

During 2023, a total of 16,029,760 m<sup>3</sup> of water were produced, of which 27% were produced by desalination plants, highlighting the increasing resilience of alternative water sources to meet growing demand. This represents a significant leap from the production of 2,107,822 m<sup>3</sup> in 2018, underscoring both infrastructural advancement and the strategic importance placed on water security in recent years.

A pivotal milestone contributing to this increased capacity was the inauguration of the La Gogue Dam in July 2023. As the country's largest freshwater reservoir, the rehabilitation and expansion of the dam significantly boosted national storage capacity, allowing for better regulation of supply during dry seasons and periods of high demand. This illustrates the effectiveness in both traditional water catchment systems and modern technologies, positioning Seychelles to better withstand the pressures of climate variability and population growth.

Figure 24: Production of Potable Water 2023

Location	Surface water used	Desalinated water	Total production	Percentage of desalination in total production
Mahe	10,652,888 m <sup>3</sup>	3,523,473 m <sup>3</sup>	14,176,361 m <sup>3</sup>	25%
Praslin	808,667 m <sup>3</sup>	361,497 m <sup>3</sup>	1,170,164 m <sup>3</sup>	31%
La Digue	292,705 m <sup>3</sup>	390,530 m <sup>3</sup>	683,235 m <sup>3</sup>	57%
Total	11,754,260 m <sup>3</sup>	4,275,500 m <sup>3</sup>	16,029,760 m <sup>3</sup>	27%

Source: Public Utilities Corporation, Annual Report 2023



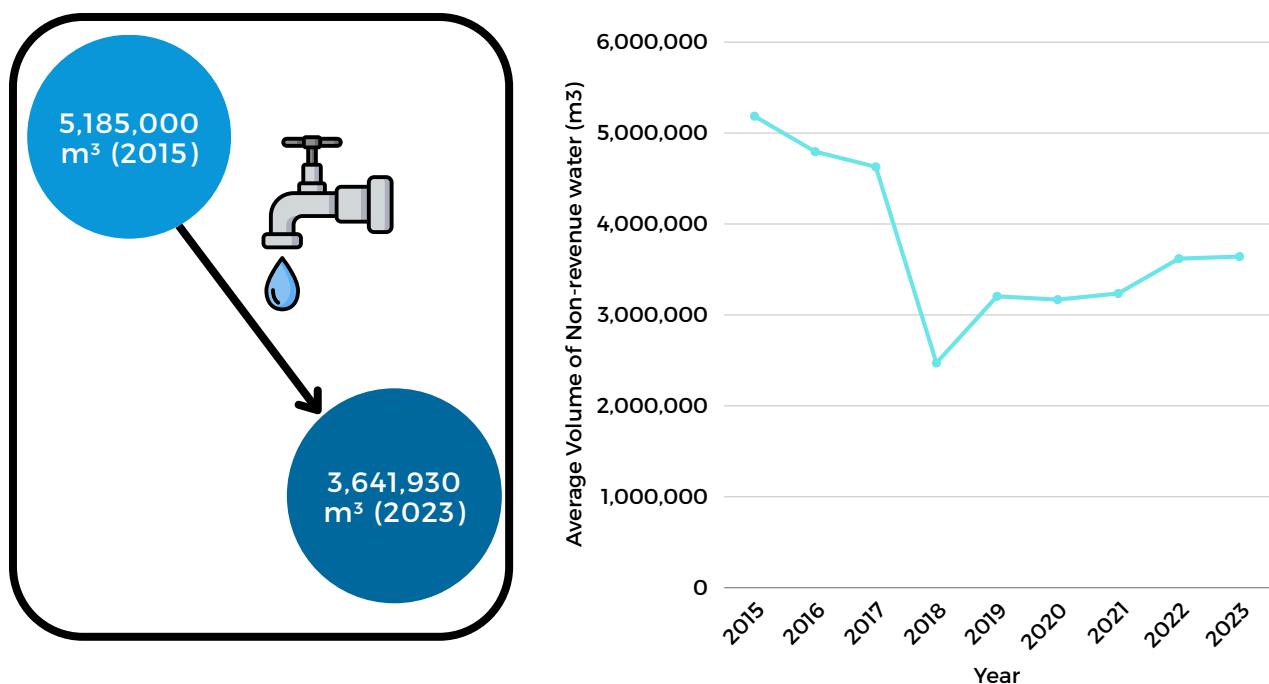
## Reservoir Cleaning Programme

The annual reservoir cleaning initiative is a vital component of the country's comprehensive water resource management strategy, aimed at maintaining water quality and ensuring a sustainable supply for the population. In 2024, the Public Utilities Corporation (PUC) reported that a total of 139 reservoir cleaning operations were carried out across Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue. This initiative plays a crucial role in preventing contamination and upholding public health standards in accordance with the Seychelles Public Health Act. The cleaning process is strategically scheduled during the first three quarters of the year, aligning with the rainy season when water levels are at their peak, and sediment accumulation is more pronounced. By proactively maintaining and preserving its water reservoirs, Seychelles reaffirms its commitment to sustainable water management, ensuring long-term resilience and reliability in the country's water supply for both current and future generations.

## Water-Use Efficiency

Indicator 6.4.1, the change in water-use efficiency over time, serves as a key benchmark for assessing sustainable water management. Seychelles has demonstrated noteworthy progress in this area, reflected in the overall reduction in the annual average volume of non-revenue water over the past decade. In 2015, the annual average volume of non-revenue water was 5,185,000 m<sup>3</sup>. By 2023, this figure had significantly decreased to 3,641,930 m<sup>3</sup>, reflecting substantial long-term progress in water management. While the 2023 data mark a slight increase compared to the 2020 figure of 3,168,292 m<sup>3</sup>, this short-term setback should not overshadow the overall achievements made over the years. It is essential for the country to remain committed to its efforts in order to sustain and build upon this positive trajectory.

Figure 25: Non-revenue water 2015 - 2023



Source: Public Utilities Corporation



One key factor contributing to this success is the dam intake cleaning, an essential periodic maintenance activity carried out by PUC. The process involves removing accumulated sediments at the intake, enabling the dam to collect a larger volume of raw water and allowing for maximum withdrawal from the strainer. Daily removal of leaves, branches, and other debris ensures continuous efficiency, while sediment removal occurs less frequently. The frequency of cleaning increases with rainfall, ensuring optimal water collection and usage. However, the recent fluctuations highlight the dynamic nature of water management and the need for continuous innovation and investment to maintain and build upon these achievements

### **Wastewater Treatment Plants**

Expanding wastewater infrastructure remains a critical priority in Seychelles, as demand for connections to the PUC wastewater network continues to grow. Despite ongoing efforts, wastewater treatment coverage on Mahé remains limited, with four operational plants serving less than 20% of the population. In 2023, 75 new customers were added to the network, reflecting gradual progress but underscoring the need for accelerated expansion.

On La Digue, a transformative sewerage project is nearing completion, with full operational capacity expected by early 2025. This initiative includes a sewer collection system along the island's western coast and a wastewater treatment plant at L'Union Estate, designed to treat 95% of domestic wastewater. The project aims to mitigate environmental hazards and enhance public health on Seychelles' third most populated island. With a total investment of \$14 million, jointly funded by the European Investment Bank, Agence Française de Développement, and PUC, this initiative represents a significant step toward sustainable wastewater management. Beyond improving sanitation, it aligns with national efforts to strengthen environmental resilience and ensure long-term infrastructure sustainability.

### **Case-Study: Mahe Sustainable Water Augmentation Project**

Water security is critical for the continued growth and development of Seychelles, a small island State with an economy heavily reliant on tourism and agriculture. Over the past decade, the demand for water has grown significantly, driven by a growing population and an increase in tourism.

This heightened demand, coupled with climate change-induced droughts, has posed a serious challenge to the country's ability to provide a consistent and sustainable water supply.





While water supply services in Seychelles are generally adequate, the country occasionally experiences water restrictions, especially during the dry season. To address these challenges, the Seychelles government developed the Seychelles Water Development Plan 2008–2030, which identified the northern region of Mahe as the most critical area for water resource management. The plan outlines measures aimed at ensuring the long-term security of water supply, which is essential for the population, tourism, and economic activities

As part of this plan, PUC initiated several infrastructure projects, including the La Gogue Dam project. The dam was raised by six metres, increasing its storage capacity by 60%. This elevation brought the water level from 141.22 m above mean sea level in January 2023 to its highest level of 149.35 m in November 2023, almost reaching the maximum height of 150 m. The increase in capacity plays a crucial role in providing a more reliable and consistent water supply, particularly during times of drought. The project was financed by AfDB, highlighting the critical role those international partnerships play in supporting national infrastructure projects. The involvement of AfDB has been key in enabling the successful completion of this significant water supply initiative.

Throughout 2024, the La Gogue Dam maintained an impressive water level above 65%, and in many months, it consistently exceeded 90%. This achievement marks a significant step towards enhancing water security in Seychelles and reflects the success of the project in meeting the country's growing water needs. The ongoing success of the La Gogue Dam aligns with SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation. By consistently maintaining high water levels, the project not only supports domestic water supply but also promotes the country's resilience to climate-related challenges, demonstrating the country's commitment to sustainable development.

## Summary

Seychelles has made significant strides in achieving SDG 6 through integrated water management, conservation initiatives, and infrastructure development. In 2023, total water production reached 16,029,760 m<sup>3</sup>, with 27% sourced from desalination, a notable increase from 2,107,822 m<sup>3</sup> in 2018. A key milestone was the La Gogue Dam expansion, which raised its height by six metres, boosting storage capacity by 60% and enhancing water security, particularly in the northern region of Mahé.

Efficiency improvements have also been achieved through dam intake cleaning, reducing sediment accumulation and optimizing water collection. Additionally, the Reservoir Cleaning Programme ensured compliance with public health standards, with 99 reservoirs cleaned across Mahé and Praslin in 2023.

However, challenges persist due to rising water demand, climate change-induced droughts, and seasonal shortages, necessitating periodic water restrictions. Moving forward, Seychelles aims to prioritize enhancing desalination capacity, improving water-use efficiency, and implementing climate adaptation strategies to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience.



## Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

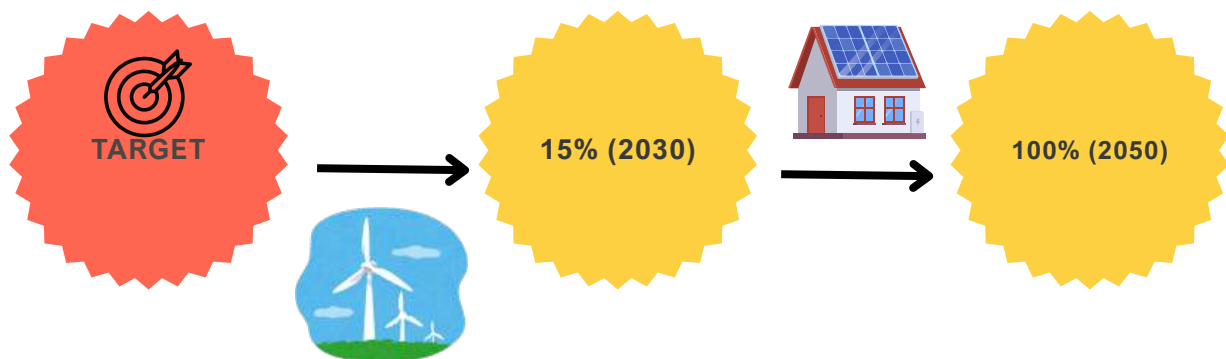


Goal 7 aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. It focuses on increasing the use of renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and enhancing international cooperation to provide clean energy to the world's population. The goal is to reduce energy poverty and promote sustainable energy solutions that contribute to economic growth and environmental sustainability.

The country's continued efforts to expand access to affordable electricity demonstrate a proactive commitment to achieving SDG 7, which aims to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy. As a SIDS, Seychelles has made notable efforts in adopting and deploying cleaner energy alternatives. Priority Area 6 of the NDS 2024–2028 emphasizes the implementation of measures aimed at achieving climate mitigation goals. This includes a strategic focus on facilitating the transition to renewable energy and improving energy efficiency, reinforcing the country's commitment to a sustainable and resilient energy future.

Through the Seychelles Energy Policy (2020), the country has committed to a transformative energy policy aimed at achieving a 100% renewable energy system by 2050. This ambitious goal is underpinned by interim targets: 5% renewable energy by 2020 and 15% by 2030. The strategy focuses on diversifying energy sources and reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels, which currently constitute the majority of the country's energy mix.

Figure 26: Energy targets for 2030 and 2050



The Government of Seychelles, in collaboration with PUC, is dedicating substantial efforts to achieving the target of 15% of energy from renewable sources by 2030, as outlined in the country's NDCs under the Paris Agreement. The NDC reflects Seychelles' commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a low-carbon economy in response to the global climate crisis. By focusing on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind, Seychelles aims to not only meet its international climate commitments but also enhance energy security, reduce dependency on imported fossil fuels, and promote sustainable economic development.





The analysis of energy production trends over the past decade reveals a consistent upward trajectory in energy demand and output, reflecting broader economic expansion and industrial growth. However, a temporary contraction is observed in 2020 and 2021, coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic. This downturn likely resulted from reduced economic activity, supply chain disruptions, and shifts in consumption patterns during this period.

Progress toward SDG 7 is evident in the increasing contributions of solar photovoltaic and wind energy, though the country is still reliant on fossil fuels, particularly heavy fuel oil and light fuel oil. While advancements in renewable energy integration demonstrate alignment with sustainability targets, challenges persist, including the need for greater investment in clean energy infrastructure, grid stability improvements, and expanded access to affordable electricity. Addressing these challenges through strategic policy measures and investment will be crucial in accelerating the transition to a more sustainable and resilient energy sector. However, Seychelles continues to face challenges due to limited access to concessional financing which affects resource mobilization for addressing the national development strategies which includes investment in clean energy.

This aligns closely with ABAS, which underscores the importance of building a secure future through sustainable energy transitions and enhanced energy efficiency. Seychelles is proactively working to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels while expanding its use of renewable energy sources like solar and wind. In doing so, the country's efforts are directly in line with the ABAS framework, which emphasizes the critical need for SIDS to invest in clean and renewable energy solutions.

To ensure long-term impact, there has been a study for development of an Integrated Resource Plan for the Seychelles energy sector. This Plan is to define the long-term vision for the power sector of Seychelles by moving beyond a least-cost supply approach to a more holistic framework that integrates economic, environmental and social considerations. This system will enhance data-driven decision-making, improve sectoral planning and support the transition towards a more sustainable and efficient energy landscape. Moreover, the development of economic and cost assumptions related to renewable energy, fuel price forecast and demand side management forecasts was included in the report alongside the development of a low, base and high demand forecast for the period from 2024 to 2043. The Plan also includes development of scenarios, least cost planning simulations, and economic and financial analysis.

Throughout the process, extensive consultations have been carried out with key stakeholders to ensure inclusivity and alignment with national priorities. The Plan signifies a significant milestone in shaping the energy future of Seychelles.

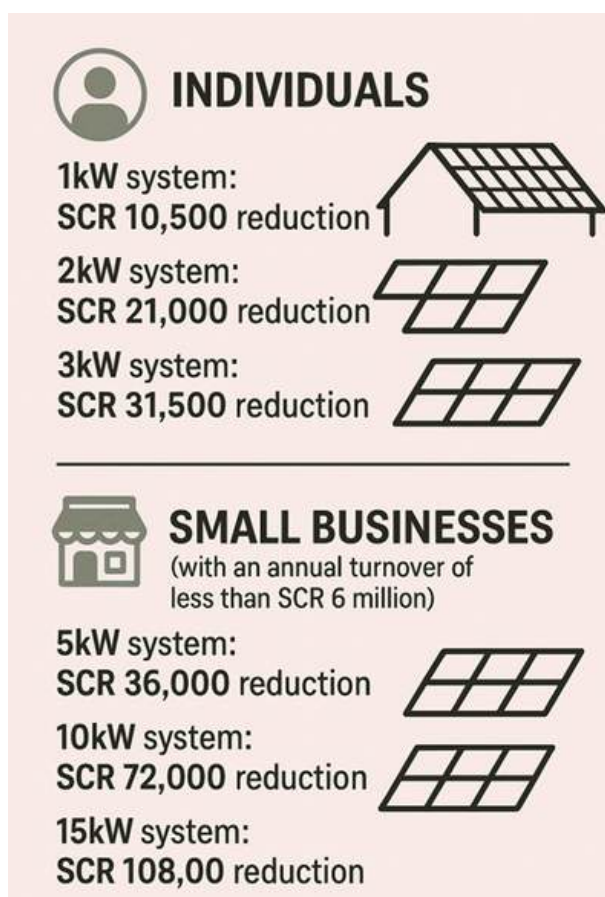
### **Progress in Renewable Energy**

**Photovoltaic:** The Government is intensifying its efforts to implement targeted initiatives aimed at increasing electricity generation from renewable sources, particularly photovoltaic systems. A key challenge in expanding renewable energy production in Seychelles is the limited availability of land suitable for large-scale solar panel installations.

To address this constraint, the Government is promoting the optimal use of rooftops for installations, maximizing available space while minimizing environmental impact. Other initiatives are also being pursued, such as the deployment of floating solar photovoltaic systems designed to make use of lagoons and protected coastal zones

In line with these efforts, the Government is introducing a revised rebate scheme designed to encourage greater adoption of renewable energy among residential homes and businesses. This new initiative is only eligible to residential consumers, and businesses registered in Seychelles with an annual turnover of less than SCR 6 million. The rebates will be applied directly to the installation costs of photovoltaic systems.

**Figure 27: Revised PV Rebate Scheme 2025**



In addition, the Seychelles Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Programme (SEEREP) which was introduced in 2014 was revised. The Programme has been thoroughly revised to ensure that it improves access to credit for the purchase and installation of approved energy-efficient appliances, renewable energy technologies, water-efficient products and rainwater harvesting systems. Under the revamped Programme, individuals installing photovoltaic systems will receive access to loans of up to SR 150,000 from commercial banks at an interest rate of 5% per annum, repayable over a maximum period of seven years.

Private businesses will similarly benefit from favourable loan terms, with repayment spread over a period of up to five years. Businesses can access a credit amount of up to SR 250,000. This strategic move aims to foster increased investment in renewable energy,

Source: Budget Speech 2025

support the country's transition to a low-carbon economy, and strengthen its energy security while contributing to its climate change mitigation goals.

To further incentivize investment in the renewable energy sector, the Government has extended the loss carry-forward period by an additional five years. This incentive enables companies to offset current financial losses against future taxable income for a longer period, thereby reducing their tax burden and improving cash flow. By providing this extended benefit, the Government aims to support the financial sustainability of businesses in the sector, encouraging long-term investment and growth in the renewable energy market in Seychelles.



By the end of 2023, Seychelles had made notable progress in the adoption of renewable energy, with a total of 763 rooftop solar photovoltaic systems installed across residential and commercial. These photovoltaic systems had a combined rated capacity of 8,158 KW-peak and collectively generated approximately 8.5 GW-hours of electricity throughout the year. This contribution represented 1.79% of the country's total electricity production, underscoring the growth of distributed solar energy in the country's energy mix.

The increasing deployment of rooftop solar photovoltaic aligns with the broader energy transition strategy of Seychelles, aimed at reducing dependency on imported fossil fuels and enhancing energy security. The Government's efforts, including financial incentives, net metering policies, and public awareness campaigns, have played a crucial role in encouraging solar adoption. However, despite this progress, solar remains a relatively small fraction of total electricity generation, highlighting the need for further investment in renewable energy infrastructure, grid modernization, and policy frameworks that promote higher penetration of clean energy sources.

**Figure 28: New Rooftop PV systems**

Region	Number	Rated Capacity kWp
Mahe	54	1,057
Praslin	6	34
La Digue	1	10
Total	61	1,101

7,075 kWp	928 kWp	155 kWp
Mahe	Praslin	La Digue
Total rated Capacity - third party rooftop PVs		

**Source: Public Utilities Corporation, Annual Report 2023**

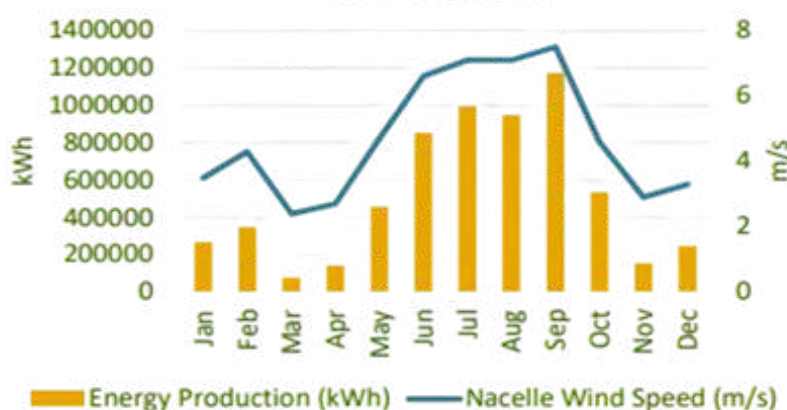
**Wind:** In 2023, the 6 MW Port Victoria wind farm, consisting of eight wind turbines, contributed to the domestic renewable energy portfolio. The wind farm generated a total of 6.2 GW-hours of electricity throughout the year, operating at an average wind speed of 4.73 m/s. This output accounted for approximately 1.30% of the country's total electricity production.



The wind farm maintained an availability rate of 88.4% for the year, with operational challenges primarily stemming from wind turbine 7, which was out of service for maintenance for most of the year. Despite this setback, the overall performance of the facility demonstrated the viability of wind energy in Seychelles.

As Seychelles advances the renewable energy goals, investment in improving wind energy infrastructure, such as exploring additional wind farm sites or integrating hybrid renewable energy solutions, will be crucial. Enhancing grid stability and resilience to accommodate intermittent renewable energy sources will further support the country's transition toward a more sustainable and energy-secure future.

**Figure 29: Wind Farm Energy production Jan-Dec 2023**



**Source: Public Utilities Corporation, Annual Report 2023**

### **Case study: World's Largest Salt-Water Floating Solar Plant**

In a landmark initiative to bolster the country's renewable energy infrastructure, PUC has entered into a 25-year power purchase agreement and a grid-connection agreement with Qair, an independent European renewable energy company. This agreement marks a significant milestone in the energy sector, being the first floating solar array project in the country led by an independent power producer. The agreement was signed aboard the Energy Observer, a pioneering hydrogen-powered vessel that symbolizes sustainability and emission-free innovation. The vessel is self-sufficient and serves as a living laboratory for ecological transitions, symbolizing the forward-thinking and eco-conscious nature of the project.

Qair, renowned for its global contributions to the renewable energy sector, will oversee the development, construction, and operation of the 5.8 MW peak (MWp) floating solar plant. This cutting-edge solar facility will be located over 40,000 square metres of water, housing 13,500 solar panels. Once operational, the plant is expected to contribute approximately 2% of total domestic power generation. This ambitious project is designed to increase the country's photovoltaic penetration by an additional 1.5%, setting a precedent for future developments in the renewable energy sector under independent power producers.



Unfortunately, there have been several logistical challenges that have led to delays in the project's implementation. The complexity of developing and operating a floating solar plant, along with the coordination required between the independent private company and PUC, contributed to the postponement of the project's timeline. However, with the project now set to commence implementation in 2025, the collaboration between Qair and PUC remains a symbol of the country's commitment to a sustainable and clean energy future.

The floating solar plant is not only an important step in the country's energy transition but also serves as a model for other countries looking to integrate renewable energy solutions. By working with Qair, PUC is leveraging the expertise of an established independent renewable energy company to drive innovation and contribute to long-term sustainability in Seychelles. The project represents a significant achievement in the country's efforts to increase its renewable energy capacity, and its success could inspire similar initiatives in the region and beyond.

### Case-Study: Ile De Romainville Solar Farm

The development of the 6 MWp solar facility on the Ile de Romainville represents a significant effort in advancing SDG 7. The facility began with a 5 MW solar farm, built from November 2018 to April 2021 and funded by a loan from the International Renewable Energy Agency and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development and PUC funds. This generation capacity is complemented by a 5 MW, 3.4 MWh battery storage system for grid stability.



Source: Public Utilities Corporation

In parallel, a 1 MW solar farm was developed under the Democratization of PV Project, funded by a \$3.4 million grant from the Government of India. This initiative not only expanded solar capacity but also enhanced energy equity by installing rooftop photovoltaic systems on government buildings and low-income households, empowering communities and reducing electricity costs.

Together, these projects contribute to the country's clean energy transition by diversifying the energy mix, enhancing energy security, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy, thus directly supporting SDG 7.



## Summary

Seychelles has made substantial progress toward SDG 7 by emphasizing renewable energy expansion and climate mitigation initiatives. The NDS (2024–2028) and the country's NDCs under the Paris Agreement outline key targets, including achieving 15% renewable energy by 2030. A landmark 5.8 MWp floating solar project, the first of its kind under an independent power producer model, is set to further expand the country's renewable energy capacity. To accelerate clean energy adoption, the Government has introduced financial incentives, including improved loan schemes for residential and commercial solar installations, tax benefits for businesses, and extended loss carry-forward periods to support long-term investment.

However, challenges persist, including land constraints for large-scale solar projects, grid stability issues, and high initial costs for renewable energy expansion. To address these, Seychelles is focusing on rooftop solar deployment, energy storage solutions, and grid modernization. Additionally, the Integrated Resource Plan, currently in its finalization stage, will provide a long-term roadmap for balancing economic, environmental, and social considerations in energy planning.

By leveraging strategic policies, international partnerships, and private sector engagement, Seychelles is positioning itself as a regional leader in sustainable energy transition.



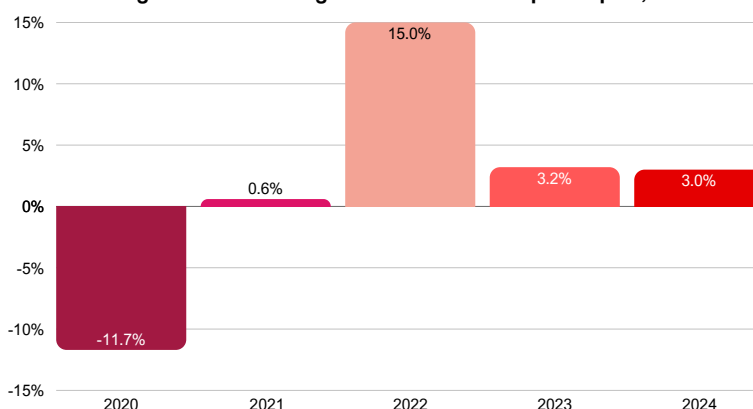
## Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

### 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Seychelles experienced significant economic setbacks during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a sharp contraction of -11.7% in real GDP per capita in 2020 as global travel restrictions severely impacted tourism. However, the economy began a steady recovery in the following years, supported by a strong rebound in tourism, debt reduction, currency appreciation, and accommodative monetary policies that stimulated credit growth. Real GDP per capita grew by 0.6% in 2021 and surged to 15% in 2022, reflecting renewed economic momentum. In 2023, growth continued at a moderate pace of 3.2%.

Figure 30: Annual growth rate of GDP per capita, 2019–2024



Source: Budget & Strategy Outlook 2025, Ministry of Finance, National Planning & Trade

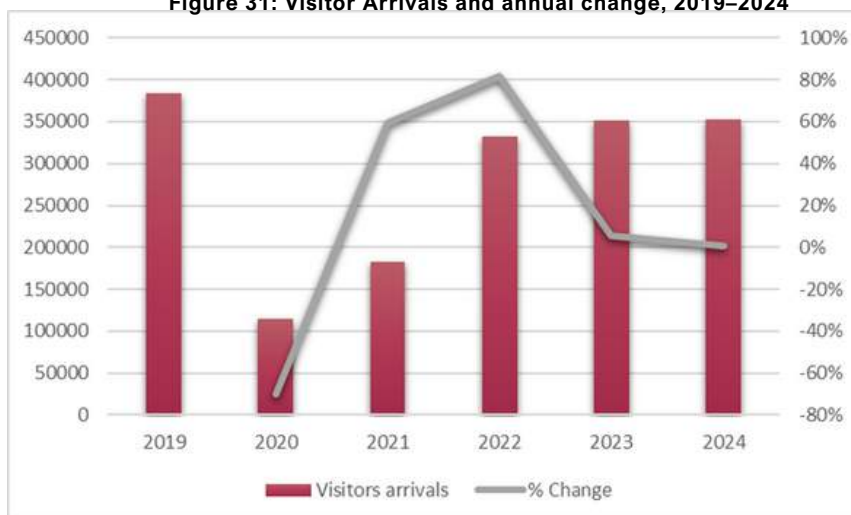


### Tourism

The tourism sector has been and will remain one of the main engines of wealth creation in Seychelles, significantly contributing to economic growth, job creation, export earnings, and domestic value addition. International tourist arrivals to the destination reached a total of 384,204 in 2019 but dropped to 114,858 in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The tourism sector remained resilient and successfully navigated the challenges of the pandemic, which enabled the sector to rebound strongly in 2022 and 2023, reaching 352,762 visitors in 2024.



Figure 31: Visitor Arrivals and annual change, 2019–2024



Source: Visitor arrivals and annual change, NBS

Figure 32: Tourism Earnings (million dollars) 2020–2024

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Tourism earnings (million dollars)	327	588	935	994	986

Source: Annual Report, Central Bank of Seychelles

Figure 33: Sustainable Seychelles logo



Source: Tourism Department

Seychelles is focusing on high-value, low-impact tourism to boost economic returns per visitor while reducing pressure on the environment and communities. This approach encourages meaningful visitor engagement with local culture and promotes greater community participation, ensuring that tourism benefits are more widely shared. As the lead institution overseeing the country's tourism industry,

the Tourism Department embraces its responsibility to shape a destination model that is not only competitive and desirable, but also deeply rooted in sustainable development principles. Tourism is more than just our leading economic sector, it is the lens through which Seychelles is experienced, interpreted, and remembered by visitors, and the platform through which our people engage with the world.

Through the Sustainable Seychelles brand, built on certification and monitoring, sensitization and awareness, and education and training, the Destination Marketing Section champions sustainability locally and globally. The aim is to make sustainability a shared value and a core part of the identity of Seychelles.





Sensitization and awareness efforts go beyond typical destination promotion, so as to inspire national pride and drive behaviour change across the tourism ecosystem, from travellers and businesses to schools and communities. To date, 94 properties (including 4 restaurants) have earned the *Sustainable Seychelles* Recognition Label, with 25 fully certified and featured on *Seychelles.com*. Silver Labels are awarded to those demonstrating 25–30% progress toward sustainability. The Sustainable Seychelles Recognition Programme celebrates every achievement through storytelling via blogs, videos, and the “Sustainable Seychelles Heroes” series, spotlighting leaders. Internationally, efforts like the Sustainable Seychelles brand video, Heroes series, and Creole Rendezvous experiences have strengthened the position of Seychelles as a sustainable destination.

## Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework

With the belief that sustainable development principles in the tourism sector should be viewed as a national priority, the Tourism Department is spearheading a project to establish a robust Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework with technical support through grants from the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie* and the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment through the blue economy project of the Government of Seychelles, the Global Environment Facility, and UNDP, leveraging the expertise of international consultancy firms, TEAM and TRC Tourism to develop the framework. The project aims to create a comprehensive framework for planning, promoting, and monitoring sustainable tourism in Seychelles across environmental, economic, and social aspects. The goal is to embed sustainability as a long-term strategy and raise awareness of the risks of unsustainable tourism. The national Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework with clear indicators and evaluation tools will help standardize industry practices, improve tourism quality, and enhance the image of Seychelles as a sustainable destination. The Framework is guided by five strategic goals: strengthening governance, encouraging responsible investment, protecting cultural and natural resources, building climate resilience, and improving data-driven decision-making. Each goal includes targeted strategies to tackle key challenges, seize opportunities, and align with the SDGs.

At the same time, efforts are underway to strengthen the tourism workforce by increasing local participation, improving service quality, and fostering interest in tourism from an early age through education initiatives. These strategies are designed to create a more skilled and locally engaged industry that offers high-quality visitor experiences while ensuring the sector’s long-term resilience. A key milestone in this process is the Tourism Human Resource Development Strategy by the Department of Tourism, which will set out clear, actionable plans to develop a competent, service-oriented, and future-ready workforce.



The sector does face challenges such as the limited availability of skilled human resources, as tourism is often not perceived by locals as a reliable or long-term career option. This perception affects workforce retention and the development of homegrown talent within the sector.

Additionally, strengthened collaboration is urgently needed between tourism and other sectors. The improved linkages would not only diversify the tourism offering but also promote inclusive growth and economic resilience. As Seychelles seeks to expand and modernize its tourism industry, addressing these challenges will be critical to ensuring sustainable and broad-based development.

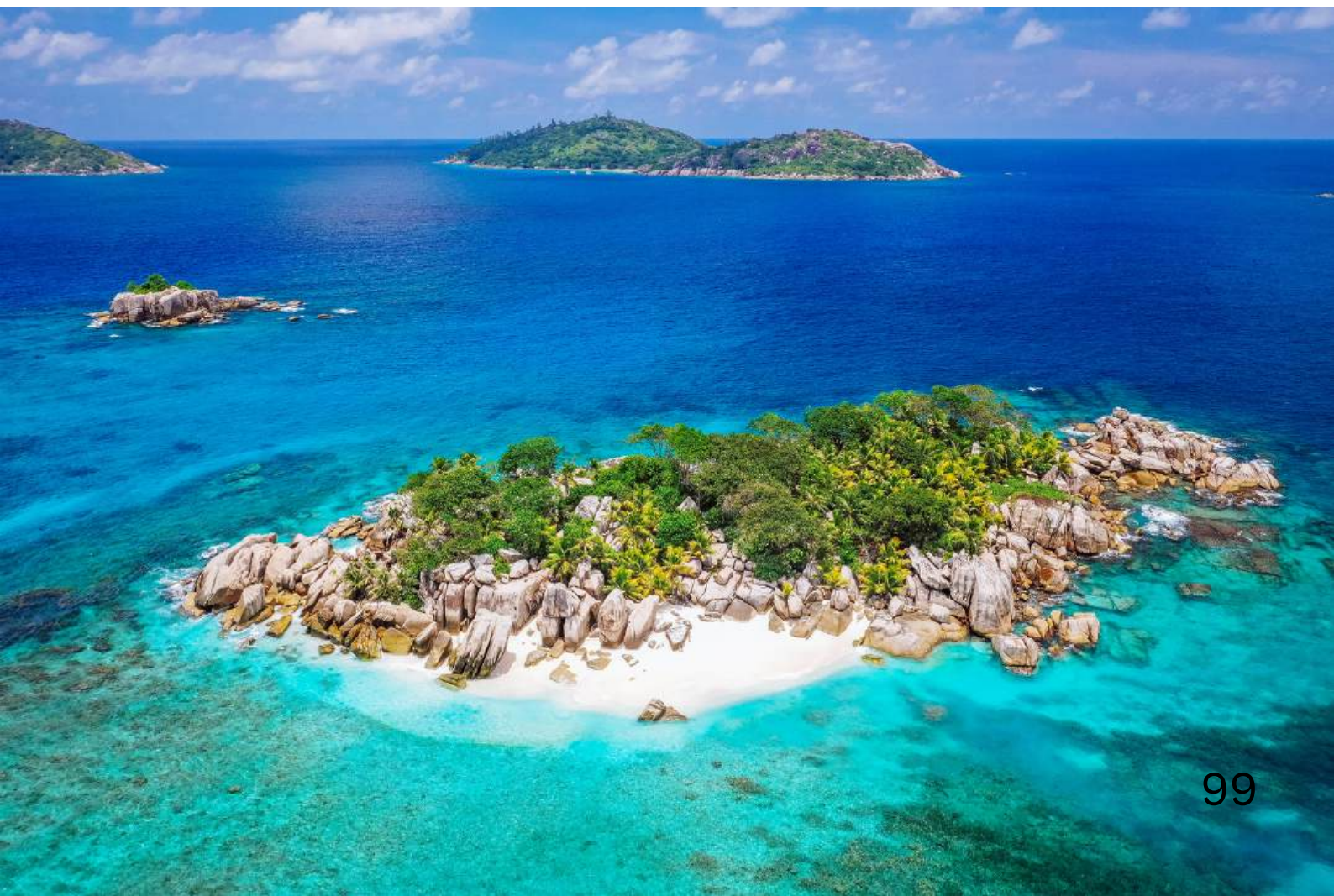




Figure 34: *Lospitalite Lafyerte Sesel* logo

### Case Study: “*Lospitalite Lafyerte Sesel*” (*Hospitality- The Pride of Seychelles*)

The Service Excellence Programme – *Lospitalite Lafyerte Sesel* was launched in 2021 to instill a culture of outstanding service across Seychelles, making service excellence a central part of both personal and professional life. The campaign’s goal is to revive the high service standards the country was once known for and to inspire national pride in the service provided to both locals and visitors.

The programme is built on three key pillars. The first is **Sensitization and Awareness**, which uses media campaigns to promote positive attitudes towards customer service among the general public and tourism workers. The second is **Education and Training**, which ensures long-term impact through initiatives like tourism clubs in 43 schools across Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue. These clubs, often supported by tourism

businesses, aim to inspire students to pursue careers in the industry. The Tourism Department also delivers customer care training to those already working in the sector.

The third pillar, **Service Monitoring and Awards**, focuses on evaluating service standards through both planned and mystery assessments. Participating businesses receive regular visits from independent assessors and are eligible for the annual Service Excellence Awards. The number of registered businesses has grown each year – from 121 in 2022 to 147 in 2025. Registration not only helps businesses benchmark their performance but also allows them to nominate outstanding employees for recognition, strengthening team morale and encouraging continued improvement.



### Finance

The financial sector remains one of the most dynamic pillars of the domestic economy. Seychelles has made remarkable progress in modernizing its financial infrastructure. The Central Bank’s flagship initiative, the Modernization of the National Payment System, aims to create a system that is convenient, affordable, reliable, efficient, and safe. This includes the introduction of interoperable payment systems, the gradual phase out of cheques, and the promotion of mobile and internet-based transactions, supported by waived fees for digital payments using the Seychelles Electronic Funds Transfer system.

The adoption of the Seychelles Fintech Strategy in 2021 has further accelerated digital financial innovation by strengthening legal frameworks, enabling digital IDs, and supporting fintech startups.



The sector also introduced key legislation, such as the Virtual Asset Service Providers Act (2024), the Data Protection Act (2023), and the Financial Consumer Protection Act (2022), reinforcing consumer safety and data integrity. Seychelles also enacted the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act and Beneficial Ownership Act, both in 2020.

Parallel to these advancements, Seychelles has enhanced financial literacy through financial education programmes, which continue to evolve through annual action plans addressing global and local challenges. The 2024 plan responded to economic and climate-related disruptions, emphasizing resilience and informed decision-making. Key initiatives included participation in annual events such as Global Entrepreneurship Week (educated small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on business finance and banking), Global Money Week (promoted youth financial literacy with the Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS) and the United Nations Youth Seychelles office), and Fraud Awareness Week (focused on digital fraud prevention for the public, especially seniors and students). There has been continuous engagement with the public by providing sessions and campaigns across media, communities and schools on topics such as financial management, consumer rights, fraud awareness and financial services.

The Credit Information System of Seychelles underwent a significant upgrade with the launch of the new Seychelles Credit Information System on 11 September 2024. The new system is governed by the Credit Reporting Act of 2023, which provides clarity on data handling, consumer rights, and institutional responsibilities. In addition to banks, the Seychelles Credit Union, the Development Bank of Seychelles, and the Housing Finance Company, the new system allows for the onboarding of non-traditional credit data providers such as utility companies, hire purchase and credit sales businesses, financial leasing and insurance companies through a phased approach. By making use of alternative data sources, the System will broaden access to credit.

The financial sector continues to face several challenges where it continues to remain highly vulnerable to external market developments, particularly due to its strong dependence on tourism, which limits the scope for diversified economic growth. Additionally, the country's high reliance on imports makes it susceptible to external price fluctuations and supply chain disruptions. Addressing these challenges is compounded by persistent data limitations





### Case Study: Financial Education Youth Ambassadors Programme

CBS launched the first Youth for Youth Financial Education Youth Ambassadors Programme in 2021 with the aim of encouraging peer-to-peer learning and advocacy on financial education among young people. The programme was comprised of two main segments: a knowledge programme to introduce the participants to the financial system of Seychelles and a skills programme to assist them in developing soft skills such as effective communications and peer counselling. The participants also received assistance from the National Financial Education Secretariat to develop and

implement ideas and projects aimed at enhancing financial literacy in their communities. Furthermore, ambassadors had the opportunity to participate in CBS-organized initiatives and activities as well as other events organized by national stakeholders. CBS is currently working on the second edition of the Programme, expected to be launched in the second quarter of 2025.

## Fisheries

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of fisheries for the Seychelles economy, but the sector's outlook remains uncertain due to quotas and climate change risk. The sector accounts for about 25% of the country's GDP and ranges from artisanal to industrial fishing and aquaculture, making use of an EEZ spanning approximately 1.37 million km<sup>2</sup> in the Indian Ocean. The sector plays a crucial role in ensuring food security, employment, and economic growth, and incomes in the sector have in fact been increasing over the years.

Seychelles has prioritized transparency and regional cooperation in fisheries management. Seychelles is the first country in the history of the FiTI to attain a 'compliant' status with the FiTI Standard. This marks a significant step to the commitment of sustainable fisheries management and transparent governance. This milestone further reinforces the country's position as a leader in sustainable ocean governance, aligning with global commitments such as the SDGs and the blue economy vision.



The sector also continues its expansion of aquaculture, which was first licensed and launched in 2020. The second version of the national aquaculture policy (2023–2027) aims to set the strategic direction of aquaculture. The policy was updated to attract more investors, especially in fin fish farming. Amendments focus on good governance, environmental sustainability, investment guidelines, and capacity-building. Key diversification efforts are underway in the industry including attracting foreign direct investment and expanding targeted local production capacity to establish aquaculture as a new source of export revenue. The limited availability of land remains one of the biggest challenges to the development of aquaculture in Seychelles.

Figure 35: Seychelles Aquaculture logo



The tuna industry plays a pivotal role in the economic development and maritime identity of Seychelles. Therefore, the sector launched its first National Tuna Fishery Management Plan and Tuna Industry Development plan in May 2024. The Tuna Fishery Management Plan prioritizes the sustainable use of tuna resources while adhering to international best practices and conservation goals. It covers issues like overfishing, bycatch, and adherence to regional fisheries management bodies like the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. The Tuna Industry Development plan offers strategic pathways for the tuna industry's economic growth, with an emphasis on local value addition, infrastructure development, and governance changes. These strategies aim to strike a balance between ecological sustainability and economic interests, assuring the continued leadership of Seychelles in the global tuna market.

### Blue economy

Seychelles has been focusing on sustainable ocean-based economic activities to ensure long-term prosperity, showcasing the importance of the blue economy. Seychelles is a big ocean State and in 2020 it achieved a major milestone by designating over 30% of its territorial waters as marine protected areas, meeting international conservation targets a decade ahead of schedule.

October 2023 marked the launch of the Global Environment Facility's Prioritizing Biodiversity Conservation and Nature-based Solutions as Pillars of Seychelles blue economy project. This initiative focuses on conserving globally significant biodiversity through effective management of marine protected areas and promotion of nature-based solutions. The project supports the country's innovative Marine Spatial Planning process, aiming to expand the blue economy while providing sustainable economic benefits for its population.

In June 2024, Seychelles concluded the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project, a six-year initiative aimed at improving the management of marine areas and fisheries. The Project laid the foundation for blue investment funds, supporting innovations in the blue economy. Achievements include the acquisition of a surveillance vessel for the Seychelles Fishing Authority, the opening of the first aquaculture containerized echinoderm hatchery, and the development of sustainable fisheries practices. The Project has significantly contributed to the development of entrepreneurship and increased business ventures in the blue economy sector.



Seychelles is increasingly exploring marine biotechnology to unlock economic opportunities from its rich marine biodiversity. Advances in marine biotechnology offer opportunities beyond traditional fisheries and tourism, particularly in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, nutraceuticals, and biofuels derived from marine resources. This aligns with the country's circular economy initiatives, where waste from fisheries and aquaculture is repurposed into valuable bioproducts.

Additionally, Seychelles is fostering research and development collaborations with universities and international organizations to unlock the commercial potential of marine biotechnology. Micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are also being supported to engage in this sector, contributing to innovation and job creation.

## **Agriculture**

The agriculture sector accounts for a modest share of 1.3% of GDP and remains a vital contributor to employment, employing some 3% of the total workforce. It also contributes to rural development, enhancement of food security and reduction in the country's high dependence on imported food products, despite the challenges such as limited land and the country's vulnerability to climate change. In alignment with the country's climate change adaptation priorities, Seychelles has begun integrating appropriate climate-smart agriculture technologies.

To support small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises, the Agricultural Development Fund was introduced in 2021. This financial scheme provided loans ranging from SCR 25,000 to SCR 5 million at a 5% interest rate, facilitating investments in farm infrastructure, equipment, and technology. The Fund aims to modernize the agricultural sector, enhance productivity, and promote self-sufficiency among local farmers. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of the agriculture sector for food security. In response to the pandemic, the Government and stakeholders have intensified efforts to increase agricultural output through policy support and investment in infrastructure. The development of infrastructure to support local farming operations has been a priority for the Government as such infrastructure plays a critical role in boosting the sector's productivity. For instance, the Sir Selwyn Selwyn-Clarke Market, more commonly known as Victoria Market, will close its doors for an upgrade aimed at enhancing the facilities and overall experience for both vendors and customers. Complementing these efforts, several policy reforms are underway to strengthen the sector's foundation. The implementation of the Agriculture Land Policy and Agriculture Act aims to improve land access and regulatory oversight. Additionally, the ongoing revision of the Livestock Subsidy Policy and introduction of the Agriculture-Tourism Policy.

In 2024, UNDP, in collaboration with UN-Women, FAO, and the Government of Seychelles, completed the Shade House project at the Seychelles Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture. The initiative promotes climate-smart agriculture and sustainable farming, aiming to strengthen food security in Seychelles, which imports around 80% of its food. Supported by the Joint SDG Fund, the project also facilitated learning exchanges with Mauritius to encourage regional cooperation. The Shade House will now serve as a training hub for students and farmers, with continued support from the Ministry and the Institute, reinforcing the commitment of UNDP to sustainable development in the region.



## Private Sector Growth and Development

The private sector remains the driving force behind economic growth in Seychelles and continues to play an important role in creating new opportunities and sustainable development, especially with MSMEs representing a significant portion of businesses.

The World Bank's Business Ready 2024 report highlights important insights into the domestic private sector. Seychelles presents a mixed performance across the three core pillars that define the ease of doing business. Under Pillar I: Regulatory Framework, Seychelles scored 58.85, placing it in the fourth quintile. This indicates that while the country has a basic legal and regulatory environment in place, there is room for improvement in aligning regulations with international best practices, especially in areas like transparency and market competition.

In Pillar II: Public Services, Seychelles scored 37.21, which places it in the bottom quintile. This is the country's weakest area, suggesting serious limitations in the provision of essential public services such as digital platforms, access to utility services, tax administration support, and institutional coordination, all of which are crucial for enabling business operations.

In contrast, in Pillar III: Operational Efficiency, Seychelles scored 63.57, landing in the third quintile. This reflects a relatively stronger performance in the actual ease of doing business, such as the time and cost to comply with regulations, register businesses, or access services.

The disparity across pillars, especially the lag in public service delivery, highlights a need for focused reforms to strengthen infrastructure, digitization, and service delivery to support a more dynamic and resilient private sector in Seychelles.

## Case Study: Seychelles Small Hotels and Establishments Association

The Seychelles Small Hotels and Establishments Association, which is primarily made up of Seychellois-owned and managed enterprises, provides a compelling example of how the private sector can incorporate sustainable development principles while also improving local economic resilience. Operating under the Employment Act, Association members are dedicated to preserving minimum wage regulations and decent work standards, knowing that the well-being of frontline workers is critical to providing quality services and achieving operational success.

In line with national digital transformation goals, the Association has launched a customized online booking platform, transitioning from traditional marketing materials and manual booking systems. This modernization effort enhances the visibility and market reach of its members, particularly small and medium-sized tourism establishments.





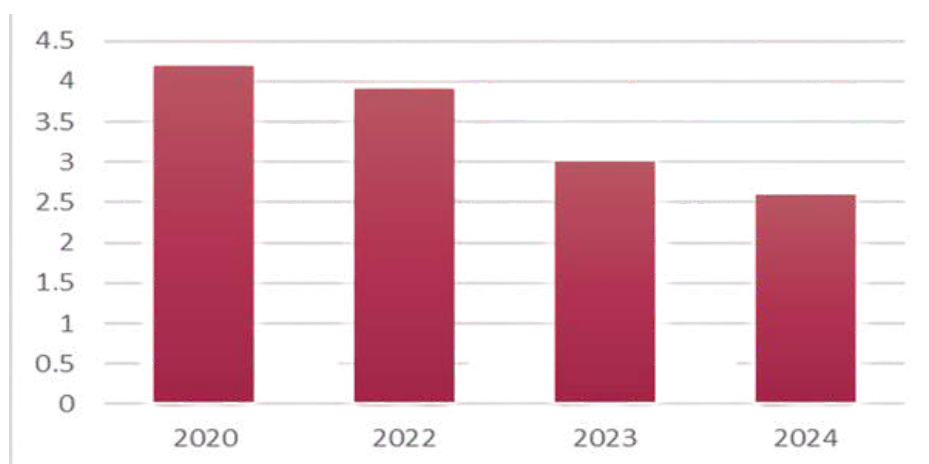
The Association has formalized an agreement with the Seychelles Tourism Academy to provide the Academy's students with practical training opportunities in smaller establishments, complementing the existing exposure to large hotels. Through these multifaceted initiatives, the Association illustrates how private sector actors can play a vital role in sustainable development by promoting inclusive economic growth, environmental protection, digital innovation, and skills development.

Despite continuous improvement, significant difficulties remain. Reliable data gathering remains a serious challenge, limiting informed decision-making and strategic planning. For many entrepreneurs, managing the Gainful Occupation Permit process remains a challenge. Furthermore, communication and coordination between important organizations must increase significantly in order to streamline services and assistance.

## Employment

Economic growth generates various opportunities, particularly in employment. With the economy rebounding from the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment has been gradually decreasing. In 2020, the unemployment rate was 4.2 per cent, by 2023 it had fallen to 3 per cent in 2023 in the latest data, from the fourth quarter of 2024, it had reached just 2.0 percent. This success is the result of numerous policies and schemes implemented by the Government.

Figure 36: Unemployment rate (2020 - Q4 2024)



Source: Labour Force Survey, NBS

Nonetheless, Seychelles continues to face challenges, in particular in the informal sector. In the second quarter of 2024, the informal employment rate was 14.6%, down from 16.7% in the fourth quarter of 2023. To address the issue of informality, the Government has implemented a number of initiatives, including the granting of pensions for fishermen and a joint study with the International Labour Organization (ILO).



**Figure 37: Informal employment Rate (%), 2019–Q2 2024**

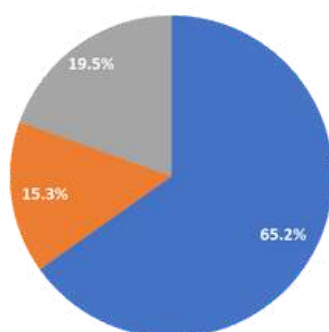
Year	Male	Female	Both Sexes
2019	21.6	9	15.2
2020	25.3	8.8	16.9
2023	24.4	8.4	16.3
Q2 2024	23.4	5.9	14.6

**Source: Labour force survey, NBS**

With the disruption of the pandemic, the second generation of the Seychelles Decent Work Country Programme was extended to 2025 with focus on labour market information systems, a review of laws related to occupational safety and health and industrial relations, job counselling for targeted groups, gap analysis of ILO Conventions and dissemination of international labour standards.

In terms of the share of labor between the public, private and parastatal sectors, the private sector remains the largest employer, although the Government and Parastatal sectors saw small increases from 2019 to 2023.

**Figure 38: Formal employment share 2023**

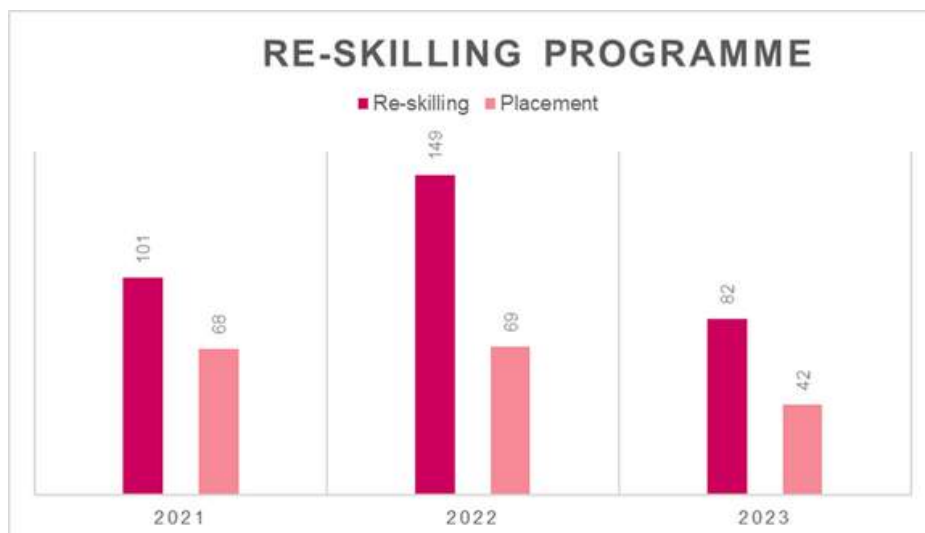


**Source: Formal Employment and Earnings, NBS**

A new programme called Reskilling was introduced in March 2021 following the discontinuation of the Unemployment Relief Scheme and Seychelles Employee Transition Scheme. The programme offers training at registered training institutions for jobseekers with particular focus on the most vulnerable groups of society (rehabilitation and detox programme recipients, young mothers, persons with disabilities). The aim of the programme is to acquire skills in a new field or upgrade current skills so that jobseekers improve their employability, become more resilient and earn a better livelihood. The programme also aims to maintain a low national unemployment rate



**Figure 39: Participation in Reskilling programme**



Source: Statistics from Employment Department, Seychelles, 2021–2023

**Figure 40: Youth Unemployment Rate (%), 2019-Q4 2024**

Year	Male	Female	Both Sexes
2019	10.4	8.7	9.7
2020	17.3	15.7	16.5
2022	9.2	13.3	10.8
2023	10.5	8.4	9.5
Q4 2024	7.3	9.1	8.2

Source: Labour force survey, NBS

In 2023, the youth unemployment decreased to 9.5%, just under the pre-pandemic 2019 level, though despite this downward trend it remained ‘severe’. The share of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in 2023 was 20.3%, down from 25.8% in 2020. The rate for males was somewhat higher at 23.5%, and the rate for females was 17%.

The *My First Job* scheme under the Employment Department continued to get more young people working. Through this scheme, the Government aims to help post-secondary graduates gain important career skills, experience and guidance, spark new interest in entrepreneurship and partner with employers, educators, industry and non-profit organizations to support young workers, and in turn help reduce the youth unemployment rate in the country.



**Figure 41: Numbers registered with *My First Job Scheme* and subsequently securing employment, 2020–2024**



Source: Employment Department, Seychelles

**Figure 42: Numbers registered and placed under Skills Development Programme, 2020–2024**



Source: Statistics from Employment Department, Seychelles

The Skills Development Programme offers on-the-job training opportunities to school dropouts and those not admitted to professional centres to help them gain practical skills and reintegrate into the labour market. The training lasts between 6 and 18 months, depending on the complexity of the chosen field, with host organizations required to submit tailored training plans.





With the above schemes and programmes developed by the Employment Department, many employers are more willing to accept these participants, as they have already gone through a formal registration process with the Government and a proportion of their salaries (My First Job scheme) and allowances (Skills Development Programme) is subsidized. Additionally, participants face lower barriers to entering the workforce, which is expected to translate into a lower dependency on social welfare. Although the programmes are promising, an assessment conducted in 2024 shows that some of the participants do not remain in their jobs for long and do not pursue a career in the field for which they were trained. Poor work ethics and career guidance affect their transition in employment. The Employment Department works closely with the scholarship section at the Ministry of Education to identify areas of training for easy access to employment when students return home from their studies based on areas of priority for the country.

Young people and persons with disabilities raised concern during civil society organization (CSO) consultations about significant barriers to employment, such as the lack of accessible infrastructure and inadequate skills training programmes. They also expressed concerns about the quality and security of available jobs. These challenges underscore the importance of developing inclusive and responsive labour market policies that address the specific needs of marginalized groups. To add on, the labour market continues to recover from the COVID-19 economic crisis and trends are steadily reverting to the pre-pandemic period. The demand for labour remained high and this is illustrated through increase in formal employment and demand for foreign labour. The workforce development faces several challenges. Jobseekers often have unrealistic job expectations and attitudes that hinder their employability. Some employers are reluctant to hire individuals from certain backgrounds, such as ex-drug addicts, and often view Seychellois workers as unreliable, preferring to hire foreigners. Financial barriers also exist, as re-skilling programmes lack adequate allowances, especially affecting unemployed individuals and young mothers. Additionally, efforts to re-skill people with disabilities are hampered by a shortage of qualified educators.

To address the ongoing challenges in employment and workforce development in Seychelles, the Employment Department should play a central role in developing the National Human Resource Development Plan, align education with market needs, enhance vocational and soft skills training, and provide early career guidance. Efforts should also focus on changing employer perceptions, supporting marginalized groups, increasing financial aid for re-skilling programmes, and training educators to support individuals with disabilities. These actions will promote a more inclusive and effective labour market.

Seychelles reaffirms its commitment to building a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economy, citing the ABAS Declaration, which recognizes that persistent economic vulnerabilities, limited productive capacity, and external shocks continue to impede sustainable development in SIDS. In line with SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth, Seychelles supports the ABAS priorities of developing productive sectors, investing in innovative technologies and the digital economy, creating business environments for MSMEs, and modernizing tourist and ocean-based businesses. These activities seek to create good jobs, reduce brain drain, and strengthen the country's ability to absorb shocks, all while supporting inclusive growth and economic diversification for long-term success.



## Summary

After a steep GDP decline in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy rebounded strongly, especially in tourism, supported by sustainable initiatives like the Sustainable Seychelles brand. Employment programmes such as My First Job and reskilling initiatives have helped reduce unemployment to 2% by 2024. The financial sector is expanding digital services and improving financial literacy. Fisheries and agriculture are also being modernized to enhance food security and economic diversification, though challenges persist, including limited land for development, workforce and skills shortages and high informal employment. The private sector remains a key driver of economic growth and development. However, public service and regulatory gaps were highlighted in the World Bank's Business Ready 2024 report. Next steps include strengthening vocational training and digital job creation, implementing inclusive labour market policies, enhancing the link between education and employment, and continuing the implementation of the NDS 2024–2028 (Priority Area 2).



## Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

### 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Seychelles is making steady progress in strengthening its economy by supporting local enterprises and improving key infrastructure like transport and digital connectivity. While large-scale development is limited by its geography, the country remains focused on practical, sustainable growth.

#### Functioning and Resilient Infrastructure

Seychelles continues to prioritize sustainable development by designing public buildings to maximize the use of natural sunlight during the day, thereby reducing reliance on electric lighting. Several

infrastructure projects have made significant contributions to economic development and community well-being. For instance, housing projects have provided affordable living spaces, enhancing the standard of living for many citizens. The establishment of new police stations has reinforced security and stability for businesses and residents. Improved healthcare access has been a priority, exemplified by the construction of a modern hospital on La Digue Island.

Ongoing efforts such as water harvesting systems have been integrated into public buildings, such as the Magistrate Court, which features an underground water tank for rainwater collection. Additionally, solar-powered electricity is increasingly utilized in public buildings, as exemplified by the National Library's solar capacity. Urban expansion, such as the development of Providence Industrial Estate, has facilitated business growth, while infrastructure improvements in Praslin, including the enhancement of sewage systems, have led to better sanitation and environmental health. Collectively, these projects continue to drive economic growth and improve living conditions across Seychelles.

Seychelles is undertaking major infrastructure projects, such as expanding its main fishing port. Meanwhile, Port Victoria, the principal seaport of Seychelles, is undergoing a significant expansion. The project involves constructing a new quay wall, enlarging the port yard area, and dredging the harbour to accommodate larger vessels with drafts of up to 14 metres. Originally planned to be 600 m long, the extension has been scaled back to 310 m due to cost increases and environmental considerations.

In the context of Seychelles, efficient and accessible transport infrastructure is critical for connectivity across islands, tourism, and trade. Figure 43 presents data on passenger movement in Seychelles, highlighting trends that reflect the country's efforts to enhance transport infrastructure in line with this target.



Figure 43: Passengers by mode of transport (000), 2020 - 2023

Passengers by mode of transport (000)	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Air Transport</b>				
Arrival	135.7	218.1	394.6	424.4
Departure	145.9	208.5	384.4	422.7
<b>Sea Transport</b>				
Arrival	6	0.7	1.1	
Departure	6.1	0.4	1	

Source: Monthly Visitors arrival, NBS

However, several challenges hinder the full effectiveness of these initiatives. Limited availability of essential environmental data, such as rainfall patterns, tidal movements, and hydrology, undermines the long-term effectiveness of infrastructure design, especially in the context of climate change. Furthermore, insufficient exposure of local professionals to emerging sustainable practices hinders their ability to adopt and implement innovative solutions suited to Seychelles' unique environment. One significant challenge in infrastructure development is the high cost of imported construction materials, which are often subject to taxes and tariffs. These additional financial burdens inflate project budgets and can lead to delays, scale-backs, or even project cancellations. This ultimately slows down economic growth and development of sustainable infrastructure. Addressing these challenges is vital to advancing sustainable infrastructure and environmental initiatives that drive the country's development.

### Sustainable Industries

Seychelles focuses on sustainable economic growth, and this is reflected in its policies. The National Industrial Policy (2023–2028) aims to improve the country's economy by diversifying into higher value-added and environmentally sustainable industries. It incorporates gender considerations by involving women's business organizations in its formulation. The policy also encourages the development of circular economy practices, such as waste-based manufacturing, to promote sustainable industrial growth. Efforts are focused on promoting business growth and diversification to drive wealth generation and employment opportunities.

In November 2022, Seychelles launched its National Entrepreneurship Strategy alongside the Business Technology and Innovation Incubator.





The Strategy provides a comprehensive framework to nurture, support, and scale up successful entrepreneurs by addressing key challenges such as limited access to information, funding, and scaling opportunities. The Incubator, operating under the Division of Science, Technology and Innovation, offers a supportive environment for startups to develop innovative business ideas from concept to commercialization. It also offers training, mentorship, and resources to young entrepreneurs and innovators, thereby nurturing a culture of research and innovation. These initiatives align with the country's broader goals of economic diversification and sustainable development, aiming to empower entrepreneurs and stimulate innovation across various sectors.

Seychelles is also actively advancing its economic diversification agenda by revitalizing traditional industries such as cinnamon, vanilla, and honey production. Once a major export, cinnamon is being re-established as a competitive product, while vanilla cultivation is restarting on La Digue to expand income sources. The honey sector is receiving support through training and potential export development. Furthermore, the Beau-Vallon promenade project provides space for 44 SMEs within the high-traffic tourism sector, with kiosks already allocated to some of the businesses.

In addition, the Seed Capital Grant Scheme was introduced in 2016 to support the development of MSMEs. The scheme provided grants of up to SCR 50,000 to assist start-ups in their early stages. Recognizing the need for greater financial support, the government revised the scheme in 2022, increasing the grant amount to up to SCR 200,000. Local businesses like *Raspay*, *Studio Labou*, and *Marketing Guru* have benefited from this initiative

**Figure 44: Successful Applications for Seed Capital Scheme by Gender**

Successful Applications	2022	2023	2024	Total
Male	11	30	21	62
Female	2	11	19	32

**Source: Enterprise Seychelles Agency**



## Seychelles SDG Investor Map

With support from the SDG Joint Fund, a collaboration between the Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship, and Industry and UNDP, the Seychelles SDG Investor Map was launched in 2023. This map serves as a critical market intelligence tool, identifying viable and emerging investment opportunity areas that aim to attract private capital to address national development needs and policy priorities across five sectors with significant SDG-positive impacts. The priority sectors and opportunity areas are dynamic and may evolve in response to changing market conditions, the enabling environment, and national development goals, necessitating regular updates and reviews. The SDG Investor Map:

1. Channels private capital where it can generate the greatest positive impact on both people and the planet, while ensuring financial profitability.
2. Identifies areas that align with national development needs and policy priorities.
3. Highlights priority sectors where private sector solutions can scale to address development challenges.
4. Provides evidence, data, and actionable recommendations on viable business models.
5. Facilitates follow-up actions, including opportunities for public-private financing dialogue platforms to foster private participation in SDG-aligned public investments.

The areas identified by priority sector can be found in figure 45 below.

**Figure 45: Identified Priority Areas, Seychelles SDG Investor Map**



Source: Seychelles SDG Investor Map, 2023



Moreover, the SDG Investor Map presents emerging opportunity areas with:

- Market momentum: sustainable aquaculture production, waste management, and waste circularity in hotels. These areas support the achievement of SDGs 2, 8, 9, and 14.
- Policy and regulatory momentum: local agricultural production, semi-industrial commercial fishing, digital transformation: business and e-government software solutions, digital marketplace for diversifying the export market. These areas provide impetus for SDGs 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, and 17.

### **SDG Taxation Framework**

In 2024, UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade and the Seychelles Revenue Commission, officially launched the SDG Taxation Framework in Seychelles. The Framework is a comprehensive diagnostic tool designed to assist the government in assessing the alignment of the tax system with specific SDG targets and indicators. It identifies opportunities within tax policies and administration to support the achievement of these goals. Building on existing support for the Commission, the Framework promotes enhanced domestic resource mobilization through targeted tax policy actions and administrative improvements. This first assessment using the Framework focused on SDGs 7, 8, and 17.

### **Innovative and Sustainable Technologies**

Seychelles recognizes the need to diversify its economy beyond tourism and fisheries. Digital improvement and innovation are essential for economic diversification as there is a need for a higher growth path and increased labour productivity. The ICT sector accounted for 11.5% of economic output in 2023. Seychelles remains committed to embracing the use of technology to help boost both labour and capital productivity, facilitate connections, and realize the potential benefits of digital technology for economic transformation. Businesses are increasingly adopting new technologies such as cloud computing, digital payment systems and automation to improve business efficiency and service delivery.

To further support research and innovation, partnerships with universities such as the University of Seychelles and international organizations have been established. There are ongoing efforts such as developing frameworks for responsible use of artificial intelligence and data governance. By promoting ethical and efficient adoption of artificial intelligence, Seychelles can enhance productivity through task automation and process optimization, support implementation ultimately fostering sustainable industrial growth and innovation-driven.



To ensure responsible technology adoption, Seychelles is also developing national frameworks for the ethical use of artificial intelligence and sound data governance. In parallel, the country is aligning its national cybersecurity policies with international standards through the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, demonstrating its commitment to a secure digital environment. These efforts are complemented by the enactment of key legislation, including the Cybercrimes and Other Related Crimes Act (2021), the Data Protection Act (2023), and the Communications Act (2023), which collectively strengthen the legal foundation for digital resilience and privacy protection.

Encouraging digital creativity remains a priority with initiatives such as the annual hackathon held on world telecommunication and information society day each year. Seychelles continues to make progress in digital connectivity, with the ongoing rollout of a 5G mobile network aimed to provide high-speed connectivity and support the growing demand for digital services. As of January 2024, the country had the 3rd highest internet penetration rates in Africa at 87%, meaning that 87% of the population have access to the internet. However, the affordability of internet services remains a priority for the Department of Information and Communication Technology, together with improving the connectivity and accessibility across the three main islands. In alignment with the Government's digital economy agenda and the NDS 2024–2028, the Government has launched fully funded digital technology scholarship programmes to equip locals with essential skills and address existing gaps. Other notable achievements include the establishment of the Seychelles Communications Regulatory Authority, which plays a central role in ensuring fair and efficient regulation of telecommunications. The sector has challenges such as keeping up with laws and rules with rapidly changing digital trends, as well as increased cyber risks that necessitate investment in security measures

### **Case Study: SeyID Digital Identity Platform**

In March 2021, the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) partnered with WISEKey, a Switzerland-based cybersecurity company, to explore the development of a Digital Identity platform aimed at enhancing eGovernment services in Seychelles. This collaboration led to the launch of SeyID in October 2022, marking a significant shift from the country's previous reliance on physical national identity cards and highlighting the urgent need for digital transformation.

Building on this foundation, the DICT joined forces with the Department of Immigration and Civil Status in 2024 to expand SeyID's capabilities. New features included CertExpress, which enables users to request and pay for official documents—such as birth and marriage certificates—online, as well as a service to renew driving licences digitally. Additionally, SeyID now allows users to digitally sign documents, streamlining both private and public sector transactions.





In line with SDG 9, the ABAS Declaration highlights the need for SIDS to strengthen productive capacities, promote digitalization, and develop resilient infrastructure to drive inclusive and sustainable industrial growth. For countries like Seychelles, this includes investing in sustainable transport systems, expanding access to digital technologies, and fostering innovation ecosystems that support entrepreneurship, especially for MSMEs. These efforts are crucial to enhancing economic resilience, improving connectivity, and enabling sustainable development across island communities.

## Summary

Seychelles is committed to building a modern, inclusive economy through improved infrastructure and innovation. It is investing in resilient infrastructure and sustainable industrial growth. Projects include solar-powered public buildings, expanded transport links, and the upgrade of Port Victoria. However, infrastructure development is challenged by high import costs for construction materials and limited environmental data, which can affect project planning and sustainability. The National Industrial Policy supports economic diversification through traditional industries and circular economy practices. Innovation is fostered through entrepreneurship support, digital transformation, and initiatives like the Seed Capital Grant Scheme and Business Technology Incubator. With 87% internet penetration and a growing ICT sector, Seychelles is embracing digital tools, though high costs and limited technical capacity remain barriers. However, the ICT sector has challenges such as keeping up with laws and rules with rapidly changing digital trends, as well as increased cyber risks that necessitate investment in security measures. Next steps include upgrading and maintaining existing infrastructure through sustainable practices and increased investment, strengthening support for SMEs and local industries, and enhancing innovation capacity by expanding R&D initiatives and digital skills training.



## Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries



Seychelles has made remarkable progress in governance over the past decade, as highlighted by its top ranking in the 2024 Ibrahim Index of African Governance. The country ranked 1st out of 54 African countries, with an Overall Governance score of 75.3 out of 100, reflecting consistent improvements in its governance framework from 2014 to 2023. The Index evaluates countries across four key dimensions: Security & Rule of Law; Participation, Rights & Inclusion; Foundations for Economic Opportunity; and Human Development. One of the key indicators of this progress

is the country's significant improvement in the Participation, Rights, and Inclusion category, where it consistently scored highly, showcasing an inclusive political system that ensures the representation of marginalized groups. For example, Seychelles scored 82.6 in the Participation sub-category, reflecting an open and inclusive political environment that fosters equal access to political processes for all citizens. The country also made gains in Human Development, particularly in areas like education and healthcare, with a score of 81.9 in the Health sub-category, though there remains room for improvement in quality and access to healthcare services, particularly for underserved populations.

However, despite these strong advancements, Seychelles faces challenges in specific areas. The Law Enforcement indicator, with a score of 36.0, suggests a need for further reform to ensure justice and equality before the law, which is critical for reducing disparities in access to legal protections.

On the whole, the high performance of Seychelles in the Index demonstrates a commitment to good governance and the reduction of inequalities. By continuing to address these remaining gaps in law enforcement, healthcare, and environmental governance, the country can make further strides under SDG 10, ensuring that its citizens, regardless of their background, have equal access to opportunities and resources.

Launched on July 30, 2024, the Seychelles **National Diaspora Policy 2024–2029** marks a significant step towards integrating the global diaspora into the country's development framework. Developed in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and supported by the EU-funded Southern Africa Migration Management project, the policy aims to harness the diverse cultural, economic, human, and social capital of Seychellois abroad to foster inclusive growth and reduced inequalities.

The Policy is structured around four key pillars:

- **Governance of Diaspora Engagement:** Establishing effective communication channels between the government and diaspora communities to keep them informed and engaged.
- **Diaspora Diplomacy:** Strengthening consular services and protecting the rights of Seychellois citizens abroad, ensuring their well-being and legal protections.



- **Diaspora Capital for Development:** Engaging diaspora investment to contribute to the country's progress, promoting heritage tourism, conservation, and mentorship programmes.
- **Diaspora Identity and Culture:** Preserving and promoting Creole culture and identity among diaspora communities, fostering a sense of belonging and unity.

By institutionalizing diaspora engagement, the policy seeks to bridge gaps between Seychellois at home and abroad, ensuring equitable access to opportunities and resources. This approach not only acknowledges the contributions of the diaspora but also actively involves them in the country's development, thereby addressing systemic inequalities and promoting social inclusion.

Seychelles in 2019, also launched its first National Labour Migration Policy with its accompanying Action Plan 2020–2024. The Policy, with its four priority objectives – (1) *Governance of labour migration*, (2) *Protection of the rights of all workers*, (3) *Attracting, retaining and developing skills* and (4) *Fair and effective recruitment* – recognizes the value that labour migration brings to the economy due to the limited size of the local workforce. It emphasizes a coherent and responsive framework for regulating labour migration at the national level, contributing to the improved balance of labour supply and demand, and ensuring decent and productive work for all workers. An evaluation of its implementation is expected in 2026.

The Government of Seychelles has announced a 7% increase in the minimum wage, effective April 1, 2025, marking the first review since January 2020. First announced in the 2025 budget address, this increase aims to account for price changes due to inflation and the cost-of-living adjustments. As a result of the review, the hourly wage will be raised from SCR 38.27 to SCR 40.95 and the monthly minimum wage will be SCR 6,210.75 for a 35-hour work week. The hourly wage for casual workers will increase from SCR 44.10 to SCR 47.19.

Comprehensively assessing wage disparities in Seychelles remains a significant challenge, particularly within the private sector, due to limitations in data collection and analysis. The Employment Department and NBS face difficulties in conducting comprehensive wage disparity assessments, as the relevant authorities do not currently collect detailed, disaggregated information on businesses and payroll. This data gap hampers efforts to identify and address unequal pay across different sectors, gender, and other demographic groups. Without access to accurate and disaggregated wage data, it becomes difficult to develop evidence-based policies aimed at promoting fair remuneration and reducing income inequality in the labour market.

Following extensive consultations with various stakeholders, the Employment Act of 1995, amended as recently as 2023, is currently undergoing a complete review to better align with international standards.



The Family Department in collaboration with the Department of Employment implements re-skilling programmes to build the skills of persons with disabilities and prepare them for employment. Given the difficulty in placement, the Elderly and Disabled Division of the Family Department is advocating for the consideration of “reasonable accommodation” in order to ensure that persons with disabilities access employment.

Other significant efforts in strengthening the rights and support for persons with disabilities include the amendments or introduction of key legislative reforms. The Functional Capacity Assessment Board Act, 2024 established a dedicated board to assess eligibility for disability and invalidity benefits, replacing older medical boards and ensuring a more consistent and functional approach.

Additionally, the Customs Management (Exemptions for Persons with Disabilities) Regulations, 2021 introduced tax exemptions on the importation of goods specifically designed for persons with disabilities, making assistive equipment more accessible.



These measures reflect the Government’s commitment to fostering an inclusive society by improving the legal framework for persons with disabilities. They not only enhance access to essential services and benefits but also promote greater autonomy and participation in societal activities for these individuals.

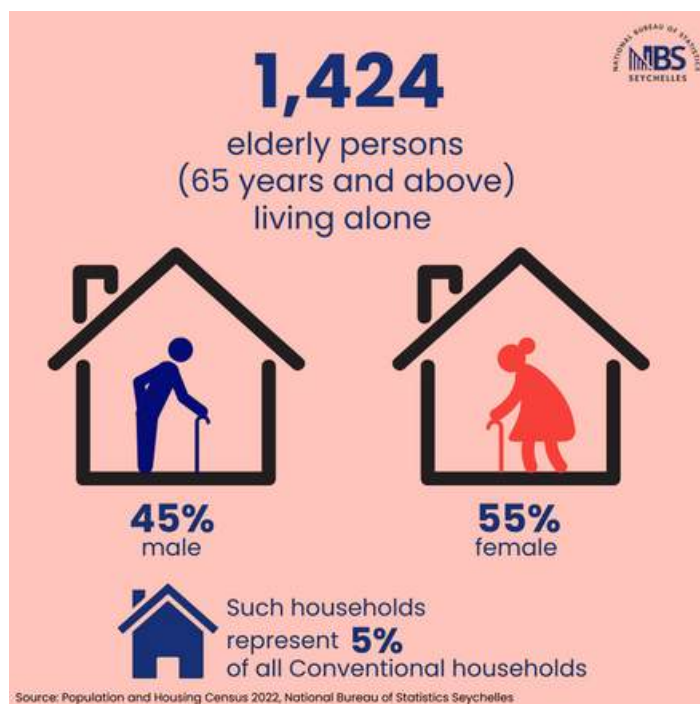
Ongoing initiatives under the Family Department, Elderly and Disabled Division, include the development of the Vulnerability Assessment Survey for persons with disabilities, in collaboration with the Seychelles Vulnerability Assessment Committee. There is also active engagement in the plans for renovation of the nine government-owned elderly homes as well as the newly renovated Vocational Training Centre for disabled students expected to open in April 2025.

The collaborative efforts are further evidenced through the ongoing signing of memoranda of understanding with entities to ensure the implementation of the fast-track card service as well as working with the Commonwealth Human Rights Unit to develop a national awareness-raising strategy for persons with disabilities. Private sector engagement is encouraged through the use of public-private partnerships for the establishment of private care facilities for nursing, residential care, and day centres for older persons.





Figure 46: Number and share of elderly persons aged 65 years and above, living alone



Source: NBS

Seychelles has implemented several legislative measures to enhance the support for its older population. In 2020, the government increased the minimum retirement pension to SCR 5,750 and introduced a minimum pension of SCR 1,000 for those with lower contributions.

Further support is given to older persons with the establishment of the Home Care Agency in 2023, which took over the responsibility for home care services from the Agency for Social Protection. The new Agency is tasked with regulating and improving the quality of home care services, including the registration and training of caregivers.

In 2024, a collaboration between the Judiciary and the Elderly and Disabled Division was launched to improve access to legal aid and judicial services for vulnerable groups, including older persons. This initiative introduced a Fast Track Card granting priority access to court services for older persons and persons with disabilities.

These legislative and institutional developments reflect the commitment of Seychelles to addressing the needs of its ageing population through comprehensive social protection, healthcare, and legal support systems. This follows with the development of a policy for the transformation of elder care, a key achievement of the Family Department, which is necessary given the ageing population of the country and the fact that the needs of elderly are now based on a functional model as increasing numbers of older persons are more independent. Similarly, to encourage disability to be looked at from a functional perspective, a disability benefit is provided in full to unemployed disabled persons and a partial benefit is paid if the individual is employed, as an additional incentive to be formally employed.



Seychelles ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2009, however full domestication - integrating the Convention's principles into national law and policy - remains incomplete. The National Council for Disabled Persons Act of 1994, which predates the Convention, remains the primary legal framework and has not been updated to reflect the Convention's provisions. During the review of Seychelles by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2018, the Government acknowledged that the Convention had not yet been incorporated into national law.

While progress has been made in education, employment, and social protection, key challenges persist – particularly the lack of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities in employment and the absence of a national disability registry. This gap is expected to be addressed through the development of the social registry referenced in SDG 1 (No Poverty). In 2022, a Disability Rights Needs Assessment conducted by the Commonwealth Secretariat recommended strengthening inter-ministerial coordination, enhancing inter-agency coordination and ensuring the active participation of persons with disabilities in policymaking. Efforts are also underway to revise the 2013 National Policy on Disability. Despite these steps, Seychelles still lacks a comprehensive legal and data framework aligned with the Convention.

Figure 47: SeyMobility Accessible taxi

2024 also saw the launch of SeyMobility, the country's first-ever accessible taxi service, as part of the Government's mission to make Seychelles a more accessible place for people with disabilities. The service features wheelchair-accessible vehicles equipped with ramps and secure seating, providing a safe and dignified mode of transport for persons with disabilities. SeyMobility also offers accessible excursions, airport and ferry transfers, and beach wheelchair rentals, ensuring that people with mobility challenges can participate fully in daily and recreational activities. Community members have welcomed the initiative, with users noting a significant improvement in their independence and quality of life.

SeyMobility is a testament to the commitment of Seychelles to fostering an inclusive society. As the service continues to operate, it is expected to inspire further developments in accessible infrastructure and services across the nation, contributing to the broader goal of reducing inequalities and promoting equal opportunities for all citizens.



Source: *Seychelles Nation* newspaper



### Case Study: Tannie Samedi

Tannie Samedi is a determined young woman who wishes to achieve whatever she sets her mind to. Despite her blindness, she maintains the conviction that she has much to contribute to society and that she can be a role model for other persons with disabilities like her.

From the outset of her academic journey at the School for the Exceptional Child, she was supported by a team of educators specialized in special need education. Through their dedication, she developed essential skills, including the ability to read and write in braille. She successfully completed her primary national examinations in English, Creole, mathematics and science at the same school.

At the age of 14, Tannie enrolled at Plaisance Secondary School. Despite encountering significant challenges, she demonstrated resilience and benefited from consistent support from the Ministry of Education, the school's teaching staff, and a variety of organizations and individuals. Upon entering secondary, Tannie was initially placed in the third stream. However, within a year, her strong academic commitment and evident interest in learning led her promotion to the first stream, where she remained for the rest of her secondary education. Ultimately, she successfully completed her studies, achieving three International General Certificates of Secondary Education in English, mathematics, biology as well as an international certificate in French language.

Tannie's academic journey continued beyond secondary school. She was accepted into the Seychelles Business Studies Academy, where she is currently pursuing a diploma in human resource management. Her commitment to personal and professional development remains evident in her post-secondary studies.

In addition to her academic accomplishments, Tannie has distinguished herself through meaningful civic participation. She made history as the first person with disabilities to address the Seychelles National Assembly for the International Children's Day celebration of 2020. Furthermore, she took part in a live televised dialogue with the President of Seychelles, highlighting her active engagement in national conversation and the dedication to advocacy and representation.



## Summary

Seychelles ranked 1st in the 2024 Ibrahim Index of African Governance, with an overall score of 75.3 out of 100, reflecting strong progress in political participation, human rights, education, and health. It scored impressively vis-a-vis Participation, Rights & Inclusion and Health, demonstrating an inclusive governance system and improved human development. Despite this, challenges remain. To advance SDG 10: Reduced inequalities, further reforms are needed to ensure all groups benefit from national development.

The National Diaspora Policy (2024–2029) aims to harness the potential of Seychellois abroad across governance, investment, identity, and diplomacy. Similarly, the National Labour Migration Policy addresses labour supply gaps while protecting workers' rights and ensuring decent work conditions.

Efforts to reduce income inequality include a 7% minimum wage increase (2025) and revisions to the Employment Act. However, data gaps hinder accurate wage disparity analysis. There is also growing support for persons with disabilities through reforms like the Functional Capacity Assessment Board Act (2024), import duty exemptions for assistive devices, and expansion of vocational training.

For older persons, the Government has improved pensions, launched the Home Care Agency (2023), and introduced fast track legal services. A new policy on elder care reflects changing needs, focusing on functional ability and long-term care planning.

Despite ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2009, Seychelles has not fully aligned national law with the Convention, with the National Council for Disabled Persons Act (1994) still governing disability rights. Key gaps persist in disaggregated data, legal harmonization, and inter-agency coordination.





## Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



The objective of Goal 11 is to make human settlements and cities sustainable, resilient, secure, and inclusive, by enhancing housing and transportation, safeguarding cultural and natural heritage, mitigating environmental and disaster risks, increasing green spaces, and fostering inclusive, well-planned urban development.

Seychelles is making substantial strides toward achieving SDG 11, evident in numerous critical priority areas of the NDS 2024–2028. Priority Area 1: A Modern Public Service is designed to enhance accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness in public administration by implementing transparency reforms, digital transformation, and a results-based approach. These measures are designed to facilitate improved urban governance. In order to promote sustainable economic diversification and cultivate resilient communities, Priority Area 2: The Transformative Economic Agenda is focused on resolving structural challenges in sectors such as finance, fisheries, and tourism. Priority Area 4: Promotion of Law and Order enhances public trust through community-based social support, reforms judicial and law enforcement systems, and addresses the underlying causes of crime in order to enhance safety and security.

Furthermore, Priority Area 6: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Resilience bolsters Seychelles' dedication to sustainable urban development by incorporating climate adaptation into national planning, promoting eco-friendly practices, and advocating globally for the equitable treatment of SIDS through the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index. These strategic priorities collectively demonstrate the country's inclusive and integrated approach to the development of sustainable communities, consistent with the objectives of SDG 11.

The Seychelles Public Transport Corporation is a parastatal organization in Seychelles that is responsible for the provision of public transportation. The primary function of the corporation is to provide, secure, and promote the provision of an efficient, adequate, and economical public transport system for the general public.

Figure 48: Seychelles Public Transport Corporation Logo & Photograph of low-floor bus

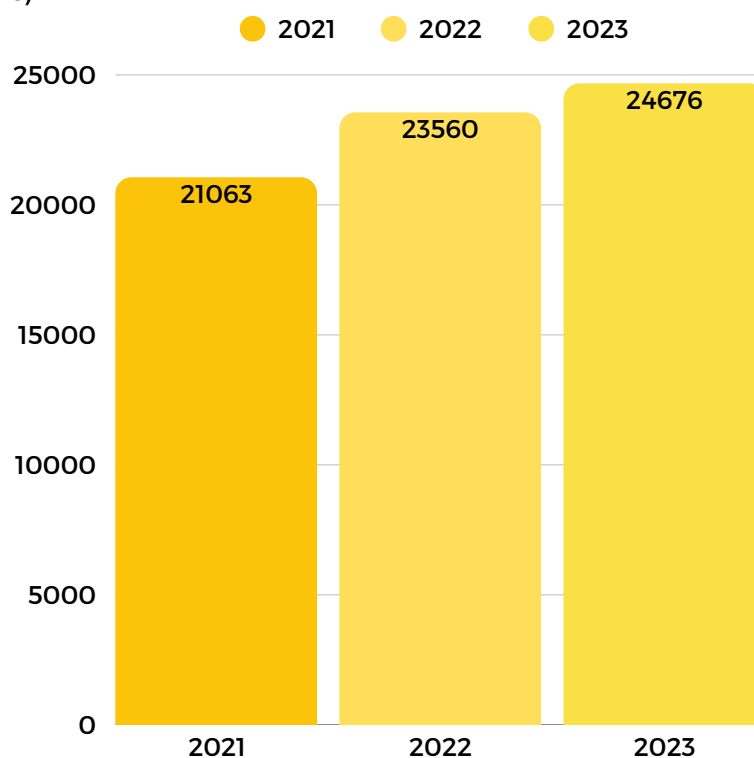




In recent developments, low-floor buses are being introduced to ensure that they are accessible to all, including persons with disabilities, in accordance with SDG 11, specifically Target 11.2: Affordable and sustainable transportation systems.

From an environment perspective, the Government of Seychelles is committed to reducing the adverse environmental impact of urban areas, with a particular focus on air quality and municipal and other waste management, as outlined by the Landscape and Waste Management Agency. Figure 48 below illustrates the increase in the volume of waste collected and managed in regulated facilities, from 21,063 tons in 2021 to 24,676 tons in 2023, an increase of some 17%.

**Figure 49: Volume of waste collected and managed in regulated facilities 2021-2023 (tons)**



Source: Land Waste Management Agency

This upward trend reflects positively on the Government's efforts to enhance cleanliness and improve waste collection systems across the country. It signals enhanced coordination, capacity, and coverage of waste management services, suggesting that a greater amount of refuse is being captured and treated through formal systems rather than being left unmanaged in the environment.

Although this increase in regulated waste collection is encouraging, it also underscores a concerning increase in the overall volume of waste being generated and disposed of, which has long-term implications for sustainability. In the event that the waste stream is not adequately reduced at the source, it contributes to environmental degradation, increases the burden on waste management infrastructure, and places additional pressure on the country's limited landfill space.



In recognition of this, Seychelles has implemented a transparent commitment consistent with Sub-target 6.5.1 under National Priority 6, which is designed to decrease the quantity of waste that reaches final disposal sites. Waste disposal is to be decreased from 68,765.0 tons in 2023 to 48,975.5 tons in 2027, a target reduction of approximately 28.8% over the four-year period. This is the national objective. This objective is indicative of a change in emphasis from the mere management of waste to the prevention and reduction of waste generation at its source through the implementation of circular economy practices, increased public awareness, and enhanced recycling and reuse initiatives.

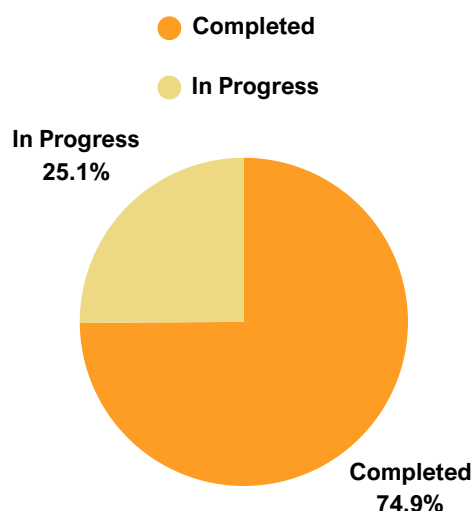
As part of its broader development agenda, Seychelles has demonstrated efforts to align its national development initiatives with ABAS. The improvement of transportation and connectivity is a critical objective of the ABAS, where accessibility is a critical component of inclusive development and service delivery. Seychelles strives to enhance the resilience, sustainability, and connectivity of its communities by enhancing both inter-island and urban transportation systems. Residents of islands other than the main island of Mahe, such as La Digue and Praslin, have access to privately owned and run inter-island ferry services.

The new Praslin Passenger Terminal, fully operational since early 2023, is a modern facility that has replaced the former Baie Ste Anne jetty. Named “*Ero*”, meaning “hero” in Seychellois Creole, the terminal stands as a symbol of resilience and progress. Construction began in October 2018 and was completed two years later at a total cost of SCR 18.4 million. Designed to enhance passenger flow and elevate the overall travel experience, the terminal now houses ferry operations, destination management companies, ticketing offices, taxi and vehicle rental services, food outlets, and currency exchange services. This significant upgrade strengthens inter-island connectivity and provides a robust, inclusive infrastructure that supports safe, reliable, and accessible transport services for both residents and visitors.



Through the Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs, 235 community development initiatives valued at over SCR 38 million were undertaken in 2024 in collaboration with the Seychelles Infrastructure Agency. These initiatives were chosen from a preliminary list of 266 proposals submitted by District Administration Offices and were prioritized in accordance with local requirements. As of December 2024, 176 of the 235 projects had been completed, resulting in a 75% completion rate. The remaining 59 projects (25%) were still in progress. The Government's dedication to improving community infrastructure and public service delivery throughout the archipelago is evident in the level of investment and implementation, which directly aligns with the objectives of SDG 11. The completion status of these projects is summarized in figure 50 below.

**Figure 50: Completion status of community projects (Q4 2024)**



**Source: Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs Annual Report 2024**

The Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs has undertaken significant efforts to strengthen Seychelles' disaster preparedness and response systems, in alignment with SDG Target 11.b, which calls for inclusive, resource-efficient, and risk-informed policy implementation. In line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Ministry has spearheaded community resilience initiatives aimed at reducing vulnerability and enhancing local capacity. Key among these efforts is its collaboration with the Disaster Risk Management Division to revise and improve the National Integrated Emergency Management Plan.

These measures support the development of integrated policies and the strengthening of institutional capabilities to effectively manage and mitigate the impacts of climate-related and other disasters across the country.





Seychelles continues to demonstrate its strong commitment to protecting and preserving cultural and natural heritage by actively promoting its unique Creole identity through national initiatives such as the annual Creole Festival. This vibrant celebration serves as a cornerstone of cultural expression, uniting communities across the country in a week-long tribute to Seychellois heritage, language, music, art, cuisine, and traditions. The festival plays a vital role in transmitting cultural values across generations while reinforcing national identity and pride. Events held throughout the districts—including traditional dance performances, Creole fashion shows, culinary fairs, storytelling sessions, school competitions, and art exhibitions—highlight both the historical roots and contemporary expressions of Creole culture. The active participation of young people, local artisans, and performers strengthens community bonds and ensures the continuity of cultural knowledge. A coordinated approach is taken to promote inclusivity, allowing even the most remote communities to engage meaningfully in the celebration and revitalization of their cultural heritage. Furthermore, the festival's organization involves schools, civil society, and local businesses, fostering a collective sense of responsibility in safeguarding and celebrating Seychelles' rich cultural legacy.

Figure 51: Cultural Activities and events



Source: Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs Annual Report, 2024

**Figure 52: The Moutya dance**



**Source: Tourism Department**

The Moutya dance, brought to Seychelles by enslaved Africans in the 18th century, is a powerful symbol of Seychellois Creole heritage and cultural identity. Traditionally performed around bonfires to the rhythm of a goat-skin drum, Moutya served as a form of resistance, storytelling, and expression during the era of slavery. In 2021, it was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, recognizing its historical and cultural significance. Today, Moutya continues to thrive through educational initiatives, cultural festivals, and community workshops that promote both performance and traditional drum-making. It is shared both informally—through observation and imitation—and formally through research and

documentation. As part of Seychelles' efforts to advance SDG 11 on preserving cultural heritage, Moutya is promoted as a tool for cultural continuity, youth engagement, and community empowerment, reflecting the nation's deep commitment to building inclusive and culturally enriched communities.

Despite the country's ongoing investment in and celebration of cultural events, such as the Creole Festival, which demonstrates a strong national commitment to the preservation of intangible heritage in accordance with SDG 11, there are still significant data voids in assessing progress under specific global indicators. Specifically, there is currently a scarcity of disaggregated data available for Indicator 11.4.1, which requires the monitoring of the total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection, and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage. This expenditure is to be categorized by the source of funding (public or private), the type of heritage (cultural or natural), and the level of government (national, regional, or municipal). Enhancing data collection mechanisms and enhancing reporting on heritage-related investments would not only improve the capacity of Seychelles to track progress toward SDG 11 more accurately, but also facilitate better resource planning and policy design for cultural preservation efforts throughout the country.



Seychelles launched several affordable housing projects in 2023 to improve living conditions and increase access to adequate shelter. These housing developments are overseen by the Ministry of Lands and Housing in a variety of districts. Seychellois families in need of secure and affordable housing are anticipated to benefit directly from these initiatives, which will provide a total of 106 new housing units. Despite certain obstacles, such as tenancy issues and site constraints, solutions were implemented to guarantee that the majority of projects remained on schedule.



**Figure 53: Affordable Housing**

A pilot project that is intended to more accurately evaluate the true cost of housing construction is one of the most notable endeavours. The residential districts of Roche Caiman, Corgat Estate, Bel Air, Bel Ombre, St. Louis, Union Vale, and Perseverance are all at varying phases of completion, and progress has been made at each of these locations. These developments are the result of a substantial government investment of approximately SCR 110 million, which is intended to improve urban resilience and address housing shortages. The Government intends to invest an estimated SCR 160 to 170 million in the financing of an additional 152 housing units over the next two years.

This expansion is indicative of a steadfast dedication to enhancing the quality of life by implementing sustainable housing solutions. As a result of these endeavours, Seychelles is making substantial strides toward inclusive urban development and guaranteeing that its expanding population has access to affordable, resilient, and secure housing.



## Case Study: Government Incentives for Sustainable Vehicles in Seychelles

The Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade in Seychelles has instituted substantial reductions in excise taxes and environmental levies on hybrid vehicles in order to expedite the adoption of sustainable transportation systems. This initiative, which went into effect in January 2024, is part of the Government's broader commitment to more sustainable modes of transportation.



Hybrid vehicles have been reclassified according to their battery capacity. Hybrids that have batteries that are 200 V or more are now classified as full hybrids and are eligible for reduced or waived environmental duties and reduced excise tax rates. For example, the excise tax on hybrids with engine capacities of up to 1600cc has been reduced from 12.5% to 10%, and there is no environmental levy. Excise taxes are reduced from 75% to 50% for vehicles between 1600cc and 2000cc, and environmental duties are reduced from SCR 100,000 to SCR 50,000. Similarly, excise tax reductions and levy reductions are advantageous for larger engine categories.

Conversely, hybrids with batteries that are less than 200V continue to operate under the current tax classifications and rates, thereby upholding the status quo. Plug-in hybrids, which are capable of being recharged through external electric sources, are eligible for excise tax reductions in all engine size categories. The rates for each classification are reduced by 5%, for example, from 10% to 5% for engines under 1600cc. It is important to note that the previous engine size-based licensing fees have been replaced by a new fixed annual licensing fee of SCR 1,500, and environmental levies for plug-in hybrids have been eliminated.

The Government through its Trade Department has urged motor vehicle dealers to transfer these tax savings on to consumers and has encouraged buyers to exercise their market power by exploring competitive pricing among a growing number of vehicle suppliers. The policy not only promotes social inclusivity by broadening access to sustainable mobility solutions, but also supports environmental objectives by reducing financial barriers to hybrid and efficient vehicles.

On the private sector side, in order to encourage the adoption of environmentally sustainable transportation, one of the leading commercial banks in Seychelles, ABSA Bank Seychelles has implemented customized vehicle financing solutions that complement the Government's tax incentives. The bank provides fast and flexible asset financing particularly designed for electric and hybrid vehicles. This financing is characterized by competitive low interest rates and extended repayment periods of up to seven years. Customers are eligible for full-funding vehicle loans for up to 100% of the price of eco-friendly vehicles that meet certain criteria, with no need for a down payment. These loan options are both convenient and accessible, helping to reduce financial barriers and making sustainable transportation more accessible and affordable for a wider range of the population.





## Summary

Seychelles is making steady progress toward sustainable urban development by focusing on inclusive, accessible, and resilient infrastructure and services. Efforts to improve public transportation include the introduction of more efficient, affordable systems, such as low-floor buses designed to accommodate persons with disabilities. Major infrastructure developments—like the new Praslin Passenger Terminal and reliable inter-island ferry services—are strengthening connectivity and enhancing disaster resilience.

The government has also prioritized waste management, achieving a 17.15% increase in regulated waste collection between 2021 and 2023. However, the growing overall volume of waste poses a challenge to sustainability and puts pressure on landfill capacity. To address this, Seychelles is implementing circular economy strategies with the goal of reducing waste disposal by 28.8% by 2027.

Investments in community development and disaster preparedness further support urban resilience, while cultural preservation initiatives—such as the annual Creole Festival—align with SDG 11 targets, particularly those focused on safeguarding cultural heritage and promoting inclusive, sustainable human settlements.

Nonetheless, several challenges persist. Delays in the execution of capital projects continue to hinder the timely delivery of essential infrastructure, including affordable housing and other community-based developments. Additionally, significant data gaps in tracking cultural heritage expenditure limit effective monitoring and evidence-based policymaking. Despite these obstacles, Seychelles remains firmly committed to advancing sustainable urban development and delivering inclusive public services.

## Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



Goal 12 promotes sustainable consumption and production by encouraging efficient use of resources, responsible waste and chemical management, and reduced environmental impact. It supports actions such as halving food waste, minimizing waste through recycling and reuse, and integrating sustainability into business practices and reporting. The goal also emphasizes sustainable public procurement, awareness-raising through education, and enhancing developing countries' capacity for sustainable production.

Additionally, it advocates for monitoring sustainable tourism to support long-term environmental and economic sustainability.

Seychelles' ongoing efforts to manage chemicals and waste responsibly demonstrate its strong commitment to sustainable consumption and production, in line with SDG 12. Despite inherent challenges such as limited land availability, high transportation costs, and capacity constraints, the country continues to make progress through the implementation of its National Waste Policy (2025–2030). This comprehensive policy provides a strategic framework for transitioning to a more sustainable, inclusive, and circular waste management system. It prioritizes the modernization of infrastructure, reduction in landfill dependency, improved recycling and composting practices, enhanced collection systems, and strengthened institutional capacity. The policy also places emphasis on increasing public awareness, improving financing mechanisms, and supporting entrepreneurship—such as by allocating start-up funds for regional composting projects. Additionally, stronger enforcement measures will be implemented to curb the illegal dumping of commercial waste, ensuring better compliance and environmental stewardship.



The Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment plays a leading role in advancing sustainable waste management by strengthening institutional and legal frameworks, improving operational efficiency, and aligning national practices with international obligations such as the Basel and Stockholm Conventions. A key measure includes the introduction of mandatory permits for the export and disposal of hazardous waste, including waste oil, vehicle batteries, asbestos, and chemicals. Supporting these efforts, the Landscape and Waste Management Agency (LWMA) is responsible for overseeing landfill operations, waste collection, and the maintenance of public cleanliness, working through a network of contractors nationwide.

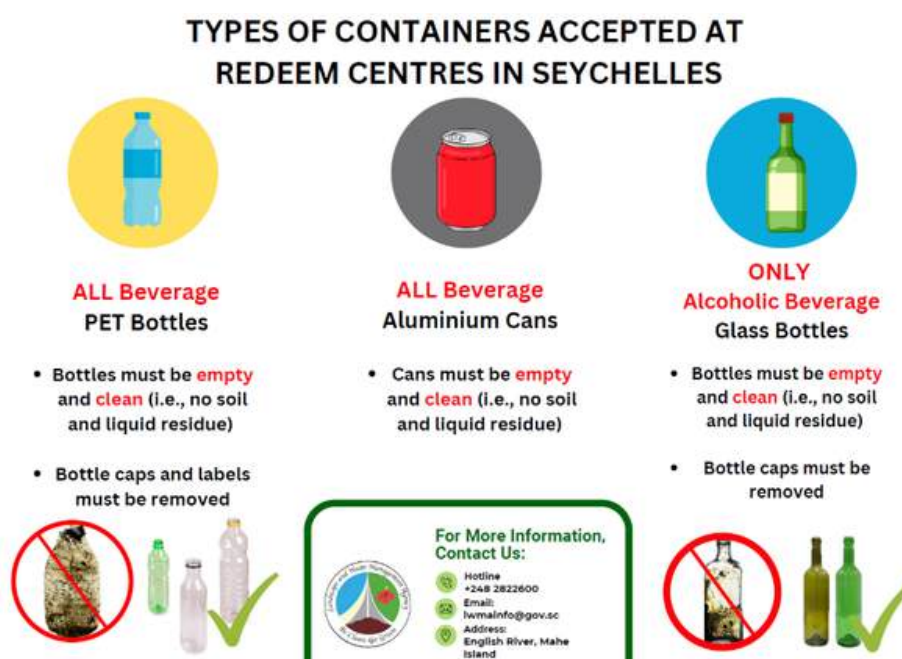


Seychelles continues to make essential contributions to the development of sustainable consumption and production by enhancing its scientific and technological capabilities, particularly through its investments in renewable energy infrastructure. PUC is instrumental in facilitating this advancement. Seychelles has consistently strengthened its renewable energy generation capacity as part of its endeavours to transition to more environmentally friendly production practices and decrease its dependence on imported fossil fuels

## Progress towards sustainable consumption and production through substantial waste management

Seychelles has made significant strides in its pursuit of SDG 12, with a particular emphasis on its goal of substantially reducing waste generation by 2030 through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse. The national Deposit Refund Scheme is a critical initiative started by the Department of Environment in 2007 for plastic bottles. It was subsequently expanded to include aluminium cans and glass bottles. Since 2022, the Landscape and Waste Management Agency has been responsible for the oversight of this system, which promotes the return of eligible containers to designated redemption centres for a refund of the deposit. This initiative has substantially reduced the volume of waste destined for landfills and curbed environmental pollution. The Scheme is supported by a levy system to ensure long-term sustainability, and it also generates employment and community income across the country's main islands. In 2022, more than 22 million plastic bottles were collected, and in 2023, new quality standards were implemented to comply with international recycling standards. This initiative is a prime illustration of how Seychelles is incorporating sustainable consumption and production patterns into national practice.

Figure 54: National Deposit Refund Scheme



Source: LWMA website



## Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework 2024–2034

Seychelles is making coordinated efforts to ensure that its tourism sector is in accordance with SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production. The Tourism Department in collaboration with local and international partners is taking the lead in the development of the Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework 2024–2034, a critical element of this commitment.

The comprehensive Framework encompasses the planning, development, promotion, and monitoring of sustainability in the environmental, economic, and social spheres of tourism in the Seychelles. Its primary goal is to safeguard against the repercussions of unregulated tourism development and to modernize the industry and establish sustainability as a long-term national priority. It emphasizes the importance of implementing standardized monitoring systems and precise indicators to improve the industry's consistency, quality, and accountability, directly contributing to SDG 12.

The Framework is founded on five strategic objectives, including:

- i. improving governance in tourism development and policy to ensure more coordinated and transparent decision-making,
- ii. promoting responsible and sustainable investment aligned with long-term national priorities,
- iii. safeguarding the country's rich natural and cultural heritage from the pressures of uncontrolled development.
- iv. emphasizing the importance of enhancing resilience to external disturbances and climate change, recognizing the susceptibility of island States like Seychelles.
- v. enhancing decision-making by ensuring that policies and actions are founded on precise and timely information through the utilization of dependable data and knowledge systems.

Detailed strategies and actions customized to local realities and designed to support multiple SDGs, including Goal 12, are employed to promote sustainable planning, the reduction of waste, the conservation of resources, and the encouragement of responsible practices throughout the sector. A monitoring and evaluation framework is being developed to assess the impact and implementation of these strategies







## The Eco-School Programme

The Eco-Schools Programme is a testament to Seychelles' dedication to actively integrating environmental consciousness into its education system. Founded by Michele Martin, an educator, in 1993, it has since thrived and is currently implemented in all public schools, with private institutions joining in 2019. The programme, which is coordinated by the Education for Sustainable Development section within the Ministry of Education and the Public Education and Community Outreach Division under the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment, is designed to promote environmental awareness, sustainable living, and community engagement among young people.

A national roadshow was conducted in 2023 to commemorate the programme's 30th anniversary, which was focused on the programme's accomplishments and influence. Dr. Justin Valentin, the Minister for Education, underscored the programme's critical role in cultivating environmentally cognizant leaders and ensuring that education is consistent with the UNESCO vision of sustainable living.

Students are instructed on how to cultivate sustainable behaviours, reduce waste, and reuse materials through activities such as recycling projects, environmental clubs, and arts and crafts, both within and beyond the classroom.

This initiative not only reinforces national environmental values but also directly supports SDG 12 by promoting waste prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse, thereby establishing the groundwork for a generation that adopts responsible consumption and production patterns.

To advance progress on SDG 12, there have been ongoing initiatives to raise environmental awareness and promote sustainability in schools. Schools and environmental NGOs have conducted awareness-raising initiatives over the years, with an emphasis on climate change education and action.

In order to improve the quality of climate change education, capacity-building programmes have been implemented for both instructors and Eco School leaders. Schools have implemented proactive measures, including the rehabilitation of coastal and marshland areas and shore clean-ups. The geography curriculum has been incorporated into the social studies curriculum at the primary level, with class time dedicated to the issue of climate change.

Furthermore, PUC has provided additional water tanks and awareness-raising initiatives to ensure that all schools have operational rainwater harvesting programmes. To note, UNESCO has also made a contribution by initiating the *Island Watch* Project, and ongoing capacity-building training is enhancing environmental education in schools have made substantial progress in the area of raising awareness and information.



## Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Practices

Seychelles is also making efforts to support SDG 12 by developing and implementing instruments to monitor sustainable tourism. One such initiative is the *Strategic Accommodation Establishment Development Plan for La Digue* island, which is based on the results of the Carrying Capacity Study concluded in February 2021.

The Carrying Capacity Study demonstrated a significant increase in the number of accommodation cabins on La Digue over the past two decades, particularly in the self-catering category. The overall supply of tourism beds continued to expand swiftly, albeit through smaller establishments, despite the 2013 moratorium setting a limit of five rooms per developer for new developments. The investigation underscored critical obstacles, including inadequate infrastructure in the areas of electricity, sewage, and refuse management, as well as a dearth of innovation in service development.

The Government initiated the development of the Development Plan for La Digue with the Cabinet's approval. The Plan, launched in September 2023 and directed by an independent consultant, Cutting-Edge Consultancy, was designed to evaluate the current state of the accommodation landscape, investigate the repercussions of the moratorium, and resolve the negative repercussions of the moratorium's suspension of new development applications since August 2021. The investigation is currently in the final stages of internal review.

Seychelles is actively promoting tourism within its environmental limits through this initiative, which utilizes the evidence from the Carrying Capacity Study to inform future development. The Plan limits the number and type of accommodation establishments based on the island's infrastructure and natural environment, rather than allowing for unregulated expansion. This prevents resources such as water, electricity, and sewage systems from being overburdened, as they are crucial for the preservation of La Digue's ecological integrity.

Simultaneously, the strategy encourages local employment opportunities by emphasizing small-scale, community-based tourism enterprises, including family-operated guesthouses and self-catering units. These businesses are frequently owned and administered by local residents, which helps economic benefits stay within the community. The plan also prevents mass tourism models that are dominated by large, foreign-owned resorts, which often displace local culture and reduce local participation, by maintaining the five-room limit per developer. Furthermore, the plan contributes to the preservation of the cultural and social fabric of La Digue by prioritizing balanced, long-term development and incorporating local input. This approach enables tourism to develop in a manner that honours the island's distinctive identity and heritage.



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## Clean Up the World (Seychelles) Campaign

By incorporating the annual *Clean Up the World* campaign into school activities, Seychelles has demonstrated its commitment to significantly reduce waste generation by 2030 through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse. These key themes are now feature in the national curriculum, with both public and private institutions on Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue participating annually, supported by the Ministry of Education.

The initiative involves students in practical environmental projects, including cleaning up beaches and mangrove forests, holding recycling exhibitions, making composting, improving schools and communities, and repurposing refuse materials for art and crafts. Not only are these endeavours edifying, but they also foster a culture of environmental stewardship from a young age.

For example, Perseverance Primary School conducted a recycling exhibition that utilized both home and school waste, while the Independent School cleansed and rehabilitated mangrove areas and observed a noticeable decrease in waste over time as a result of increased awareness.

These actions, which are consistent and widespread, directly support the principles of SDG 12 by reducing waste at the source, and encouraging behavioural change. This demonstrates that young people can be powerful agents of sustainable development and waste management in their communities.

Figure 55: Clean Up Seychelles Campaign



Source: LWMA





## Summary

Between 2021 and 2024, Seychelles expanded its renewable energy efforts, achieving a 45% increase in installed renewable energy per capita compared to its 2020 baseline—despite annual fluctuations ranging from 19.7W to 22.4W. Led by the Public Utilities Corporation, these efforts signal growing investment in sustainable energy, though challenges remain, including high infrastructure costs, land limitations, and data gaps. Complementing these efforts, the Tourism Department, in collaboration with partners, is developing the Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework 2024–2034. This framework aims to integrate sustainability into all aspects of tourism—environmental, economic, and social—ensuring the sector’s resilience and long-term viability.

In parallel, Seychelles is advancing Sustainable Development Goal 12 through a strong focus on waste reduction, recycling, and reuse. Key initiatives include the Deposit Refund Scheme—launched in 2007 and expanded to cover plastic, aluminium, and glass—and currently overseen by the Landscape and Waste Management Agency. Despite logistical and capacity challenges, the newly introduced National Waste Policy (2025–2030) offers a roadmap toward a circular, inclusive waste management system, prioritizing infrastructure modernization and more sustainable practices across the country.



## Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



As a SIDS, Seychelles leads in climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as the protection of marine environments and biodiversity. The country's economy is heavily dependent on tourism, which thrives on the country's natural attractions, thus making environmental preservation crucial for its sustainability. Climate change mitigation and adaptation are top priorities, as the country faces challenges such as shifting rainfall patterns causing floods and landslides, rising sea temperatures and sea levels, storm surges, increasing ocean acidity, and long-term damage to marine ecosystems.

Seychelles remains deeply concerned about the threats that climate change poses to its natural environment, economy, and communities. These risks have the potential to slow national development and hinder progress towards the SDGs. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Seychelles is taking actions through both mitigation efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation strategies to build resilience and protect the islands from the adverse effects of a changing climate.

The NDS 2024–2028 has Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Resilience as one of its key pillars and is designed to assist the Government to effectively direct resources towards key priority areas. This facilitates the mainstreaming of climate change issues into national policies, plans and strategies. In Seychelles, climate change is being integrated at all levels of government planning, as the environment is the cornerstone of the economy, supporting key sectors such as tourism and fisheries.



Seychelles has obtained a sum of \$2.76 million for a project proposal by the Green Climate Fund to advance the implementation of its national adaptation planning. Approved in October 2024 and scheduled for implementation over a three-year period, the initiative aims to strengthen the country's ability to address the increasing challenges posed by climate change. The project marks a crucial milestone for Seychelles in its pursuit of climate resilience. It will facilitate the development of essential frameworks and actively involve stakeholders across various sectors such as the private sector and civil society, to further ensure that climate adaptation is seamlessly integrated into national development planning. This initiative will adopt a comprehensive approach to adaptation planning, benefiting both government institutions and communities at all levels.

The key objectives are:

- enhancing governance and institutional coordination for adaptation planning,
- establishing a strong evidence base to design effective adaptation strategies,
- mobilizing private sector engagement in climate adaptation and
- increasing adaptation financing to strengthen resilience efforts.

To enhance the efficacy of decision-making and promote action-oriented outcomes, the Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade has integrated climate budget tagging into the national budgeting framework. This practice aims to systematically identify, monitor, and manage climate-related expenditures within the national budget.



By tagging budget lines that either contribute to or detract from climate action, climate budget tagging fosters greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the management of climate finance. The approach is strategically designed to ensure alignment between financial allocations and the country's climate objectives, optimizing investments that mitigate climate change and strengthen adaptation efforts. Through this process, the Government seeks to ensure that fiscal resources are directed effectively toward achieving sustainable, climate-resilient outcomes for the nation.

As highlighted in the ABAS policy framework, SIDS like Seychelles are highly vulnerable to climate change due to factors such as limited resources. Therefore, the framework is geared towards accelerating actions on the effective implementation of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement by recognizing the prominent role of climate mitigation and adaptation. The NDS of Seychelles, priority 6, has been aligned with the ABAS framework by focusing on the following SIDS goals:

- Environmental protection and planetary sustainability
- Promote sustainable ocean-based economies
- Foster sustainable energy transitions and energy efficiency
- Develop integrated water resources management
- Enhance transportation and connectivity

By leveraging this system, Seychelles can accurately measure and report on the impacts of climate adaptation projects, ensuring that resources are effectively mobilized and that financial flows are aligned with the country's climate goals.

Seychelles has made considerable progress in developing policies and strategies to address climate change, but several gaps and barriers still hinder the advancement of its climate goals. There is still a need for improved alignment to enhance consistency and effectiveness across sectors while minimizing duplication of efforts and enhancing coordination, project implementation and more robust monitoring and evaluation systems.

The Early Warnings for All Roadmap, adopted in 2025, is recognized as an innovative initiative to ensure that everyone is protected from hazardous weather events. Given the geography of Seychelles, the country is exposed to disproportionately high economic, social and environmental impacts from storms, and the Early Warnings for All programme will assist with better preparedness.

## Climate finance

All concerned partners in Seychelles are firmly committed to the country's climate obligations, including international agreements like the Paris Agreement. In 2021, the country submitted its updated NDC to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), emphasizing the critical need for financial support to implement effective mitigation and adaptation strategies. These efforts aim to strengthen resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.





Acknowledging the cross-sectoral impacts of climate change, Seychelles has incorporated key adaptation and mitigation goals from the updated NDCs into its NDS for 2024–2028, with a focus on Priority Area 6: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Resilience. This strategic alignment between the NDS and the NDCs ensures that investment decisions are directly linked to the targeted outcomes outlined in the NDCs. To achieve these climate commitments by 2030, the Government of Seychelles estimates a total funding requirement of well over \$670 million. Of this amount, approximately 49% (\$331.5 million) is earmarked for mitigation measures, while the remaining 51% (around \$339 million) will support adaptation initiatives.

More recent projections, including those from the AfDB Country Focus Report (2023), estimate that Seychelles will require approximately \$1.25 billion by 2030 to effectively respond to climate change – equating to about \$113.6 million per year. The report also highlights that between 2010 and 2020, Seychelles received a total of \$376.6 million in climate finance from development partners, averaging \$34.3 million annually. This leaves an estimated annual financing gap of \$79.3 million, emphasizing the urgent need for a coordinated and strategic approach to mobilizing climate finance from diverse sources, while maintaining debt sustainability.

### **Climate Finance Resource Mobilization Strategy**

In response to the financing shortfall, the Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade – supported by the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub and the NDC Partnership – developed a Climate Finance Resource Mobilization Strategy. This strategy aligns with Seychelles’ commitments under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility, an IMF-supported initiative offering up to \$46 million in funding. The Facility aims to strengthen climate resilience by addressing barriers to climate-related investment and by integrating climate considerations into national macroeconomic policies and planning frameworks.

Seychelles’ Climate Finance Resource Mobilization Strategy (2025-2030) seeks to outline a comprehensive approach to effectively and efficiently identify, mobilize, and utilize resources from diverse sources, to sustainably implement climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in Seychelles. There is also focus on enhancing coordination and collaboration to strengthen partnerships among stakeholders and establishing robust and sustainable financial mechanisms. Moreover, one of the objectives is to build capacity and raise awareness to increase funding opportunities while also mainstreaming climate change into all development planning and budgeting processes to promote reliance.

The strategy suggests innovative financing instruments which go beyond traditional methods such as bank loans and government grants. Seychelles has extensive experience with innovative finance mechanisms having issued the first Blue Bond and entered into debt-for-nature swaps for marine conservation, coastal management, environmental conservation and blue economy. The country aims to continue using such mechanisms alongside others being explored such as insurance-linked instruments, sustainability levies/taxes, carbon markets and philanthropic donors.





Debt vulnerability continues to be a challenge and the Government has committed to reducing its debt-to-GDP ratio to 50% by 2030. The goal reflected the government's dedication to maintaining macroeconomic stability while ensuring that debt remains at a manageable level. Given the country's vulnerability to external shocks, particularly climate-related disasters and global economic fluctuations, maintaining a sustainable debt trajectory is crucial for long-term resilience and financial security. Henceforward, the Climate Finance Resource Mobilization Strategy aligns with this debt objective by emphasizing innovative financing mechanisms that do not excessively increase public debt. The prioritization of diverse funding sources, reduces reliance on traditional debt-financed approaches, hence allowing Seychelles to continue meeting its climate commitments while advancing towards its debt reduction target.

### **Climate Finance Roundtable**

In February, 2025, the Government of Seychelles, IMF, and World Bank collaboratively organized a Climate Finance Roundtable which addressed the country's climate-related investment needs, mobilizing resources to meet targets in the NDCs, the NDS 2024–2028 and the Climate Finance Resource Mobilization Strategy.

A diverse group of development partners participated in the Roundtable, including AfDB, the International Finance Corporation, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Global Environment Facility, Nature Seychelles, the NDC Partnership, the OPEC Fund for International Development, Pew Charitable Trust, SeyCCAT, the United Nations, and UNDP. The private sector was represented by financial institutions, insurance companies, a major parastatal (Island Development Corporation), and business associations such as those of hotel and tourism, banking and insurance.

The Roundtable aimed to foster more collaboration, exploring innovative financing models and advance programmatic climate finance options. The initiative highlights the dedication of Seychelles to tackling its vulnerability to climate risks while enhancing its resilience and promoting long-term sustainability. Several financing options were discussed by participants at the roundtable, including a project preparation facility, de-risking instruments such as partial credit guarantees and first loss coverage, carbon (blue) credits, public-private partnerships for solar/wind energy, and waste management.

Workstreams were established for partners to jointly focus on areas such as renewable energy, project preparation, expanding adaptation investment to address coastal management and Marine Spatial Plans and investigating options for further sovereign blue/green bonds or sustainability linked sovereign loans and debt-for nature swaps.



## Progress on Implementation of the Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions

### Mitigation

As part of its enhanced climate commitments, Seychelles aims to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 817 kilotonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent by 2030, aligned with its 2021 updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which target a 26.4% reduction below business-as-usual levels. In 2024, Seychelles advanced this ambition by collaborating with the UNDP to develop a Long-Term Low-Emission Vision, laying the groundwork for its future Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS). This vision was shaped through an inclusive, multi-stakeholder consultation process and aligns with both the first updated NDC and the National Development Strategy (2024–2028). It charts a strategic pathway for reducing emissions and building resilience across key sectors, focusing on scaling up renewable energy generation and storage, encouraging a shift toward zero-emission vehicles and sustainable fuels, and enhancing energy efficiency. It also emphasizes climate-smart agriculture, mitigation measures in waste and water management, and the promotion of responsible tourism to reinforce Seychelles' identity as a sustainable tourism destination while ensuring long-term environmental and economic viability.

Seychelles is aligning its efforts with a long-term vision of achieving net-zero, decarbonized emissions by 2050, with a particular focus on transitioning to low-carbon transportation. A key initiative supporting this shift is the E-Mobility Project, launched in November 2022, under Priority Area 6.1: Effective implementation of measures to achieve climate mitigation goals. One of the core indicators is the annual percentage of electric vehicles imported. The four-year project is led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in partnership with the Ministry of Transport and supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Its objectives include enhancing policy and strategic frameworks for low-emission mobility, building technical capacity, and introducing electric buses into the public transport system. These buses are expected to reduce fuel imports for transport by 15–30% by 2030. As part of the pilot phase, electric buses will be integrated into the existing system, accompanied by data collection and performance monitoring to inform future scale-up and optimize their impact.

Despite its continued heavy reliance on fossil fuels for electricity generation—resulting in significant greenhouse gas emissions—Seychelles is actively working to expand its renewable energy capacity, with a strong emphasis on solar power investments. A key milestone in this transition is the completion of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for the national power sector. This long-term strategy outlines a sustainable vision for the sector, moving beyond a narrow least-cost supply approach to incorporate broader considerations, including economic, environmental, and social impacts. The IRP provides a strategic framework to guide energy planning and supports Seychelles' commitment to cleaner, more resilient energy systems.



## Adaptation

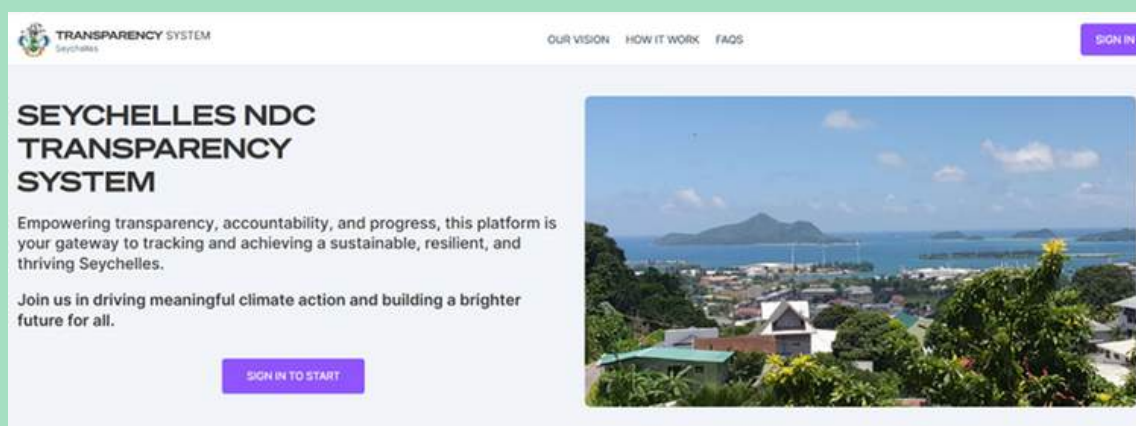
As a SIDS, Seychelles is highly vulnerable to the impacts and risks of climate change and therefore prioritizes adaptation strategies to enhance its resilience. To address these challenges, Seychelles has implemented a range of adaptation measures, including ecosystem-based approaches such as mangrove restoration and coral reef rehabilitation, improved coastal zone management, and the integration of climate resilience into national policies and development planning.

Mangrove forests play an important role in climate change adaptation and are globally recognized as a natural climate solution. The protection and restoration of mangroves has therefore been a key focus in Seychelles. To the same end, the Seagrass Mapping and Carbon Assessment Project was initiated as a means of assessing the distribution of seagrass habitats and to build scientific capacity to support future surveys and a blueprint for further development of seagrass mapping and blue carbon research regionally. The assessment found that seagrass is a nationally important blue carbon ecosystem for Seychelles and paved the way for continuous effort in maintaining robust commitments towards keeping seagrass healthy.

Seychelles is committed to the implementation of the Marine Spatial Plan, which has been signed into law, with implementation set to start in 2025. This Plan will allow for the effective management of the over 30% of the Seychelles EEZ that consists of marine protected areas.

## Case Study: The Seychelles NDC Transparency System

In response to global climate change challenges, Seychelles has made significant strides in advancing its climate action initiatives. Central to these efforts is the development of the Seychelles Climate Transparency System, which became fully operational in March 2025. The System is a cutting-edge platform designed to track, report, and enhance the transparency of the country's climate progress in line with the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework. This innovative System has received substantial support from the Seychelles Government, UNDP, and the Government of Belgium, showcasing the commitment of Seychelles to a sustainable, resilient, and transparent climate future. By streamlining data collection, ensuring secure and accessible information, and enhancing coordination among government agencies, the Climate Transparency System strengthens efforts toward a sustainable, resilient, and prosperous future.





## Summary

Seychelles has made significant strides in climate action, prioritizing both mitigation and adaptation strategies to safeguard its environment, economy, and long-term sustainability. Through initiatives like the NDS 2024–2028, climate budget tagging, and the mobilization of innovative financing mechanisms such as Blue Bonds and debt-for-nature swaps, the country has successfully integrated climate resilience into national policies. Seychelles has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 26.4% by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Adaptation efforts include ecosystem-based approaches like mangrove restoration and coral reef rehabilitation, as well as the establishment of marine protected areas. Despite these achievements, challenges remain, including a financing gap of \$79.3 million annually, limited access to grant financing, and the need for improved coordination and monitoring systems. To address these challenges, Seychelles is focusing on enhancing its climate finance strategy, strengthening adaptation measures, and improving policy coordination across sectors. The recently launched Digital Transparency System will further enhance the country's ability to track and report climate progress, ensuring alignment with the Paris Agreement and supporting the country's commitment to climate resilience.





## Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.



SDG 14 aims to ensure the sustainable use and conservation of oceans and marine resources for sustainable development. Key priorities include reducing marine pollution—especially from land-based sources—restoring marine and coastal ecosystems, and addressing ocean acidification through scientific cooperation. The goal also emphasizes sustainable fisheries management by eliminating overfishing, supporting science-based policies, and safeguarding fish stocks. Special focus is placed on enhancing the economic benefits of marine activities, particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and

artisanal fishers, by improving access to resources and markets. The implementation of international law, notably the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, underpins these efforts.

The NDS 2024–2028 explicitly incorporates SDG 14 by incorporating ocean stewardship into its main priorities. For instance, Priority 2 (Transformative Economic Agenda) advocates for a blue economy that is knowledge-driven and promotes growth while protecting marine resources. It is committed to “realizing the country’s development potential through innovation, while maintaining the integrity of the Seychelles marine environment.” In practice, this involves the promotion of sustainable fisheries, marine tourism, and other aquatic industries in a manner that prevents overexploitation and conserves habitats.

Priority 5 of the National Development Strategy (NDS) aligns closely with SDG 14, focusing on transforming Seychelles’ education system to equip citizens with the knowledge and skills essential for sustainable development. Emphasis is placed on promoting marine conservation and the sustainable use of ocean resources through environmental education and public awareness. By embedding sustainability into the curriculum, Seychelles fosters a culture of environmental stewardship and supports the long-term goals of ocean conservation and sustainable resource use.

Furthermore, Priority Area 6: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience concentrates on the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems, the expansion of marine protected areas, and the reduction of pollution within a climate-resilient framework. The preservation and restoration of marine ecosystems, including coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass meadows, is a critical aspect of this priority. These ecosystems are essential for the preservation of biodiversity, fisheries, and coastal areas. Priority area 6 advocates for the rehabilitation of these habitats and the enhancement of their resilience to climate-related challenges, including extreme weather events and increasing sea temperatures. This is in direct accordance with SDG 14, which prioritizes the preservation of marine and littoral ecosystems to ensure the health and productivity of oceans. Through these priorities, the NDS fosters the sustainable use of the ocean, educates an ocean-literate populace, and reinforces marine conservation and pollution-reduction measures in accordance with SDG 14.



Several targeted initiatives to monitor and mitigate plastic pollution along the country's coastlines have been undertaken, cognizant of SDG target 14.1, which aims to substantially reduce marine pollution by 2025, with a particular emphasis on land-based activities such as marine debris and nutrient pollution. The volume of beached plastic debris collected in the inner islands is a critical proxy indicator for assessing progress and has fluctuated over recent years, with a general downward trend. In 2020, 1,040 kg of plastic debris were recorded, falling considerably to 380 kg in 2021. This figure then spiked to 1,031 kg in 2023 before falling again in 2024 to 590 kg.

These trends illustrate both tangible advancements and persistent obstacles. The effectiveness of national cleaning initiatives, public awareness campaigns, and improved waste management practices is confirmed by the significant decrease over the years. At the same time, the country remains vulnerable to marine pollution, which is influenced by factors such as ocean currents, increasing tourism, and voids in enforcement. The decline in 2024 is evidence that renewed initiatives, including regional coordination, community engagement, and stricter waste controls, have produced quantifiable outcomes. The fluctuations over the years underscore the urgent need for continuous, long-term strategies to safeguard marine ecosystems, despite the fact that the decrease in debris is a clear indicator of progress.

Given the strong fluctuations in the volume of beached plastic debris collected in Seychelles, it is difficult to draw a definitive conclusion regarding the country's progress toward Target 14.1 as of 2025. This is the result of data gaps, specifically the lack of information on the density of plastic debris, a more precise indicator for evaluating the extent of marine pollution. Although total weight figures offer a broad perspective, it is challenging to precisely quantify contamination levels, monitor trends over time, or compare performance against global benchmarks in the absence of standardized density data, such as the quantity of plastic per unit area. These data gaps pose a challenge to informed decision-making and limit the ability to evaluate the efficacy of existing interventions.

### **Marine protected areas**

The expansion of marine protected areas within its EEZ is one of the most significant accomplishments in regard to Goal 14. In 2019, 26.1% of the marine territory of Seychelles was designated for protection. By 2020, this figure was significantly increased to 32.8% and has remained consistent through 2025. The country's unwavering dedication to the preservation of its marine heritage and the long-term resilience of its ecosystems is evidenced by the approximately 410,000 km<sup>2</sup> of ocean that are under this level of protection. To this end, the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan was finalized into law in 2024, marking a significant milestone in the country's pursuit of ocean sustainability.

The dedication of Seychelles to the sustainable management and preservation of marine ecosystems, is illustrated by this groundbreaking initiative, which is a global first for a large ocean State. The Plan legally designates 33% of the country's ocean territory as marine protected areas, including zones for comprehensive protection and others for sustainable use, within an EEZ of approximately 1.37 million km<sup>2</sup>.



The Plan encompasses the implementation of no-take zones in the vicinity of ecologically sensitive areas, such as Aldabra Atoll and Amirantes, more stringent monitoring of fishing activities, and the utilization of marine ecosystem data to inform offshore development, including aquaculture or tourism. It also ensures that communities and stakeholders are involved in the ongoing decision-making process by integrating ecological, social, and economic priorities. The global leadership of Seychelles in blue economy governance is further fortified by the legal finalization of the SMSPP, which establishes a science-based, inclusive framework for ocean use that protects both biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods.

By sustaining marine protection at 32.80% over five years, Seychelles has exceeded international targets like Aichi Target 11 and aligned with the global 30x30 Initiative. As a SIDS, this achievement is vital for national resilience, biodiversity, and coastal protection. The protected areas support ecosystems such as coral reefs, and seagrass beds—critical for mitigating climate impacts and supporting livelihoods. These zones balance strict conservation with sustainable use, ensuring both environmental and community needs are met.

Although Seychelles has made significant strides in safeguarding marine ecosystems since 2020, it is crucial to acknowledge the journey that has resulted in this accomplishment. Only a minimal proportion of marine areas in Seychelles were protected prior to 2018, with only a symbolic 0.04% of the country's EEZ protected from 2015 to 2017. The turning point came in 2018, when the marine protected area coverage reached 15.60%, and subsequently 26.10% in 2019 and 32.80% in 2020. These increases were the outcome of deliberate policy decisions, motivated by international partnerships, conservation commitments, and the increasing recognition of the ocean's central role in the economy and identity of Seychelles.

After six years at this level, questions arise regarding future aspirations. The plateau can be attributed to various factors, including the complexity of marine spatial planning, limited technical and financial resources, competing economic interests such as tourism and fisheries, and the meticulous balance between restrictions and local livelihoods. In addition to political will, the expansion of protected areas necessitates a consistent investment in scientific research, stakeholder engagement, and enforcement capacity.



## Promoting Sustainable Fishing Practices

Seychelles has taken gradual but significant steps to further adhere to SDG Target 14.4: *Sustainable fishing, which calls for effective harvesting regulation, the elimination of overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and the implementation of science-based management plans to restore fish stocks to biologically sustainable levels.*

Just 16% of fish stocks were within biologically sustainable levels from 2020 to 2022, which is indicative of the early stages of policy implementation and the amount of time required for ecological recovery. This period emphasized the difficulties that SIDS encounter in reconciling the pressing need for conservation and sustainability with their economic reliance on fisheries. The proportion increased to 25% in 2023 and 2024, a substantial improvement. This increase implies that the regulatory and management interventions implemented by the Government, particularly through the Seychelles Fisheries Authority, have begun to produce favourable results. The recovery of marine fish stocks has been significantly facilitated by measures such as the use of scientific data to guide quotas and fishing seasons, stricter enforcement against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and enhanced monitoring and surveillance.

The upward trend is an optimistic sign that Seychelles is enhancing its fisheries governance and aligning its practices with global sustainability objectives. Nevertheless, the maintenance and enhancement of this percentage will necessitate ongoing investments in the development of enforcement officers' capabilities, scientific research, and data collection. It is equally crucial to encourage community engagement, particularly among artisanal fishers, to guarantee that management strategies are culturally appropriate and socially inclusive.

As a SIDS, Seychelles aligns its national strategies with the broader objectives outlined in ABAS, which emphasizes the significance of promoting resilient and sustainable tourism, enhancing food security, and pursuing opportunities in sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, mariculture, marine and coastal tourism, ocean-based renewable energy, and related sectors. These objectives are consistent with the NDS, particularly in the areas of advancing the blue economy and integrating sustainable practices across a variety of marine-based industries.





Seychelles is also demonstrating its leading role in ocean governance through the *Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction* Agreement. The Agreement, also known as the High Seas Treaty, was ratified by Seychelles in April 2024, the first African State to do so. The objective of this groundbreaking international



treaty, which was negotiated under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), is to guarantee the conservation and sustainable utilization of marine biological diversity in regions that are beyond the jurisdiction of any single nation. These regions encompass nearly two-thirds of the world's oceans.

The longstanding leadership of Seychelles in marine conservation and ocean governance is further solidified through the ratification of this Agreement. The country has pledged to achieve a number of critical objectives in accordance with the Agreement, such as the establishment of marine protected areas, the fair and equitable distribution of benefits from marine genetic resources, the implementation of rigorous environmental impact assessments for ocean activities, and the development of capacity and technology transfer in marine science and conservation.

This ratification is of particular importance to Seychelles, as 99% of its territory is oceanic and 90% of its socioeconomic activities are contingent upon a thriving marine environment.

### **Case Study: Enhancing Transparency in Fisheries**

Seychelles achieved the distinction of being the first country in the world to achieve 'Compliant' status under the FiTI Standard, in March 2025. This significant milestone is indicative of the country's unwavering dedication to the governance of its fisheries sector with transparency, accountability, and sustainability in mind. Following the initial decision of Seychelles to join the FiTI in 2017, this accomplishment is the outcome of several years of sustained effort. The initiative's objective is to enhance public supervision, mitigate corruption risks, and foster trust among stakeholders in the fisheries sector by promoting the publication of credible and accessible information on marine fisheries.

As part of the FiTI compliance procedure, Seychelles underwent two comprehensive validations. The second validation, which evaluated the period from January 2022 to July 2024, was instrumental in determining whether the country was in full compliance. Key dimensions, including stakeholder engagement, the public availability of fisheries data, and legal frameworks that support transparency, were assessed. The FiTI International Board issued a confirmation that Seychelles was in compliance with the FiTI Standard in February 2025, acknowledging the country's exceptional progress in achieving the transparency and accountability benchmarks outlined in the standard.

The substantial improvement of its data transparency systems was one of the most significant achievements of Seychelles, with increased public access to critical fisheries data, such as catch volumes, licensing information, and stock assessments, through the Fisheries Information Management System. This platform ensures that all stakeholders – policymakers, researchers, civil society – have access to reliable and timely data to facilitate sustainable decision-making.

Furthermore, Seychelles enhanced its legal frameworks, which now require the disclosure of individuals who ultimately own or benefit from fishing licenses and operations, as a result of reforms to the Beneficial Ownership Act. These reforms are instrumental in the prevention of illicit activities and the promotion of effective governance.

It was equally critical to establish a National Multi-Stakeholder Group that brought together government officials, industry representatives, and civil society organizations to collaboratively steer the FiTI process. This platform reinforced participatory governance in fisheries management by ensuring that diverse voices and concerns are heard in decision-making processes.

Although the country's 'Compliant' status is a significant accomplishment, Seychelles is dedicated to making further progress. FiTI International's Board of Directors issued numerous proposals to enhance stakeholder engagement and transparency, and Seychelles has committed to implementing these recommendations and increasing its leadership in the governance of fisheries in a responsible and sustainable manner.

In demonstrating that transparency and sustainability can coexist, the success of Seychelles under FiTI establishes a valuable precedent for other countries, particularly SIDS. The country's broader adherence to SDG 14 and its commitments under regional frameworks such as the SAMOA Pathway and ABAS are also supported by this achievement.

## Summary

Seychelles has made significant progress in advancing SDG 14 through a comprehensive approach to sustainable fisheries, marine conservation, pollution control, and ocean governance. Key achievements include a notable reduction in plastic pollution—from 1,031 kg in 2023 to 590 kg in 2024—reflecting effective clean-up efforts and public awareness campaigns. Marine protection has also seen remarkable growth, with Marine Protected Areas expanding from just 0.04% of the EEZ in 2015 to 32.8% by 2020, supported by the 2024 enactment of the Marine Spatial Plan, which legally designates 33% of Seychelles' ocean territory for conservation and sustainable use.

In fisheries, the proportion of biologically sustainable fish stocks rose from 16% to 25% between 2020 and 2024, driven by stricter monitoring, regulation, and enforcement by the Seychelles Fishing Authority. The country became the first globally to achieve "Compliant" status under the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) Standard in 2025, backed by institutional reforms and improved data systems. Additionally, Seychelles is leading in sustainable blue economy financing, including through its Blue Bond initiative. Demonstrating further global leadership, Seychelles ratified the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement in 2024, aligning with the international "30x30" conservation goal. Collectively, these efforts underscore the nation's commitment to building a resilient and prosperous ocean-based economy grounded in sustainability, science, and inclusive governance.



## Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.



SDG 15 aims to protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. It focuses on deforestation, desertification, halting land degradation and preserving biodiversity to ensure a healthy planet for the future. Seychelles, with a land area of just 455 km<sup>2</sup>, is home to stunning mountainous landscapes that are carefully protected to preserve its unique biodiversity and safeguard vital watersheds. A flourishing terrestrial environment is the cornerstone of our existence. As an integral part of the Earth's ecosystem, humans have, unfortunately, caused considerable damage through deforestation, habitat

destruction, and land degradation. Therefore, ensuring the sustainable use of ecosystems and protecting biodiversity is not just a noble cause, it is crucial for our very survival.

The majority of accessible land is located along the coast, where most of the country's essential infrastructure is concentrated, including housing, hospitals, schools, transportation networks, air and seaports as well as businesses, sports and leisure facilities. Consequently, as in many SIDS, there is significant pressure on land for development.

Seychelles demonstrates a robust commitment to environmental conservation which is fully aligned with the ABAS framework, emphasizing the need for SIDS to intensify efforts in biodiversity conservation and urgently calls for actions aimed at halting and reversing biodiversity loss.

The Protected Areas Policy (2013) emphasizes expanding and strengthening the country's Protected Area System. In line with this, five sites in southern Mahe, Anse Intendance, Anse Cachee and Anse Corail, Anse Bazarca, Anse Petite Police, and Anse Grand Police, have been designated as seasonal protected areas under the Nature Reserves and Conservancy Act (2022).

This decision aims to protect crucial nesting sites for the critically endangered hawksbill turtle and the endangered green turtle during their nesting season from October to April. The measures will include restricting damaging activities and development while encouraging community involvement, ecological restoration, and awareness campaigns, reinforcing Seychelles commitment to biodiversity conservation and safeguarding its unique natural heritage for future generations.





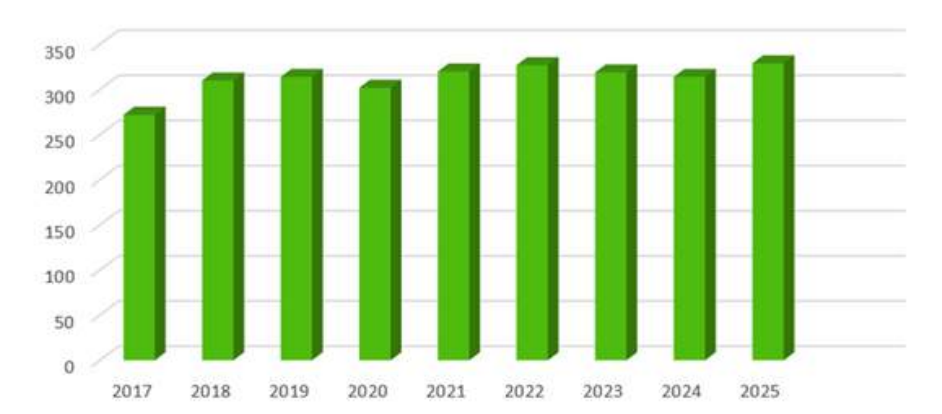
Curieuse Island has also been designated as a national park, recognizing its rich biodiversity, cultural heritage, and ecotourism value. The island is also home to unique species such as the Coco-de-Mer and Aldabra giant tortoise. The designation aligns with national policies and international commitments of Seychelles to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Seychelles has been actively engaged in ecological restoration, implementing conservation initiatives to rehabilitate degraded ecosystems. Through reforestation projects, the responsible ministries and non-governmental organizations continue to reinforce its commitment to sustainability and biodiversity preservation.

The Biodiversity Finance Initiative is a global initiative by UNDP aimed at helping countries develop sustainable financing strategies to support biodiversity conservation. It involves assessing the financial needs for biodiversity goals, mapping existing financial flows, and exploring innovative financing solutions such as private sector involvement and green bonds. As part of this, a Biodiversity Finance Unit has been established to mainstream the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan, review biodiversity-related policies, and assist in mobilizing resources from various financial actors, including Government and the private sector, to fund mechanisms that help achieve national biodiversity targets. This unit ensures that biodiversity conservation is adequately integrated into national policies and supported with long-term, sustainable financial mechanisms.

Seychelles continues to demonstrate its commitment to biodiversity conservation through sustained investments and innovative financing mechanisms (Figure 54). Considering the fact that the country is participating in the Global Biodiversity framework, this indicates a strategic approach to align national biodiversity strategies with global conservation goals. Through these efforts, Seychelles is expected to enhance its public sector investment in biodiversity conservation in the coming years.

**Figure 56: Forecast of Public Sector Biodiversity Expenditure under the BAU scenario**



Source: NBS





## Policy Insights: National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan

As a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Seychelles is supporting the implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global biodiversity frameworks which sets out goals and targets to support global action to halt loss of biodiversity, while ensuring conservation and sustainable use. The UNDP country office, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment and under the guidance of the Biodiversity Conservation and Management Division through the Convention focal point, is implementing Early Action Investment to support the achievement of the goals and targets outlined in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework protocol framework and the SDGs.

These national targets will define the country's biodiversity priorities and contribute to the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan which is set to start early 2025. The Plan will serve as the guiding framework for implementing national biodiversity priorities, ultimately helping Seychelles fulfil its commitments under the Convention.

Biodiversity financing is a significant component in this process, ensuring financial sustainability to finance the objectives. There are ongoing efforts to analyse the existing biodiversity financing landscape in Seychelles which shall establish the financial gaps in this domain and find innovative ways to bridge the gaps. Subsidies that either support biodiversity conservation or pose a threat to biodiversity will be identified. Additionally, opportunities for new financing solutions will be explored, including potential government budget sources, sustainable revenue streams from biodiversity, and mechanisms to ensure their allocation toward conservation. This process will also involve identifying resource mobilization opportunities and innovative financial solutions. A finance monitoring system will be proposed, incorporating lessons learned from other contexts to develop effective biodiversity financing strategies for Seychelles.

## Engagements with Non-Governmental Organizations

### Nature Seychelles

SeyCCAT has been a helpful mechanism for funding impactful projects such as the App for Reserve Management (ARM), which aims to enhance conservation efforts on Cousin Island special reserve by replacing manual data collection with a custom-built, open-source digital platform for real-time monitoring, GPS tracking and automated analysis. This project has been proudly led by the continuously engaged NGO, Nature Seychelles. They aim to improve species



conservation, resource allocation, and compliance with the Nature Reserves and Conservancy Act, benefiting critically endangered Hawksbill Turtles and endemic birds. Digital tools like ARM enable real-time environmental monitoring, predictive analytics, and adaptive management, ensuring data-driven decision-making for ecosystem resilience. By integrating technology, conservationists can respond proactively to environmental threats, optimizing resource use and policy adaptation.



There has been ecological restoration in several key sites such as Tea Tavern and Port Glaud, being led by the plant conservation action group, supported by several key partners such as the Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority, the Islands Conservation Society, and the Seychelles Department of Environment. The project focused on managing invasive exotic species to protect native flora, propagating native plants in their natural habitats for resilience, and conserving six critically endangered endemic tree species for restoration and reintroduction. This targets SDG 15.1, which focuses on conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, particularly in the context of forests.

Figure 57: App for Reserve Management & Ecological Restoration efforts

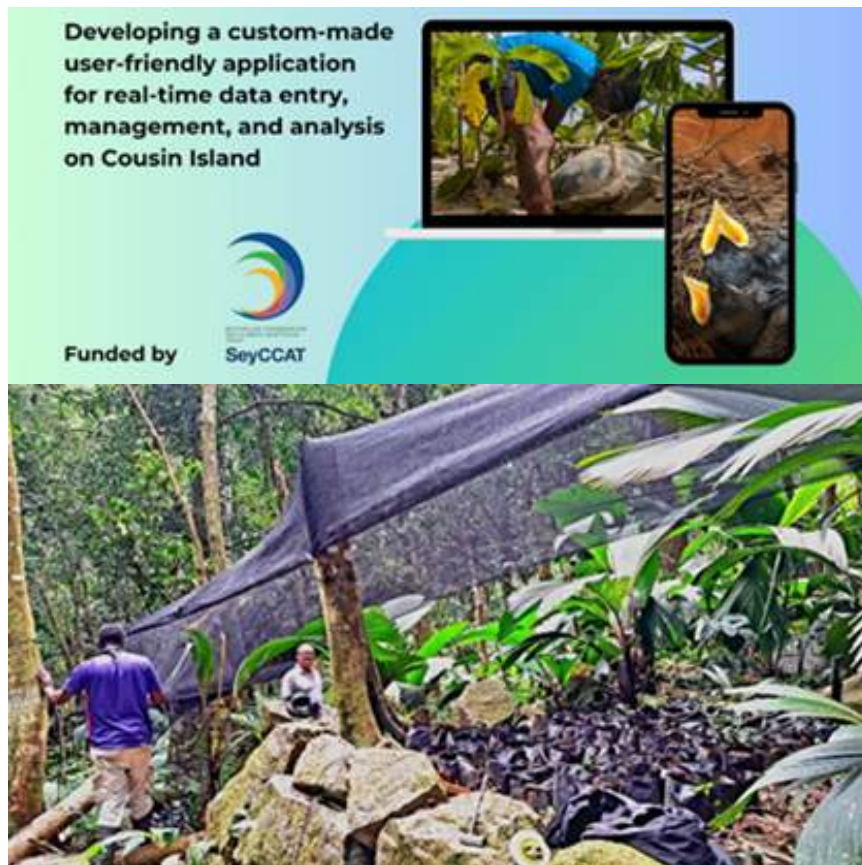


Figure 58: The Coco-de-Mer



### Seychelles Islands Foundation

The coco de mer (*Lodoicea maldivica*), endemic to Praslin and Curieuse in Seychelles, is classified as Endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List, with its population declining by 30% over three generations due to forest fires, poaching, invasive species, and climate change. To combat this, the Seychelles Islands Foundation, with support from the Franklinia Foundation, launched the project Increasing the Resilience of Seychelles' Flagship Tree Species Coco de Mer.

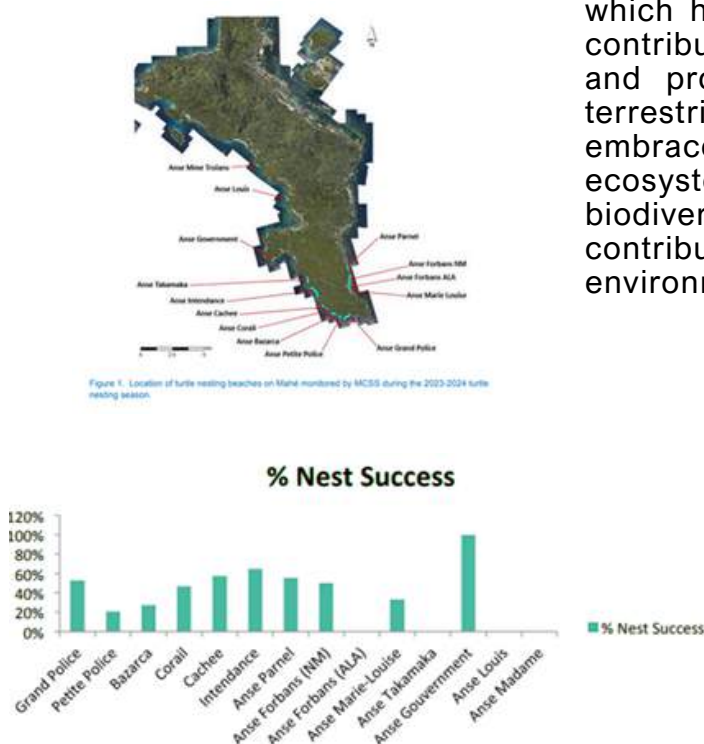


The initiative focuses on conservation, fire prevention, reducing illegal harvesting, and raising community awareness. With ongoing activities like population resurveying, the project aims to strengthen long-term management and reverse population decline. This project directly aligns with SDG 15, particularly Indicator 15.5.1, which tracks the Red List Index measuring biodiversity loss. By strengthening conservation efforts, mitigating threats, and promoting sustainable management, the project contributes to halting biodiversity decline and ensuring the long-term survival of this keystone species. With ongoing activities like population resurveying, the project aims to strengthen long-term management and reverse population decline.

## The Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles

The level of NGO work in the environment sector in Seychelles has been remarkable. The Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles has been involved in monitoring 14 beaches year round. The beach patrol is also conducted on six main nesting beaches in the South of Mahe, in line with standard turtle monitoring techniques used in Seychelles, which aims to safeguard nesting sites and prevent habitat destructions.

**Figure 59: Percentage of estimated nesting success for each of the beaches monitored by MCSS for the 2023-2024 nesting season.**



The Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles (MCSS) has been involved in ensuring coastal plants are well maintained which helps with achieving Goal 15 as it is contributing to the protection, restoration and promotion of sustainable use of the terrestrial ecosystem. Seychelles has embraced the importance of coastal ecosystems for maintaining land-based biodiversity, protecting coastal areas and contributing to the health of the terrestrial environment thus preserving biodiversity



Source: Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles Social Media Page





## **“Wetlands of Hope” - Nature Seychelles**

The ongoing “Wetlands of Hope” project has been in effect from March 2024 and will continue to March 2026, coordinated by the European Commission (Delegation to Mauritius and Seychelles), implemented in Seychelles by Nature Seychelles, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment. It aims to improve climate adaptation and environmental governance through working with government agencies, alongside civil society and private sector stakeholders.

This implementation focuses on addressing the loss of mangrove and wetland coverage in Seychelles, exacerbated by coastal development and insufficient management due to limited capacity and resources. This is done through improving institutional capacity, enhancing public knowledge, and promoting the value of wetland ecosystems through participatory planning.

Key objectives include improving mangrove research and management, increasing local knowledge and community participation, and supporting the development of national mangrove policies. The project aims to introduce the ‘Wetlands of Hope’ label to recognize conservation efforts.

Figure 60: Launch of Wetlands of Hope Project



## **Private sector pledges to invest in wetland conservation in Seychelles**

As a means of mobilizing resources through private investment, the private sector in Seychelles is increasingly being encouraged to invest in conservation. The effort placed in stimulating this movement has produced positive result, whereby on the World Wetlands Day, six private sector establishments; Absa Bank, Avani Barbarons, Canopy by Hilton, Cheval Blanc, Constance Ephelia, and Kempinski Seychelles Resort, demonstrated their commitment by signing “The Wetlands Pledge” with the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment. Through this pledge, they have vowed to conserve and manage wetlands on their properties and those they have adopted.





This initiative is part of the Wetlands of Hope programme, strengthening partnerships among stakeholders for sustainable wetland management. Led by Nature Seychelles, in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment, the project is supported by funding from the European Union. Community-led rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems using an ecosystem-based and ridge to reef approach, Praslin, Seychelles, Terrestrial Restoration Action Society of Seychelles

The initiative aims to address environmental degradation by involving local communities in conservation efforts, ensuring the sustainability of natural resources and biodiversity. It is funded by the European Union through the SADC under the Global Climate Change Alliance+ programme. The project targets forests, wetlands, rivers and coral reefs, with the aim of improving ecosystem health and resilience against climate change and human-induced pressures.

The project assesses environmental conditions and develops or updates rehabilitation and watershed management plans using scientific data. It enhances plant nursery infrastructure by upgrading facilities, equipment, and transportation, including storage units, staff amenities, solar-powered irrigation systems, compost sheds, and retaining walls. The initiative rehabilitates degraded ecosystems across hills, wetlands, and coastal areas. Additionally, it promotes biodiversity-friendly sustainable activities such as agroforestry and beekeeping to restore degraded lands while serving as ecological-economic models for improving local livelihoods. Furthermore, a transformative learning programme fosters community engagement, outreach, and lifelong learning, ultimately driving behavioural change and strengthening people's connection with their environment for lasting positive impacts.

### **Restoration of degraded landscapes**

The restoration requires work such as mapping and preparing the sites, removing bushes and putting in place barriers against erosion, planting the plants and constant maintenance of several thousands of plants. This is followed by constant monitoring and the Terrestrial Restoration Action Society of Seychelles (TRASS) made good use of technology by utilizing GPS to locate the positions of the plants and monitoring their growth.

The Society established long-term terrestrial monitoring sites in two watersheds, within the Petit Cours water catchment at Anse Possession and at Pointe Chevalier within the Mont Desir-Lazio water catchments

Figure 61: Restoration of degraded landscapes





## Summary

Seychelles has made significant effort in achieving SDG 15: Life on land, through robust conservation policies, ecological restoration, and sustainable land management. Key achievements include the designation of protected areas under the Nature Reserves and Conservancy Act (2022) to safeguard critical habitats, ecological restoration projects led by NGOs such as Nature Seychelles and the Terrestrial Restoration Action Society of Seychelles, and the integration of biodiversity financing through initiatives like the Biodiversity Finance Initiative. Seychelles has also enhanced biodiversity monitoring with digital tools like the App for Reserve Management and implemented community-led conservation efforts such as wetland restoration and afforestation programmes.

However, challenges persist, including land-use pressures, limited financial resources, and the ongoing threat of habitat degradation due to climate change and human activities. Moving forward, Seychelles aims to strengthen biodiversity financing, expand conservation education, and enhance private sector engagement to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience of its terrestrial ecosystems.



## Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



Seychelles is a republic with a multi-party-political system, governed by a constitution that aligns with Goal 16. The Preamble of the Constitution reaffirms the country's dedication to upholding the rule of law, with recognition of fundamental human rights and freedoms and respect for equality and human dignity.

Seychelles has undergone significant constitutional changes since gaining independence on 29 June 1976. Under the First Republic Constitution, Seychelles was structured as a democratic republic with a semi-presidential system, though human rights were limited to civil and political rights. Following a coup d'état in June 1977, the country transitioned to the Second Republic Constitution, which established a one-party socialist republic but excluded justiciable human rights. In 1993, Seychelles adopted its current constitution, which structured the country as a democratic republic with a presidential system, grounded in democracy, the rule of law, and human rights.

The Constitution enshrines 25 justiciable human rights, including civil, political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, and group rights, and aligns with international human rights obligations. The Constitution provides for three separate branches of the State, which puts in place a separation of powers– the Executive, the Legislature (or Parliament) and Judiciary. It also provides for the establishment of independent state institutions, such as the Office of the Ombudsman, to uphold the integrity of the governance system.

### The Executive

Under Seychelles' presidential system of government, the Executive is headed by the President, who serves concurrently as Head of State, Head of Government, and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. The President is directly elected by popular vote and may serve up to two consecutive five-year terms. Supporting the President are the Vice-President and the Principal Minister (Chief Minister). The President appoints a Cabinet of Ministers, each assigned to a specific portfolio, with appointments subject to confirmation by the National Assembly.

The Executive is responsible for managing the ministries, departments, and agencies under its jurisdiction, and for formulating and implementing policies aligned with its governance agenda. While it may propose legislation, all laws must be debated and approved by the National Assembly. Citizens have the right to challenge executive actions, policies, or laws through the courts or independent oversight bodies such as the Office of the Ombudsman.



## The Judiciary

The Judiciary plays a crucial role in promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice, serving as a fundamental pillar of government. Among the ongoing efforts to enhance the judicial system, significant strides are being made to increase access to legal aid, ensuring that all individuals can access justice. Additionally, the Judiciary is working to make courts more accessible to vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities and the elderly, with initiatives such as fast-tracking cases, ensuring they are given priority and fair treatment.

However, the Judiciary still faces challenges, particularly due to reliance on manual processes, which can slow down case management and create inefficiencies. To address these issues, there is a growing push for digitalization within the judicial system, which presents opportunities to streamline processes, improve accessibility, and enhance the overall efficiency of the system. By embracing technological advancements, the Judiciary can ensure that justice is accessible to all, reducing barriers and improving the processing time and transparency of legal proceedings.

By 2022, the judiciary had achieved gender parity in its composition. By 2024, women made up 52% of all judges, marking a significant milestone in gender representation. In April 2025, the Seychelles launched its new Commercial Court, appointing a female judge as its inaugural Chief Judge. This development further underscores the Judiciary's ongoing commitment to promoting access to justice and advancing gender equality within its ranks.

## The Legislature

The National Assembly is a distinct and independent branch of the Seychellois government, separate from both the Executive and the Judiciary. As one of the core institutions of Seychelles' democracy, it plays a vital role in legislative oversight, lawmaking, and representing the voices of citizens.

As of the most recent elections held in October 2020, the governing party, Linyon Demokratik Seselwa (Seychellois Democratic Union), holds a commanding 71% supermajority. The *United Seychelles* party, currently sits in opposition. Each of Seychelles' 26 electoral districts is represented by a directly elected member. In addition, the National Assembly includes proportionally elected members based on the overall performance of political parties in the national vote.

Representation in the Assembly has seen gradual progress in diversity. The proportion of female members increased from 21% in 2019 to 26% in 2024. Notably, October 2020 marked a historic moment with the swearing-in of Hon. Naddy Zialor—the first member of the National Assembly with a physical disability—appointed through proportional representation. His presence has brought unprecedented visibility and representation to persons with disabilities within the legislative body.





Seychelles has established core institutions that play a vital role in promoting peace, justice, and the rule of law, ensuring checks and balances, and safeguarding fundamental rights and freedoms.

- **The Attorney General's Office**

The Attorney General's Office plays a pivotal role in strengthening the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice in Seychelles. The Office derives its mandate from the Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles to conduct criminal prosecutions on behalf of the Republic. It responds to requests for legal assistance in criminal matters, collaborating with international law enforcement agencies to support cross-border legal cooperation. The Office's Legislative Drafting Division is tasked with taking policy decisions and translating them into drafted legislation. The Attorney General is also the principal legal advisor to the Government.

- **Office of the Ombudsman**

The Office of the Ombudsman serves as an independent, impartial, and non-adversarial institution, widely recognised as a guardian of citizens' rights in relation to the actions and decisions of public authorities. It offers a more accessible, flexible, and cost-effective alternative to formal court proceedings for resolving grievances involving the State. Free from external direction or control, the Ombudsman ensures that complaints are handled fairly and objectively, promoting transparency, consistency, and equity in public service decision-making.

- **Anti-corruption Commission of Seychelles**

The Anti-Corruption Commission Seychelles (ACCS), established under the Anti-Corruption Act of 2016, is mandated to investigate, detect, prevent, and prosecute corruption. Its responsibilities also include overseeing the declaration of assets by senior public servants under the Ethics Act, and monitoring asset and business declarations of the Executive, Members of the National Assembly, and the Mayor under the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Act. As a permanent member of the National Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Committee, the ACCS is also empowered to investigate money laundering cases.

- **Seychelles' Human Rights Commission**

Seychelles' Human Rights Commission became operational in 2019 and has since made significant strides, particularly in the promotional aspect of its mandate. The Commission has implemented numerous educational outreach programmes, conducting sessions to raise awareness and educate the public on constitutional matters. In addition, online/digital campaigns have been launched to further engage with the community. Access to complaints has also been improved, with processes being simplified to make it easier for individuals to submit their concerns. In terms of monitoring, the Commission has conducted several visits to places of detention to ensure that human rights standards are upheld. In 2023, a preliminary assessment of the Commission was carried out as part of a human rights accreditation audit. Based on this assessment, a list of recommendations was proposed, many of which require legislative reforms to strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights.



With regards to peace, justice and strong institutions, several noteworthy developments have occurred in recent years since Seychelles' inaugural VNR in 2020. Firstly, Seychelles has made significant progress, ranking 1st in Africa on the Mo Ibrahim Index (75.3/100).

Figure 62: Seychelles performance in global governance Frameworks



Furthermore, Seychelles has significantly improved its ranking on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). In the 2024 CPI, Seychelles achieved its highest ranking to date, securing 18th position globally with a score of 72 out of 100. This also makes Seychelles the top-performing country in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2021, Seychelles took a significant step toward strengthening freedom of expression by decriminalizing defamation through the repeal of Chapter 18 of the Penal Code. As a result, defamation is no longer treated as a criminal offense and may now only be addressed through civil proceedings. The Association of Media Practitioners in Seychelles welcomed this development as a positive and necessary first step, while noting that further legal refinement is needed to fully align the framework with international best practices.

According to the 2025 World Press Freedom Index as reported by Rapporteurs Sans Frontiers, Seychelles continues to benefit from a diverse and active media landscape, with approximately ten media outlets operating across public and private radio and television platforms. The index highlights that physical threats to journalists remain rare, and the country maintains a generally supportive legal framework for press freedom.

Seychelles is now ranked 45th out of 180 countries, with a score of 68.56—reflecting a drop of eight places from its 2024 ranking of 37th, when it scored 73.75. This shift comes amid a broader global decline in press freedom, largely driven by economic challenges affecting media industries worldwide. In response, the government has expressed its commitment to fostering open dialogue and ensuring a balanced and accurate representation of the national media environment, reaffirming its support for a free and responsible press.



## **Combating Illicit Financial Flows**

Seychelles has made significant strides in addressing illicit financial flows, recognizing their detrimental impact on governance, development, and economic stability. The government has undertaken legislative reforms and institutional strengthening to enhance financial transparency. Key actions include the implementation of the Beneficial Ownership Act and the modernization of the Financial Intelligence Unit to better identify, assess, and respond to illicit financial risks. Despite this progress, challenges remain in effectively tracing complex cross-border transactions and ensuring consistent enforcement of regulations, particularly in the non-financial sectors.

To combat tax evasion and corruption, Seychelles has aligned its tax regulations with international standards, including commitments under the Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The Seychelles Revenue Commission has strengthened tax administration systems and engaged in information exchange mechanisms with foreign jurisdictions under the Common Reporting Standard.

Seychelles has enhanced its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing framework in line with recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force, particularly following the country being placed on the Task Force's grey list in 2021. In response, the Government adopted several reforms including the strengthening of regulatory oversight by the Financial Services Authority, increased obligations for customer due diligence, and better inter-agency coordination. These efforts led to Seychelles being removed from the grey list in October 2023. Continued vigilance and periodic reviews remain essential to prevent backsliding and to address emerging threats.

To improve its overall regulatory environment and promote long-term resilience, Seychelles has undertaken a series of reforms aimed at ensuring transparency, accountability, and good governance. This includes the digitization of corporate registries, implementation of risk-based supervision models, and the promotion of ethical standards across both public and private sectors. Furthermore, Seychelles has prioritized international cooperation, engaging in peer reviews and technical assistance programmes to align with evolving global standards.

In May 2025, Seychelles was removed as one of the countries from France's list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes. This positive development reflects Seychelles' strong commitment to international tax transparency, regulatory compliance, and cooperation. The delisting follows sustained efforts by the Government and the National AML/CFT Committee to implement reforms in line with standards set by the OECD and other global bodies. This recognition not only reinforces Seychelles' reputation as a cooperative and responsible financial centre but also contributes to strengthening investor confidence and supporting long-term economic growth.

While Seychelles has made commendable progress in curbing illicit financial flows, tackling tax evasion and corruption, and strengthening its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regime, challenges such as capacity constraints and enforcement gaps persist. Continued commitment to reform, international collaboration, and capacity development will be critical to solidifying the country's position as a credible and resilient financial jurisdiction.



In the spirit of leaving no one behind, the National Diaspora Policy 2024 ensures responsive, inclusive, and participatory decision-making in Seychelles. The policy creates formal mechanisms for engaging Seychellois abroad in national development, allowing them to contribute their expertise, investments, and perspectives. By fostering inclusive participation in economic and social initiatives, it ensures that decision-making processes reflect diverse voices, particularly from the diaspora.

Seychelles recognizes the importance of public access to information and has thus worked towards ensuring the public's right to access information, the establishment of an Information Commission is key to overseeing and ensuring transparency. The implementation of the Access to Information Act plays a central role in facilitating this process. Additionally, appointing and training information officers in all ministries will improve the accessibility of information, ensuring that citizens can obtain the necessary data in line with national legislation and international standards.

### Case Study: The Open Government Partnership - National Integrity Coalition

Public participation in government is essential for fostering transparency and accountability. Seychelles had made significant efforts to broaden and strengthen participation in relation to global governance. The Open Government Partnership is a global initiative promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in government processes. Seychelles has been a member of the Partnership since 2018. As a member, Seychelles is taking proactive steps to strengthen its governance structures and open them up to more inclusive public engagement.

A multi-stakeholder committee was formed, consisting of members from the Government, private sector, and civil society and headed by the Cabinet Office. In 2024, the committee developed a two-year action plan to further these efforts. Reforms in key areas such as the fisheries sector and constitutional issues provide new opportunities for citizen participation, enhancing both domestic governance and the credibility of Seychelles in international fora. The action plan also includes commitments addressing alcoholism, government employee wellness, and government IT capacity. The committee regularly meets to assess progress on the commitments and ensure that public participation remains a key focus in the country's governance.

Given the progression of Seychelles' constitutional system and the establishment of new independent institutions (including but not limited to ACCS, Ombudsman, Seychelles Human Rights Commission), there has been a recognized need for a comprehensive review of the constitutional structure and governance systems to ensure alignment with the principles of democracy, the rule of law, and human rights.

To address this, as part of the Open Government Partnership commitment, Seychelles is taking steps to establish an **integrity coalition** which will serve as a think tank, bringing together diverse stakeholders to discuss, collaborate, and develop recommendations for strengthening governance, improving transparency, and enhancing public-civic collaboration.



This initiative has the aim to promote accountability and supports constitutional reforms to further uphold the integrity of the country's governance systems. The Government plans to establish the national integrity coalition, by 2026 contribute to initiatives that strengthen Constitutional structures and systems and support the delivery of effective, good governance policies and reforms that will benefit citizens' lives.

## Summary

Seychelles has made substantial progress in promoting good governance, justice, and the rule of law, as enshrined in its Constitution, which guarantees 25 enforceable rights and provides for a clear separation of powers among the Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary. Independent institutions such as the Office of the Ombudsman, the Human Rights Commission, and the Anti-Corruption Commission of Seychelles (ACCS) play a vital role in upholding democratic values and citizen rights. Notable milestones include achieving gender parity in the judiciary by 2022 and appointing a female Chief Judge to lead the newly established Commercial Court in 2025. The National Assembly has also demonstrated progress in representation, increasing the proportion of women from 21% in 2019 to 26% in 2024 and appointing its first member with a physical disability through proportional representation in 2020.

Complementing institutional reforms, Seychelles has enhanced legal and regulatory frameworks to combat corruption, illicit financial flows, and money laundering. The Attorney General's Office has strengthened legislative drafting and cross-border legal cooperation, while the ACCS has expanded its oversight over asset declarations and financial crime. The Government implemented the Beneficial Ownership Act, upgraded the Financial Intelligence Unit, and modernized tax administration in line with OECD standards. These reforms enabled Seychelles to exit the FATF grey list in 2023 and led to its removal from France's list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions in 2025. Further, the decriminalization of defamation in 2021 and Seychelles' 45th global ranking on the 2025 World Press Freedom Index reflect the country's continued support for media freedom and civil liberties, despite broader global declines.

Public participation and institutional transparency have also been strengthened through Seychelles' membership in the Open Government Partnership since 2018. A multi-stakeholder committee—comprising government, civil society, and private sector actors—developed a two-year action plan in 2024 to deepen citizen engagement, including reforms in the fisheries sector, wellness policies for government employees, and IT capacity building. As part of this initiative, Seychelles plans to establish a National Integrity Coalition by 2026 to serve as a think tank for constitutional reform and governance enhancement. This coalition will bring together diverse voices to promote accountability, transparency, and participatory democracy, thereby reinforcing the integrity and resilience of the country's governance systems.



## Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



To secure Seychelles' long-term growth and advance its sustainable development goals, it is essential to strengthen both existing and emerging partnerships—locally, regionally, and internationally. The country actively collaborates with key global institutions such as the World Bank, the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and other regional actors. These partnerships play a critical role in supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by providing access to financial resources, technical expertise, and

strategic policy guidance. In parallel, Seychelles maintains strong bilateral relations and continues to explore opportunities to deepen cooperation across a wide range of sectors.

### Trade Relations: Strengthening a Fair and Inclusive Global Trading System

As a SIDS, Seychelles continues to participate in relevant World Trade Organization (WTO) discussions to ensure that the multilateral trading system delivers on its commitments for all economies, particularly vulnerable, developing and least developed members. Seychelles remains committed to supporting an open, fair, inclusive, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core.



Since its accession in 2015, Seychelles has and continues to engage in WTO ministerial conferences, general council meetings, committee meetings, negotiating groups, regional groupings and bilateral meetings to advocate for small economies' interests. Particularly, these engagements cover fisheries subsidies, trade facilitation, trade in services, intellectual property, reforms of the WTO institutional and legal framework and enhancing special and differential treatment provisions and transparency in trade policies and agreements through the G90 Agreement Specific Proposals. These interests were recently reiterated during the 13th Ministerial Conference of the WTO held in Abu Dhabi in 2024.

While the Doha Development Agenda has faced challenges in achieving its original objectives, including through slow progress due to geopolitical tensions and divergent interests among WTO members, Seychelles continues to align with efforts to address development concerns within WTO negotiations, particularly in areas related to capacity-building, technology transfer and market access for developing economies. Seychelles also continues to follow negotiations on agriculture originating from the Doha Round, ensuring that negotiations account for country specific contexts and concerns, including ensuring that food security remains a key consideration, including, more recently through sustainable agriculture discussions.



In anticipation of the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference scheduled to take place in Yaoundé in 2026, Seychelles remains committed to supporting meaningful and achievable outcomes from the longstanding Doha Round negotiations, with a strong emphasis on sustainable development. In addition to its active engagement within the World Trade Organization (WTO), Seychelles also participates in trade-related initiatives under the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). These platforms provide complementary avenues for advancing Seychelles' trade and development objectives, including through participation in UNCTAD meetings and WIPO diplomatic conferences.

### **The African Continental Free Trade Area**

Seychelles is actively enhancing its trade prospects through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), signed in 2018. In March 2025, the Cabinet of Ministers approved a comprehensive plan, the *Seychelles National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy*, aimed at optimizing the country's engagement with the AfCFTA while addressing challenges related to its economic structure. This strategy



is to promote intra-Africa trade in goods, services and other trade-related aspects with a particular focus on sectors like digital financial services, ecotourism, and sustainable agriculture. It seeks to integrate Seychelles within regional and continental value-added and supply chains by improving maritime infrastructure and securing financial support from regional financial institutions such as the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Export-Import Bank under the AfCFTA framework.

Among the actions proposed in the strategy are the adoption of the necessary legal and policy frameworks for its implementation, targeted investments in high-value sectors, public awareness efforts, and strengthening connections with the diaspora to open new trade opportunities. Additionally, critical infrastructure upgrades, such as expansion of the Port of Victoria and enhancement of digital systems for port operations, will reinforce the role of Seychelles as a key trade hub in the region. In terms of implementing, monitoring and evaluating the strategic priorities, the National Committee for Trade Facilitation will monitor the implementation of the strategy, through stakeholder engagement, and necessary legal and financial reforms to align with AfCFTA obligations and commitments. This approach aims to foster inclusive economic growth, increase export opportunities to the continent, and bolster the competitiveness of Seychelles within Africa.

### **Expanding Global Export Opportunities**

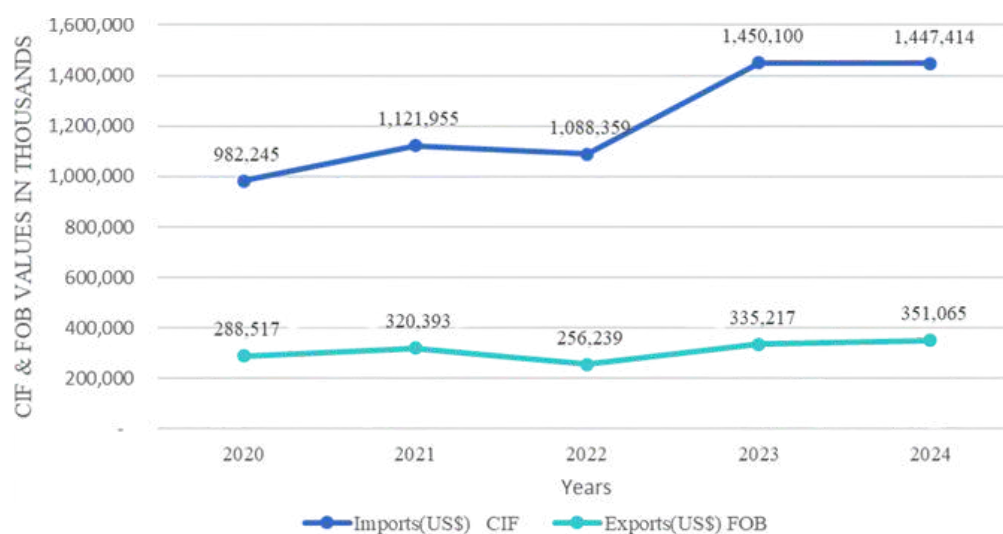
Seychelles continues to work towards economic diversification, with assistance from the 11th European Development Fund. Several areas have been identified for future developments such as the aquaculture sector, the development of a new tax management system, enhancement of the Customs Management System through the Automated System for Customs Data, as well as supply chain developments and potential for development of the cinnamon, honey and vanilla sectors. Seychelles is also pursuing the potential development of geographical indications in Seychelles, with honey being shortlisted as a potential product.



Seychelles has also developed and revamped its import and export guides for trade in goods with the aim of assisting domestic and international traders and businesses to remain abreast of procedural and legislative developments of the Seychelles trade regime. In terms of trade in services in 2023, the AfCFTA export guide was published and the SADC business guide was uploaded on the Seychelles Trade Portal, to assist potential businesses in exploring the export markets of Seychelles.

Seychelles observed an increase in imports of goods in 2024 compared to 2020, up to US\$1.447 billion from US\$982 million. Exports have remained on a stable increasing trajectory, from US\$289 million in 2020 to US\$351 million in 2024.

**Figure 63: Aggregate Merchandise Trade 2020-2024**



**Source: Administrative Data, NBS**

## Enhancing Trade Access

Seychelles continues to support duty-free and quota-free market access for least developed countries (LDCs) in line with WTO decisions and regional trade commitments, however, with due consideration of its own sensitivities as illustrated through its schedule of commitments.

While Seychelles applies relatively low tariffs overall, the main challenge for LDCs remains supply-side constraints, including limited production capacity and high transportation costs, rather than tariff-related impediments. As a SIDS with an extremely limited manufacturing base, Seychelles remains a net importer with approximately 80% of its food originating from external markets.





Seychelles remains committed to supporting LDCs in their integration into the global trading system, advocating for trade facilitation measures, and ensuring that market access commitments are upheld in a transparent and predictable manner. This was also demonstrated through its support for the adoption of the Ministerial Decision on WTO Smooth Transition Support Measures in Favour of Countries Graduated from LDCs category at MC13 in 2024.

Seychelles, as a developing country and WTO member, continues to benefit from special and differential treatment provisions under various existing WTO agreements. Throughout its WTO membership, Seychelles has engaged in WTO discussions on special and differential treatment, for example, the implementation of its commitment under the Trade Facilitation Agreement of which only two of its Category C commitments remain outstanding. Also important to Seychelles is the 2022 Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, which Seychelles ratified in 2023 and which contains significant special and differential treatment provisions for the implementation of this Agreement following its eventual entry into force, including a fish fund (with 11 million Swiss francs to the beneficiaries).

Seychelles continues to negotiate Phase II of the Additional Provisions on overcapacity and overfishing for a comprehensive Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, ensuring that effective and appropriate special and differential treatment provisions, including ones that represent the interests of the LDC Group, are taken into account in the negotiations. Other areas that Seychelles benefits from are trainings provided by the WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, the main objectives of which are to:

- 1) Enhance trade capacity;
- 2) Address trade policy issues;
- 3) Integrate more fully into the multilateral trading system;
- 4) Exercise the rights of WTO membership;
- 5) Fully participate in multilateral trade negotiations.

However, Seychelles continues to participate in ongoing negotiations on strengthening and making the special and differential treatment provisions in existing WTO agreements more effective, such as through the process of negotiating the G90 Agreement Specific Proposals. This includes through the African Group, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group, and ongoing national consultations to determine its interest for each available negotiation.

Seychelles maintains a relatively open trade regime, with a significant proportion of tariff lines set at zero, particularly for essential goods and raw materials. Under its WTO commitments and regional trade agreements, Seychelles applies preferential tariff treatment on certain goods upon imports.

Seychelles applies zero tariffs on majority imports from the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa and SADC member states under the free trade area, which includes several LDCs.

Under the AfCFTA, Seychelles is gradually implementing tariff reductions, with a commitment to liberalize 90% of tariff lines upon the date of implementation, liberalize a further 7% over time, and maintain a 3% exclusion.



For imports, including from LDCs, Seychelles provides duty-free access for selected goods, particularly those that align with national economic and trade interests.

However, given the country's high import dependency and small domestic market, tariff policies are often structured to balance trade liberalization with the need to generate revenue. While a high proportion of goods from LDCs and developing countries benefit from zero or low tariffs, Seychelles applies a rate of zero percent for 87% of tariff lines at the most-favoured nation level and 94% under the AfCFTA.

## Financing

At the national and sectoral levels, frameworks define roles through strategic plans aligned with the NDS 2024–2028 and the annual budget, while integrating the SDGs. Since the 2008 reform, Seychelles adopted the Medium-Term Fiscal Framework to improve public financial management, introducing a 3-year budgeting approach, enhancing spending efficiency, promoting tax fairness, and strengthening public enterprise governance.

The ability of Seychelles to achieve its long-term development goals is greatly supported by a combination of strategic financial frameworks and initiatives. Seychelles has been actively implementing the INFF to provide a structured roadmap for financing its national development priorities. The process facilitates a comprehensive understanding of readily available financing sources while identifying risks and structural constraints to guide strategic reforms. This mechanism details the full range of financing options, domestic and international, public and private, ensuring a more coordinated approach to resource mobilization. Additionally, it strengthens national planning mechanisms by enhancing capital investment, managing financial risks, and exploring innovative financing solutions to overcome structural barriers in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Another initiative is *Program-for-Results* Financing under the World Bank, which has strengthened financing in Seychelles by linking funding to measurable improvements in the country's social protection system, increasing efficiency and accountability in public spending. The programme raises \$30 million - with around \$14 million disbursed to date- in budget support from the World Bank, which is allocated to support critical national priorities.

### Domestic Financing

Seychelles recognizes the importance of strengthening domestic resource mobilization to support sustainable economic development and reduce dependence on external financing. Tax revenue accounted for 95% of total government revenue in 2024 compared to 2019 when it was 88%.

Ongoing taxation efforts to garner more domestic resources include sunset clauses to phase out tax incentives, new taxes, new transfer pricing laws to combat base erosion and profit shifting, and the strengthening of the Revenue Administration Act.



Seychelles has continual missions and consultations, especially between the Seychelles Revenue Commission and the African Tax Administration Forum, World Bank, IMF, OECD, Tax Inspectors Without Borders and UNDP to address tax issues. Moreover, the Commission is continually making digitalization improvements, such as allowing for tax returns to be submitted online and tax liabilities to be settled electronically.

Tax incentives have been provided to encourage investments in certain sectors. For example, businesses engaged in fish processing and aquaculture benefit from a preferential flat 15% business tax rate for 10 years with infant companies in the aquaculture sector receiving a 5-year business tax exemption. Incentives have also been provided to businesses to encourage digital investments. Businesses can deduct 100% of the cost of software in the first 3 years, and pay no withholding tax on the technical service fee for software development between 2025 and 2029.

New taxes have also been introduced since 2020 to raise tax revenue. These include the environmental tourism sustainability levy, the accommodation turnover tax, and a 1.5% business tax rate on the gross turnover of virtual asset service providers and securities brokers. Furthermore, in 2024, UNDP conducted the SDG Taxation Framework assessment on SDG 7, SDG 8 and SDG 17 in Seychelles. The Framework assesses how Seychelles has used taxation to achieve the targets under each of the SDGs.

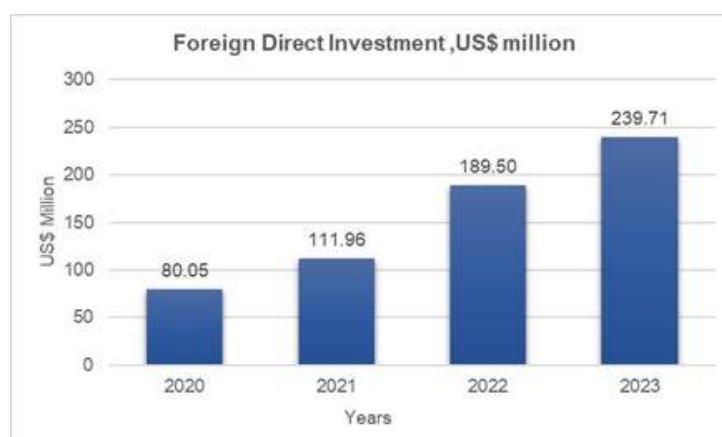
## Investments

Investment is a key driver in the successful implementation of the SDGs in Seychelles. By channelling financial resources into priority areas such as renewable energy, sustainable tourism, ocean-based industries, healthcare, and education, investment can spur economic growth, create decent jobs, and improve the overall quality of life. Mobilizing both domestic and international investment, including through public-private partnerships and development financing is vital to bridge resource gaps and ensure inclusive and sustainable progress toward the SDGs.

### Foreign direct investment

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, foreign direct investment decreased from US\$257.09 million to US\$80.05 million. However, since the pandemic, Seychelles has managed to increase the foreign direct investment value to \$239.71 million, an increase of 5.71%.

Figure 64: Foreign Direct Investment, US\$ million (2020-2023)

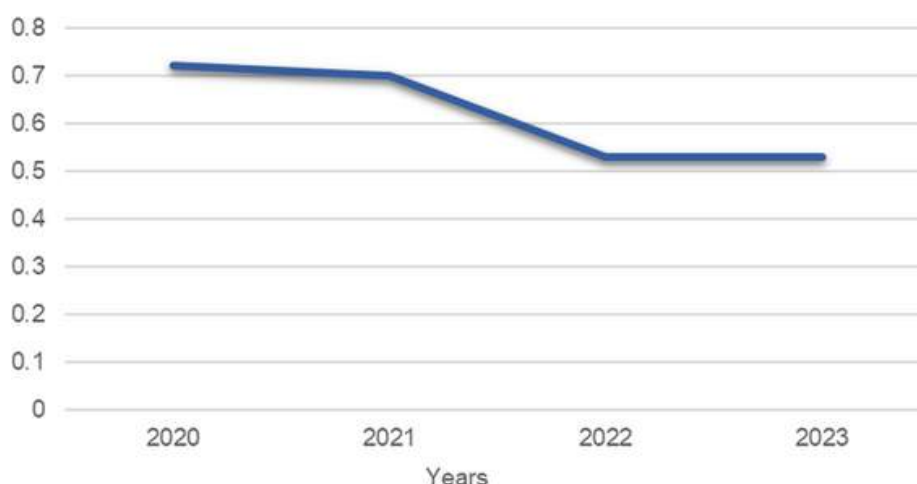




## Local Investment

Seychelles is a net sender of remittances, with outward flows exceeding inflows. In 2019, outward remittances were estimated at \$90 million, accounting for approximately 5.8% of the country's GDP. These remittances primarily stem from the wages of foreign workers employed in sectors like tourism, construction, and domestic services.

Figure 65: Outward remittances from Seychelles, US\$million



Source: Annual report, Central Bank of Seychelles

## Development Financing and Assistance

Through international engagements with bilateral partners, international partnerships have benefitted through grants and official development assistance supporting the implementation of SDGs.

In January 2021, the Government of the People's Republic of China committed 40 million Chinese yuan (approximately \$11 million) under the Economic Cooperation Agreement to support mutually agreed development projects in Seychelles. Of this amount, \$4.6 million was allocated to renewable energy initiatives. Additionally, China provided a grant of \$155,000 to the Seychelles Department of Foreign Affairs.

Bilateral partners such as India and the United Arab Emirates have supported the installation of solar and renewable energy in Seychelles. Under the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development and Masdar, a 5-MW solar farm on Île de Romainville was built in 2021 through an \$8.4 million loan. With the support of a line of credit from India, Seychelles completed projects to install solar-powered street lights in various areas across the country, as well as solar photovoltaic roofs on several government buildings. In April 2021, the 1-MW Solar plant at Romainville Island was inaugurated in a virtual ceremony in the presence of Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, and President of Seychelles, Mr. Wavel Ramkalawan.

Loans from the Qatar Fund for Development financed 12 units in the Vista Heights housing estate at Glacis district, completed in 2025. Under the Saudi Fund for Development, Seychelles is expected to receive a new school on La Digue island and 350 social housing units in the coming years.





## Capacity-building

Seychelles remains committed to strengthening capacity-building to effectively implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in alignment with national priorities, particularly in areas such as policy development, data collection, and resource mobilization. Recent initiatives include a peer-to-peer webinar facilitated by the UN Regional Coordinator's Office in January 2025, which enabled knowledge-sharing on best practices for the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process. Additionally, a UNDP-led workshop in December 2024 focused on applying the “Leave no one behind” principle to climate action, promoting inclusive strategies and gender-sensitive approaches in pursuit of Seychelles’ goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Seychelles has actively benefited from a wide range of international capacity-building initiatives across critical sectors. Through the support of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, national stakeholders—including the Disaster Risk Management Division and the Police Force—have gained valuable training in chemical safety, legislative preparedness, and emergency response, with a focus on inclusive participation such as specialized training for women first responders. Meanwhile, collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union has enhanced Seychelles’ digital capabilities through workshops on cybersecurity, spectrum management, and early warning systems, further advancing the country’s digital transformation agenda.

Other key partnerships include the Alliance of Small Island States Climate Change Fellowship Programme, which provides early-career Seychellois professionals with international exposure and experience in global climate negotiations. The Universal Postal Union has also contributed to modernizing Seychelles’ postal systems and strengthening e-commerce readiness. Additionally, the Commonwealth has played a vital role by hosting and supporting a series of high-level events in Seychelles on cybercrime, legislative reform, disability inclusion, and anti-corruption. These collaborative efforts reflect the country’s commitment to building institutional resilience and advancing sustainable development through strategic global partnerships.



## Summary

Seychelles actively supports a fair and inclusive global trading system through its engagement with the WTO and regional trade blocs. Since joining the WTO in 2015, it has advocated for small and vulnerable economies, focusing on fisheries, trade facilitation, and development issues. Domestically, it is diversifying exports and modernizing trade systems, while maintaining low tariffs and supporting duty-free access for LDCs.

Advancements are being made through strategic planning, financial reforms, and capacity-building. In addition, key tools like the medium-term fiscal framework, INFF, and instruments like the *Program-for-Results* link funding to national priorities and outcomes. Tax reforms and digitalization boost domestic revenue, while targeted incentives attract investment.

Support from international partners and capacity-building initiatives strengthen governance, climate action, and sustainable development across sectors.

Furthermore, the UNSDCF 2024–2028 between the Government of Seychelles and the United Nations, supports policy and institutional coherence by aligning with Vision 2033, the NDS, and the 2030 Agenda. With a budget of nearly \$50 million, it targets three key areas: inclusive human development (People), economic resilience (Prosperity), and climate and ecosystem protection (Planet). Implementation is guided by a Joint Steering Committee and specialized Result Groups, ensuring coordinated oversight, planning, and evaluation across national and United Nations partners.

Next steps include deepening strategic fiscal reforms, strengthening data systems and the SDG monitoring and evaluation framework, continuing with strong SDG coordination and improved donor partnerships, and active participation in trade relations.



# The Data Journey

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) once again assumed a central role in Seychelles' 2025 Voluntary National Review (VNR), leading the data collection and coordination process, building on the experience gained during the 2020 VNR. Over a nine-month period, NBS engaged stakeholders through consultations, bilateral working sessions, and inter-institutional meetings to ensure the availability, quality, and consistency of data underpinning Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) reporting.

A standardized reporting template, aligned with the official SDG indicator framework of 234 unique indicators across 17 Goals and 169 targets, guided the data compilation process. While the framework was comprehensive, not all indicators were directly relevant or feasible within the Seychelles context due to structural or contextual differences.

Despite various challenges, Seychelles successfully reported data on 151 SDG indicators—representing 65.4% of the global indicator framework—demonstrating significant progress since the 2020 review. The VNR 2025 process highlighted both improvements in institutional data collaboration and enduring gaps that require sustained attention.

## Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration

Effective partnerships were foundational to the success of the data journey. The NBS worked closely with multiple Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), capitalizing on existing relationships to streamline data requests. The Ministry of Health (MOH), in particular, emerged as a model for institutional alignment, integrating SDG priorities into its annual reporting systems and facilitating timely data provision for Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being).

However, coordination challenges were evident. In some cases, the responsible agency for a given indicator was unclear, leading to delays and inefficiencies in data collection. The absence of designated focal points often resulted in circuitous inquiries. When institutions were identified, data availability remained inconsistent, underscoring the importance of clear mandates and formal communication protocols.

## Data Availability and Gaps

Seychelles achieved notable progress in collecting data for Goals 3, 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 13 (Climate Action), and 14 (Life Below Water), where institutional mechanisms were more mature and sectoral data more readily accessible. Conversely, persistent data gaps hampered reporting on Goals 2 (Zero Hunger), 5 (Gender Equality), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and 15 (Life on Land), due largely to unstandardized formats, outdated systems, and limited institutional capacity.

Moreover, legal constraints and sensitivity around specific datasets—particularly those involving gender, justice, or vulnerable populations—complicated data access and required careful negotiation to balance transparency with confidentiality.



### Key Challenges in Data Collaboration

The 2025 VNR process exposed several systemic challenges in Seychelles' data ecosystem:

**Lack of Standardization:** Varied methodologies among MDAs led to inconsistencies. The use of metadata, such as from the UNFCCC for Indicator 13.b.1, proved helpful in aligning interpretations across institutions.

**Data Quality and Completeness:** Submissions often lacked clarity or full contextual data, such as percentage values without raw numbers, prompting time-consuming follow-up.

**Limited Stakeholder Engagement:** In some cases, agencies viewed SDG reporting as outside their core responsibilities, contributing to delayed responses and limited ownership of the process.

**Data Sharing Constraints:** Issues related to data security, ownership, and confidentiality occasionally hindered cooperation. This highlighted the need for formal data-sharing agreements and governance frameworks grounded in trust and accountability.

### Sources of Data

To ensure the credibility of reported indicators, NBS utilized a diverse range of data sources:

**Administrative Records:** Civil registration data and operational statistics from key agencies formed the backbone of demographic and public service indicators.

**Household Surveys and Censuses:** The Population and Housing Census, Household Budget Survey, and Labour Force Survey provided granular, disaggregated data critical for evaluating access, inequality, and economic conditions.

**Statistical Bulletins:** Regular publications on crime, justice, tourism, and national accounts offered timely insights into sectoral trends.

**Institutional Reports:** Sector-specific annual reports, including those from MOH and the Seychelles Human Rights Commission, were key sources for Goals 3 and 16, among others.

### Capacity Needs and Institutional Strengthening

While working groups established during the process facilitated inter-agency collaboration, the experience underscored the need for more robust institutional capacity. Key capacity gaps included:

- Technical expertise in data analytics, big data applications, and SDG indicator methodologies.
- Regular training for data producers across MDAs to improve reporting quality and consistency.





- Clear, standardized timelines and protocols for submission and validation of data.
- Stronger partnerships and engagement frameworks to improve data flow and responsiveness.

## Persistent Challenges

Despite progress, key limitations remain:

- **Insufficient Disaggregated Data:** Lack of breakdowns by age, sex, disability, and region weakened the ability to assess inequalities and target interventions effectively.
- **Capacity Constraints:** Technical skills for indicator mapping, interpretation, and validation remain underdeveloped in many MDAs.
- **Institutional Coordination:** Overlapping mandates, limited awareness, and weak communication channels continue to undermine efficiency.
- **Data Quality and Alignment:** Variations in methodologies—especially in justice and crime statistics—reduced comparability with international frameworks such as ICCS.

## Recommendations

To address the above, the following actions are proposed:

- **Prioritize High-Impact SDGs:** Focus initially on core Goals (e.g., 1–4) to consolidate resources and demonstrate early wins.
- **Establish a National SDG Data Coordination Mechanism:** Form a permanent technical working group with designated focal points and clear responsibilities.
- **Enhance Transparency and Public Awareness:** Make SDG data publicly accessible through open data portals and reports to foster civic engagement.
- **Define Clear Timelines and Reporting Cycles:** Institutionalize a regular, predictable SDG reporting cycle across agencies.
- **Adopt Integrated Reporting Tools:** Leverage digital platforms that harmonize SDG, Agenda 2063, and national development indicators to reduce duplication and improve alignment.

Seychelles' 2025 VNR data journey reflects meaningful progress, tempered by persistent systemic challenges. The NBS has reaffirmed its leadership in national data stewardship, with expanding experience in coordinating multisectoral data for global reporting. With further investment in institutional capacity, clearer coordination mechanisms, and a commitment to transparency, Seychelles is well-positioned to strengthen its SDG monitoring system and accelerate progress toward sustainable development.

# Science, Technology and Innovation



Science, technology and innovation are crucial for SIDS as they provide the tools to address unique challenges such as climate change, limited resources, and vulnerability to natural disasters. By leveraging these fields, SIDS can drive sustainable development, enhance resilience, and create new economic opportunities, particularly through innovation in sectors like renewable energy, marine resources, and digital technologies.

Science, technology and innovation also play a pivotal role in achieving the SDGs by fostering inclusive economic growth, improving efficiency and accessibility of healthcare, enhancing education, and addressing environmental sustainability. For SIDS, science, technology and innovation can bridge gaps in infrastructure and capacity, enabling more efficient and impactful implementation of the SDGs, while enhancing collaboration with global partners to tackle shared challenges.

Implementation of science, technology and innovation in Seychelles is mainly driven by the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy and Strategy 2016–2025. From 2016 to 2021, this was under the National Institute of Science Technology and Innovation but since the act repealing that institution, these fields are now the responsibility of the Division of Science, Technology and Innovation in the Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry. The objectives outlined in the Policy and Strategy are still being implemented.

Several initiatives had already been accomplished by the Division of Science, Technology and Innovation before its mid-way review in 2022–2023. The Ministry recognizes that the implementation of the Policy has been somewhat hindered by several factors, such as limited local capacity in the field and limited financial resources to spearhead projects and implement recommendations, since many of these projects are capital-intensive undertakings. Below are some of the achievements so far.

- Conducted the first-ever Seychelles R&D and Innovation Survey in 2016–2017 thus producing Seychelles GERD for the first time;
- Established science, technology and innovation clubs in both private and public schools;
- Introduced different science and technology-related initiatives such as the First Global Robotics Competition and a coding boot camp;
- Incorporated science, technology and innovation into many national policies, such as the Blue Economy Roadmap and other blue economy initiatives.
- Developed a business technology innovation framework with the financial support of AfDB;
- Conducted the first-ever Seychelles Technology Assessment with the support of UNCTAD;
- Created an innovation ecosystem in Seychelles by collaborating with different stakeholders



UNCTAD, in collaboration with Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry, conducted a science, technology and innovation policy review for Seychelles during 2022 and 2023. The review offered 10 key recommendations for the continued advancement of science, technology and innovation in Seychelles, which the Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry has begun to implement since receiving the reviewed policy. Below are the key recommendations with updates of its implementation to date.

### **1.Foster political and public engagement in science, technology and innovation**

The Division of Science, Technology and Innovation continues to improve science, technology and innovation literacy among policymakers and enhance public awareness through collaboration with media, civil society, and educational institutions. The Division has successfully developed a strong collaboration with the Ministry of Education which has now taken over the leadership in regards to science and technology-related initiatives for continued implementation in a more coordinated manner.

The Government has shown commitment to the promotion of science, technology and innovation across the economy, as illustrated by the establishment of a Digital Economy Agenda, overseen by a steering committee co-chaired by the Ministers of Finance, National Planning and Trade and, Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry. The Government has also revived and revised the Seed Capital Grant Scheme to support MSMEs in diversification, technology and innovative projects.

### **2.Strengthen institutional frameworks for science, technology and innovation**

The Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry is currently in the process of restructuring the Division of Science, Technology and Innovation and reviewing its mandate to ensure that it is still relevant in today's context, especially in light of the rapid advancement of technology and innovation.

### **3. Update the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy and Strategy**

The National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy and Strategy is coming to an end in 2025 and so a new Policy and Strategy will be needed, to reflect emerging trends like the Fourth Industrial Revolution, open science, artificial intelligence and the growing roles of the private sector and civil society in economic development.

### **4. Set clear R&D and innovation priorities**

The Ministry is working on a National Research Framework to define national research priorities. Seychelles went through a technology assessment with the support of UNCTAD and now has the expertise to carry out other technology assessment needs in the country, to ensure greater gains in the application of technology for national development.



## **5. Establish innovation and R&D financing mechanisms**

The Ministry is finalizing a proposal for a national R&D fund to mobilize public and private resources, support innovation, and incentivize private sector investment in R&D. The seed capital policy was reviewed in 2023 to incorporate criteria encouraging more innovation among start-ups to support the country's promotion of science, technology and innovation application and diversification agenda.

## **6. Enhance regional and international and science, technology and innovation engagement**

The Ministry continues to increase participation in global and regional science, technology and innovation platforms, such as the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development and SADC. The country needs to ensure that it benefits more from its participation in these engagements and developments.

Before 2021, the Seychelles diaspora was tapped to leverage their expertise in science, technology and innovation but it was not done within an organized framework.

## **7. Develop science, technology and innovation talent and skills**

The Ministry is working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, and they recognize a need for a more detailed and targeted labour forecast to predict science, technology and innovation labour force needs for the future and align skills development with labour market needs, including dedicated support for SMEs.

## **8. Improve financial services for SMEs**

Since 2024 Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry has recognized the need to create a more conducive ecosystem for alternative forms of financing. This is an ongoing process, and the Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry, in collaboration with other stakeholders such as the Central Bank of Seychelles and the Seychelles Bankers' Association, is working on a nationwide financial education campaign to educate entrepreneurs on the importance of financial management including how to create a banking history through maintaining a business bank account. This will in turn facilitate access to banking and other digital financial tools. The objective is to eventually bridge the gap between financing institutions and MSMEs, the principal entities facing difficulties in accessing necessary financing.

The Ministry is pursuing alternative financing options to improve access to funding for startups and emerging sectors, especially where traditional banks may lack expertise. It is also working with local and international partners to integrate science, technology, and innovation (STI) into the economy. Seychelles was one of six African nations selected to create a roadmap for SDG implementation, focusing on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Through partnerships with groups like SeyCCAT and UNDP, the Ministry supports entrepreneurial ecosystems by offering financial aid and technical assistance to incubatees. Efforts are ongoing to strengthen the National Innovation System and advance Vision 2033 and the SDGs, despite limited institutional capacity and STI expertise. The focus remains on using innovation as a key driver of sustainable development.





## Means of Implementation

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a core component of the development agenda of Seychelles, and the SDGs are key to realizing shared prosperity for all. Successful implementation requires a coordinated approach with careful consideration to sustained financing in line with the country's macro fiscal framework and budgetary implications. In the case of Seychelles, financing for development as a high-income SIDS remains a challenge in view of limited concessional financing options.

ABAS, adopted at the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2024, is a landmark framework that charts a strategic course for sustainable development across SIDS over the coming decade. ABAS highlights the distinct vulnerabilities faced by these States and calls for strengthened global solidarity and decisive action to build a sustainable, resilient future. As a proud SIDS, Seychelles stands at the forefront of this agenda, recognizing the strong alignment between ABAS priorities and its own NDS.

SIDS remain a distinct case for sustainable development due to their inherent vulnerabilities. Despite challenges, SIDS have consistently upheld stable, democratic governance and worked to build resilient economies and safe, inclusive societies, even amid global turbulence. Seychelles, for instance, has achieved significant milestones across various governance indices. The past two decades have seen SIDS disproportionately affected by major crises – recalling the 2008 global financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 – while also facing intensifying climate-related disasters, such as the severe flooding and landslides experienced by Seychelles in December 2023.

Notwithstanding these challenges, Seychelles and SIDS more broadly have emerged as global leaders in areas such as climate action, sustainable finance, and ocean stewardship. As reiterated by the ABAS, SIDS manage nearly 20% of the world's exclusive economic zones, safeguarding vital marine resources. They have pioneered progressive policies and concrete multilateral initiatives, exemplified by innovative efforts of Seychelles such as the world's first sovereign blue bond and its groundbreaking debt-for-nature swap, underscoring its long-standing leadership in climate resilience.

The 2025 Seychelles VNR is framed with a clear understanding of the evolving global landscape as Seychelles strives to enhance the well-being of its citizens. In line with the ABAS, the VNR report contains a recognition that Seychelles – like other SIDS – faces unique vulnerabilities stemming from factors such as small geographic size, isolation, dispersed populations, economic concentration, heavy reliance on external markets, and heightened exposure to natural disasters and climate change. Importantly, the VNR, similarly to the ABAS, underscores that vulnerability is not synonymous with weakness or limited development potential. Instead, it emphasizes that while SIDS bear disproportionate economic and non-economic impacts, this reality calls for tailored, sustained global support and deepened solidarity.



The 2025 VNR process provided an opportunity for renewed efforts on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda through key areas for financing sustainable development. These include domestic public resources, domestic and international private business and finance, international development cooperation, international trade, debt sustainability, addressing systemic issues, science, technology, innovation, and capacity-building. Recalling the Agenda, mobilizing and effectively utilizing domestic resources is essential for Seychelles to achieve sustainable development and meet its national and global commitments, including the SDGs.

As a SIDS reliant on tourism and fisheries revenues, Seychelles recognizes the importance of strengthening its tax system to ensure fairness, transparency, and efficiency. The country remains committed to broadening its tax base and improving tax administration. Seychelles has also set nationally defined targets (e.g. 50% debt-to-GDP by 2030) to enhance domestic revenue mobilization and welcomes international support and cooperation to build capacity through strategic technical partnerships – particularly in areas such as digitalization of tax systems and climate-related financing.

Moreover, Seychelles supports global efforts to reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, recognizing their harmful impact on domestic resource mobilization. Through the work of key national institutions such as the Seychelles Revenue Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission of Seychelles, the country is committed to combating tax evasion and corruption through stronger prevention measures, national regulation and enhanced international cooperation. Seychelles also benefits from global initiatives promoting financial transparency, tax fairness, and asset recovery. Strengthening international tax cooperation, including support from institutions like the United Nations, IMF, and OECD, remains crucial for safeguarding public revenue and promoting sustainable development.

## **Debt and Debt Sustainability**

Debt instruments have been strategically utilized by the Seychelles Government, given borrowing constraints outlined in the macro-fiscal framework and limited access to favorable borrowing options due to the country's high-income status. The Government's primary debt management objective is firmly rooted in international best practices, as advocated by leading institutions such as IMF, the World Bank, and other global authorities. In line with these recommendations, the overarching goal is to ensure that the Government's financing needs and debt service obligations are met in a timely manner, while minimizing costs and maintaining a prudent level of risk. To support the achievement of its primary debt management objective, the Government will continue to pursue the following strategic goals over the medium term:

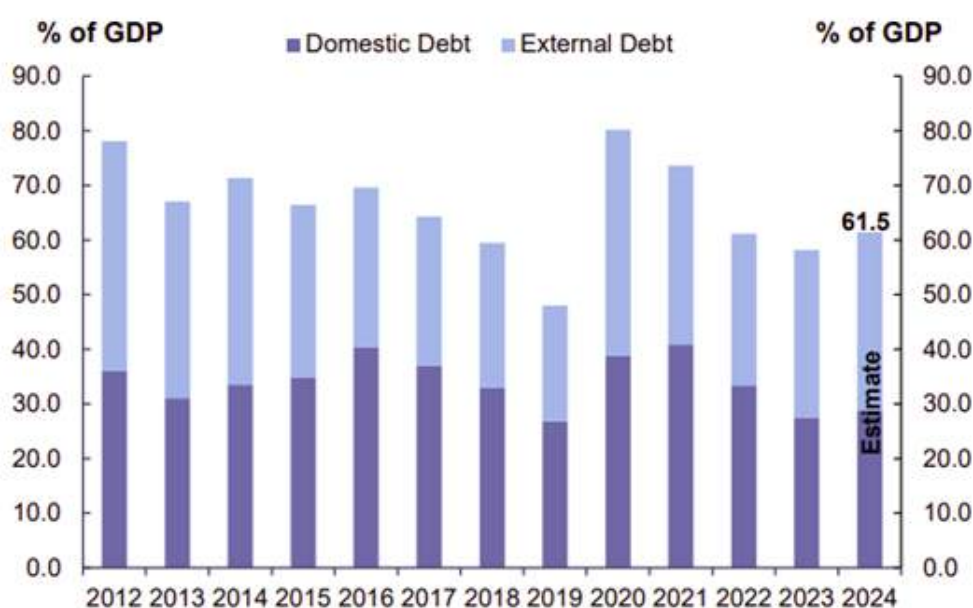
- i. Enhance coordination between fiscal and monetary authorities by ensuring both parties are fully aware of the implications of the Government's financing needs and monetary policy decisions on the level and growth trajectory of public debt.
- ii. Establish an optimal public debt structure that balances cost-efficiency with risk mitigation, addressing vulnerabilities such as currency mismatches, interest rate volatility, refinancing pressures, and operational risks.
- iii. Align borrowing with the country's medium-term repayment capacity, ensuring public debt remains within sustainable limits from both a fiscal and balance-of-payments standpoint.



iv. Support the development of the domestic financial market by promoting deeper market participation and extending the debt maturity profile to foster greater stability and resilience.

In the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis, Seychelles experienced a severe debt crisis that prompted the launch of a comprehensive macroeconomic reform agenda. Central to this effort was an ambitious debt restructuring programme aimed at restoring fiscal sustainability. Since then, the Government has made substantial strides in both reducing the overall debt burden and enhancing the composition and resilience of its public debt portfolio.

**Figure 66: Debt to GDP ratio for selected years**



Source: MoFNPT, Debt Management Division

As illustrated in figure 66 above, the country's total public debt stock declined from approximately 78% of GDP in 2012 to around 67% in 2013. However, the pace of debt reduction slowed due to monetary policy in 2014 and a loosening of fiscal policy in 2016. Despite these developments, the debt continued its downward trajectory until 2019.

However, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 - coinciding with the country's inaugural VNR - significantly disrupted economic activity and strained the Government's fiscal position. A sharp drop in revenue, combined with a substantial depreciation of the domestic currency, forced the Government to seek budget support loans to cover the widening fiscal deficit. As a result, the debt-to-GDP ratio surged to over 80% by the end of 2020, placing the country's debt on an unsustainable path.

A strong economic rebound in 2021 – driven by the reopening of borders, a recovery in GDP growth, and the resumption of fiscal consolidation efforts – helped reverse this trend. The improved exchange rate and sustained fiscal discipline led to a notable decline in the debt-to-GDP ratio that year. The Government continued to build on this momentum in 2022 and 2023, further reducing the debt stock through robust fiscal consolidation.



As of the first quarter of 2025, the total Government and Government-guaranteed debt stands at SCR 18.4 billion, representing approximately 56.1% of GDP. The debt stock is slightly dominated by external debt totalling SCR 9.5 billion, equal to 29.0% of GDP, while domestic debt amounts to SCR 8.9 billion, or 27.1% of GDP.

Looking ahead, the debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to increase slightly to 60.8% in 2025, reflecting the Government's continued external budget support and guarantees to State-owned enterprises as they undertake major projects which will have positive economic benefits. Nevertheless, the Government remains firmly committed to its pre-COVID fiscal objective of reducing the debt-to-GDP ratio to around 50% by 2030. While key risks to debt sustainability have been mitigated, external uncertainties – particularly ongoing geopolitical tensions – continue to pose challenges and will require continued vigilance in fiscal and debt management policies.

This prudent and forward-looking approach to debt management has positioned Seychelles on a path of greater financial stability and resilience. By maintaining sustainable debt levels and adhering to sound fiscal discipline, the Government is better prepared to absorb external shocks and navigate an increasingly uncertain global environment. Crucially, this creates fiscal space by reducing the burden of debt servicing, allowing more public resources to be channelled toward national development priorities such as healthcare, education, infrastructure, and environmental sustainability.

Moreover, this strong fiscal foundation supports the effective implementation of the SDGs, primarily through the mobilization of domestic resources. At the same time, it enhances the credibility and capacity of Seychelles to leverage additional support from international development partners. By combining domestic efforts with global cooperation, Seychelles is laying the groundwork for inclusive, sustainable growth that benefits both current and future generations.





# Integrated National Financing Frameworks

Integrated national financing frameworks enable countries to enhance their development planning and address key obstacles to financing sustainable development and achieving the SDGs. They provide a comprehensive overview of all potential financing sources – both public and private, domestic and international – and support the creation of a coherent strategy to mobilize investment, manage financial risks, and align resources with the country's sustainable development priorities, as outlined in its national strategy.

INFFs are built around four key components: assessment and diagnostics, financing strategy, monitoring and review, and governance and coordination. These elements work together in an iterative process to strengthen a country's ability to plan and manage sustainable development financing.

**Figure 67: Building Blocks of INFFs**



While the framework's structure is consistent, the specific activities are adapted to each country's unique context, building on existing systems and reflecting national priorities, capacities, and challenges.



# A roadmap for building an effective integrated national financing framework

## (Joint section between Seychelles and the Dominican Republic)

The Dominican Republic and Seychelles have taken a decisive step by embarking on the development of an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), understanding that financing must be viewed as a priority “means of implementation” to achieve the SDGs. This initiative is particularly significant for both countries as SIDS, a condition that uniquely exposes them to risks arising from climate change, natural disasters, and disruptions to global supply chains, among many other challenges.

Integrated national financing frameworks have emerged as a proven tool, adopted by more than 90 countries to fund the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the national level. Their approach focuses on diagnosing the constraints that limit resource mobilization and allocation, generating recommendations to overcome them, and strengthening institutional capacities in planning, budgeting, and monitoring. By articulating public, private, and international cooperation financing instruments, INFFs facilitate the development of an integrated financing strategy for development that aligns national priorities with available resource flows. In this sense, building an INFF involves an iterative process, ranging from mapping financing sources to designing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that feed back into public policy decisions.

In this process, the Dominican Republic and Seychelles benefit from the technical support of the United Nations system (UN System), especially through the Financing for SIDS (FINS) project led by the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). This support is particularly valuable for two fundamental reasons. First, FINS is specifically designed to adapt to the particular needs of SIDS, recognizing their vulnerabilities and unique contexts. Second, the project promotes a deeply integrated and inclusive implementation, incentivizing government institutions – particularly public planning and budgeting teams – to lead and carry forward INFF building within their own institutional scope, with an emphasis on strengthening their internal capacities.

In the case of the Dominican Republic, the INFF implementation process began early and has progressed at a significant pace. The country has developed innovative methodologies for monitoring development financing, as well as analytical tools that generate evidence for prioritizing public expenditure and identifying bottlenecks in strategic SDG areas. These tools allow visualization of the current financing landscape, facilitating informed decisions to reallocate resources and boost investments in key sectors.

Meanwhile, Seychelles is at an initial yet promising phase of its INFF development process with a proactive approach to aligning national development priorities with sustainable financing.



Building on the initial INFF training delivered in early 2025, Seychelles is advancing a structured, whole-of-government financing dialogue through the development of an INFF Action Plan. A key expectation from this process is the formulation of a cohesive strategy that strengthens the coherence of public finance and development policies. Central to this approach is the costing of strategic interventions outlined in the NDS 2024–2028, thereby ensuring that public investments are better aligned with the SDGs and other international commitments.

In the Dominican case, an INFF leadership strategy materialized through an effective combination of political and technical leadership. Politically, the Deputy Minister for Planning at the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Development (MEPyD) has been crucial in attracting the participation of key actors from the public and private sectors and from international cooperation. Simultaneously, the technical leadership of the same Deputy Minister has significantly accelerated the implementation process, generating a positive dynamic between high-level strategic decisions and technical execution. The experience has also highlighted the importance of identifying regional benchmarks to guide this process. In a context where more than 90 countries have implemented various INFF approaches, it is crucial to learn from successful cases that share similar characteristics. In this regard, Mexico and Colombia have been particularly valuable references for the Dominican Republic, significantly influencing the formulation and development of its work plan.

The INFF process in Seychelles also promotes cross-sectoral dialogue, reinforcing the need for strong governance structures to coordinate financing across public, private, and international actors. Through its INFF, Seychelles aims to create a unified financing vision that strengthens national ownership and institutional capacities while catalyzing new and diversified sources of finance for sustainable development. A major innovation in Seychelles' INFF journey is the introduction of SDG budget tagging – a pivotal step toward enhancing transparency and accountability in public spending. The tagging process allows the government to systematically identify, track, and analyze budget allocations that contribute to specific SDGs. This not only facilitates evidence-based decision-making but also supports more effective resource mobilization by highlighting funding gaps and opportunities for reallocation or external support.

Although both countries are still in implementation phases, important lessons learned have already emerged that can significantly benefit other SIDS participating in the FINS project – as well as any developing country that decides to implement an INFF. Experience has shown that one of the key factors for successful implementation is the identification of influential leaders in the public sector, capable of driving engagement from relevant actors across the public, private, and international cooperation sectors. These leaders must complement each other's political and technical skills.

Another fundamental lesson is to begin implementation with quickly actionable activities that can generate tangible short-term results. Clear examples include SDG budget tagging and the adoption of methodologies such as Policy Priority Inference (PPI).



These initial achievements have the dual effect of strengthening institutional capacities – by enabling public agencies to gain a more precise understanding of the current public financing situation – and generating immediate interest among other relevant actors who can join the process.

Moreover, both countries agree on the importance of the UN System's flexible technical support, which allows agile incorporation of recommendations from the host government. This feature has enabled assistance to be adjusted according to emerging priorities and ensured that methodologies and tools effectively respond to national needs. In both the Dominican Republic and Seychelles, this adaptability has reinforced confidence in the process, fostering horizontal cooperation and energizing the implementation of planned activities.

The shared expectation of the Dominican Republic and Seychelles in implementing their INFFs is clear: to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and address their nations' development needs through efficient allocation and execution of public resources, coupled with effective coordination with private-sector stakeholders and international partners. Ultimately, the fundamental purpose is to establish a robust INFF, which is capable of consistently providing the necessary inputs to effectively fulfil the long-term development agendas of both countries, thereby consolidating an exemplary sustainable financing model that can serve other nations facing similar challenges.





## SDG Budget Tagging

With the support of DESA, the 2025 Public Budget underwent the SDG budget tagging process. For the 2024–2027 Medium-Term Expenditure Strategy, the Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade, with support from DESA, established a direct connection between expenditure strategies at the ministry, department, and agency level and the 169 SDG targets. This integration at the program level provides a comprehensive overview of the country's progress in financing the SDGs. The key outcomes for 2024 and 2025 are outlined below, offering a snapshot of current SDG financing in 2024 and projected expenditures for 2025.

**Figure 68: SDG Budget Tagging of the 2024 and 2025 Public Budget**



Figure 68 above highlights Seychelles' ongoing budgetary commitment to SDGs related to health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), and strong institutions (SDG 16). Furthermore, Seychelles' SDG financing for 2024 and 2025 also prioritizes reducing inequalities and promoting greater equal opportunities within the country (SDG 10). When comparing the 2024 and 2025 fiscal years, there is a notable increase in funding across most SDGs, with a significant rise in allocations for sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11) and health (SDG 3). These enhanced allocations reflect Seychelles' dedication to Priority Area 3 of the NDS, as well as its focus on education, law and order, and other key areas of national development.

## Conclusion and Next Steps

Seychelles, a high-income SIDS with a small population compared to regional and global peers, has made significant strides over the past five years. Despite inherent vulnerabilities – such as geographic isolation, economic dependence on tourism and fisheries, and exposure to climate-related risks – the country has demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability. Its development journey is marked by the consistent ability to overcome formidable challenges, achieving renewed growth and notable socioeconomic progress.

Today, Seychelles faces the critical task of consolidating and building upon these achievements. Continued progress in key areas such as good governance, accountability, transparency, health, education, and the blue economy – including fisheries – remains essential to sustain long-term development and resilience.



### Addressing Economic Vulnerability

To reduce economic vulnerability and ensure long-term resilience, Seychelles must actively diversify its economy beyond its heavy reliance on tourism. This requires not only expanding the range of tourism products offered – particularly through innovation and targeting niche markets – but also attracting both domestic and foreign investment into other promising sectors. Agriculture, for instance, presents

niche opportunities that could be harnessed through targeted production and export strategies. Similarly, greater emphasis should be placed on value addition within the fisheries and blue economy sectors, maximizing returns from existing resources. Strategic investments that involve and empower local investors, fishers, and other economic actors can foster inclusive growth and build national capacity. However, all economic development must be grounded in principles of sustainability to safeguard the country's natural resource base for future generations. By pursuing a balanced and inclusive approach, Seychelles can build a more robust and self-reliant economy.



### Strengthening Human Resource Capacity

Despite its small population, Seychelles must prioritize strengthening its human resource capacity by improving educational outcomes and performance across all levels. A key area for development is Technical and Vocational Education and Training, which can equip the workforce with the practical and technical skills needed to drive productivity across key economic sectors. In parallel, high-value,

specialized skills need to be cultivated to support the transition to a knowledge-based economy. Retaining skilled workers and maximizing their contributions is essential for crafting effective, homegrown policies and accelerating national development. This process must be inclusive, ensuring that all learners – regardless of gender – have equal access to quality education and training opportunities.

Although education remains free at the point of use, focused efforts are needed to boost its quality and impact. Moreover, addressing social issues such as drug and alcohol abuse is crucial, as these problems directly affect workforce readiness, contribute to crime and antisocial behaviour, and hinder overall national productivity. By tackling these interconnected challenges, Seychelles can achieve stronger returns on its investment in education and foster a healthier, more capable society.

### **Strengthen the Sustainable Development Goal Data Framework**

A central priority is to strengthen the SDG data framework and formalize the necessary institutional arrangements to support it. This involves embedding SDG indicators and data collection processes across all relevant stakeholders and enhancing their capacity to engage effectively. A robust network of key partners and clearly designated points of contact will be crucial, alongside formalizing structures that ensure systematic data collection and reporting.

Integration of the SDGs into existing national frameworks – including sectoral policies, strategies, and action plans – is also essential. Seychelles has already made progress in this regard, for example, through the introduction of SDG budget tagging, and similar efforts should be expanded across other sectors.



### **Leveraging Appropriate Technology & Digital Solutions**

Advancement of digital tools and solutions are essential drivers for the successful implementation of the SDGs, and Seychelles is uniquely positioned to leverage them for sustainable growth. The ongoing Seychelles Digital Economy Agenda emphasises lifelong learning and innovation, focusing on digitalization priorities and enhancing e-government, which in turn supports both economic growth and public sector efficiency. By embracing digital

technologies, Seychelles can drive progress across various SDGs, particularly in areas such as economic growth, education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

For Seychelles, a small island State with limited resources, digital transformation offers immense potential to diversify its economy and enhance resilience. The World Bank highlights that the digital economy contributes over 15% of global GDP and has been growing at a rate 2.5 times faster than the traditional economy. Yet, despite these opportunities, Seychelles taps into only a small fraction of this potential. To fully harness the power of digital technologies, Seychelles must adopt a forward-thinking strategy that prioritizes digital investments and strengthens the foundational pillars of the digital economy.

For example:



- SDG 3: Good health and well-being – Implementing digital health technologies, like telemedicine and electronic health records, would increase access to quality healthcare, especially in remote areas, and increase the efficiency of health services, contributing to better health outcomes. The Health Information System is currently being rolled out, with more advanced features being progressively introduced over time.
- SDG 4: Quality education – By expanding digital education platforms, Seychelles can offer lifelong learning opportunities, allowing citizens to acquire new, digital skills, improve employability, and stay competitive in the global economy.
- SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure – Investing in digital infrastructure, such as high-speed internet and cloud computing, would enhance the country's innovation capacity, foster entrepreneurship, and improve access to markets, boosting the country's industrial and economic development.
- SDG 10: Reduced inequalities – Expanding digital inclusion initiatives can bridge the gap between urban and rural populations, ensuring equitable access to digital services, education, and economic opportunities for all Seychellois.
- SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions – Strengthening e-government systems can improve public service delivery, transparency, and accountability, thereby fostering trust in government institutions and ensuring effective governance.

By embracing digital technologies, Seychelles can unlock vast opportunities for economic diversification and job creation and improve the quality of life for its citizens, while advancing the SDGs.

### **Raising SDG Awareness and Building Implementation Capacity**

In addition, raising awareness of the remaining work required over the final stretch toward 2030 is imperative. With just five years left to achieve the SDGs, concerted efforts must focus on mobilizing stakeholders, aligning national priorities, and maintaining momentum.

### **Partnerships & Advocacy**

Strengthening partnerships with all development partners – both local and international – will also be key. By building on existing successes and fostering greater cooperation, Seychelles can maximize its impact, ensuring that its development pathway remains inclusive, sustainable, and resilient.





# Statistical Annex

## Key



**Achieved**









**On Track**










**Trailing**


















Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere							
Target	Indicator	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline data	Current year (period)	Current Progress	Status
1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day	1.1.1 Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)	%	2013	39.3	2018	25.3	
1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age group	%	2013	39%	2018	25.3	
	Multidimensional Poverty by age				2019	0.04	










Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline Year	Baseline data	Current year period	Current Progress	Status
2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round	2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment	%	2019	<2.5	2022	<2.5	
	2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	%	2017	3.2	2022	3.2	
2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons	2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age		2019	7.9	2022	7.2	
	2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by wasting and overweight	%	2019				
	Wasting		2019	4.3			
	Overweight		2019	10.2	2023	9.1	
	2.2.3 Prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15 to 49 years, by pregnancy status (percentage)	%	2019	25.1	2024	24.3	










Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline data	Current year (Period)	Current Progress	Status
3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births	3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio	Per 100,000 live births	2019	62.3	2023	64.4	
	3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	%	2019	98.8	2023	99.7	
3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births	3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate	Per 1,000 live births	2019	17.4	2023	18	
	3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate	Per 1,000 live births	2019	8.7	2023	12.2	
3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases	3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population	Per 100,000 total population	2019	112	2023	71	
	3.3.1.a By sex						
	Male			149		79	
	Female			73		62	
	3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	Per 100,000 total population	2019	13.3	2023	19.2	
	malaria incidence per 1,000 population	Per 100,000 total population					











Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline data	Current year (Period)	Current Progress	Status
3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being	3.4.1 Mortality rate per 100,000 mid-year population	Per 100,000 total population	2019	814.3	2023	733.9	
	3.4.1.a Cardiovascular disease		2019	263.3	2023	218.7	
	3.4.1.b Cancer		2019	154.7	2023	126.9	
	3.4.1.c Diabetes		2019	8.2	2023	20.9	
	3.4.1.d Chronic respiratory disease		2019	12.3	2023	17.5	
	3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate	Per 100,000 total population	2019	6.1	2023	4.2	
3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol	3.5.2 Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol	Litres of Pure Alcohol, disaggregated by sex	2016	12			
3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents	3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries	Per 100,000 total population	2019	11.3	2023	5.8	
3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes	3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	%	2019	41	2021	43	
	3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	Per 1,000 female in respective age-group	2019	35.3	2021	24.9	
	(i) Among women aged 10 - 14 years		2019	3	2023	3.7	
	(ii) Among women aged 15 - 19 years		2019	69	2023	48.7	





Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline data	Current year (Period)	Current Progress	Status
3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services	%	2019	82	2023	82	
3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all	3.b.1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme	%	2019	98.8	2023	94.4	
3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States	3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution	Doctor per 1,000	2020	2.6	2023	2.1	
		Nurse per 1,000	2020	6.6	2023	5.2	






Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline Year	Baseline Data	Current year (Period)	Current Progress	Status
4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes	4.1.2 Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)	%					
	Primary level						
	Both sexes		2019	97.8	2020	97.5	
	Male		2019	97.8	2020	97.7	
	Female		2019	97.8	2020	97.4	
	Upper Secondary						
	Both sexes		2019	84.9	2020	84.3	
	Male		2019	85.2	2020	85.8	
	Female		2019	84.6	2020	83	
4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education	4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	%					
	Both sexes		2021	99.1	2023	94.3	
	Female		2021	100	2023	96.3	
	Male		2021	98.2	2023	92.5	

Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline Year	Baseline Data	Current year (Period)	Current Progress	Status
4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States	4.c.1 Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level	%					
	Preprimary		2019	86.2	2023	73.5	
	Female			86.1		73.3	
	Male			100		100	
	Primary			84.3		80.2	
	Female			83.7		81.4	
	Male			87.4		72.1	
	Secondary			89.4		90.2	
	Female			90.3		91	
	Male			88.31		89.1	













Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline Year	Baseline Data	Current year (Period)	Current Progress	Status
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex					Seychelles Constitution (1993): Guarantees equality before the law and prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sex (Article 27). National Gender Policy (2016) Domestic Violence Act 2020 Sexual Offences Act, 2021	
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months (a) form of violence and (b) by age group	Number					
	Proxy : Family Violence REGISTERED APPLICATIONS		2021	329	2024	545	
	SPOUSES		2021	135	2024	204	
	(I) MALE		2021	10	2024	80	
	(II) FEMALE		2021	125	2024	124	
	NONE SPOUSES		2021	194	2024	341	
	(I) MALE		2021	49	2024	74	
	(II) FEMALE		2021	145	2024	267	
	WITHDRAWN CASES		2021	47	2024	66	

Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline Year	Baseline Data	Current year (Period)	Current Progress	Status
5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	%					
	(a) national parliaments (based National Assembly Elections)		2019	21	2024	26	
	(b) local governments		2020	78	2024	85	
	5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	%	2019	48	2023	50	
5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences	5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education	YES/NO	2019	YES	2024	YES	




Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline Year	Baseline Data	Current year (Period)	Current Progress	Status
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	Proportion of household having Access to :	%					
	Piped water			-	2022	97	
	Treated piped water			-	2022	96	
	Water Tank			-	2022	49	
6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	proxy indicators: proportion of households with improved sanitation; that is, availability of flush toilet or pit latrines, including shared facilities	%			2022	93	
	(ii) proxy indicators : proportion of households with improved sanitation; that is, availability of flush toilet or pit latrines, excluding shared facilities				2022	93	











Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline Year	Baseline Data	Current year (Period)	Current Progress	Status
6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity	proxy indicator : Annual water input into PUC water system	m3	2019	11,873,250	2023	13,064,370	
	proxy indicator: Annual average volume of Non-Revenue Water	m3	2019	3,204,555	2023	3,641,930	
	proxy indicator: Fresh water production annually by PUC	m3	2019	12,455,038	2023	12,495,252	
	proxy indicator; Raw water extracted from water catchment on Mahe	m3	2019	1,197,744	2023	2,887,773	


SDG7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline Data	Current year (period)	Current progress	Status
7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity	%	2022	84			
	proxy indicator : Proportion of household having access to electricity		2022	92.1			
	7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology		2021	0.97			
7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	%	2019	2.2	2024	4.6	
	Total Energy consumption	kWh	2019	400,339,943	2024	454,427,464	
	Share renewable energy generated as a proportion of total electricity production	%	2019	2	2023	5	
	Renewable Energy Production	kWh	2019	8,949,585	2024	20,963,371	
7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency	7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP	toe	2,019	93,696	2023	98,041	







Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline Data	Current year (period)	Current progress	Status
7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology	7.a.1 International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems		2021	1 MW Solar PV Indian on Ile de Romainville (Grant 3.4 million USD) + 1 MW residential rooftop PV democratisation project (Grant 1.1 million SCR) - 5 MW solar PV project on Ile de Romainville and 5MW/3.4MWh Battery Energy Storage System financed through a concessional loan from IRENA-ADFD amounting to USD 8.5m			
7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support	7.b.1 Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)X	Watts (per capita)	2019	10.5	2024	19.7	








Goal 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (period)	Baseline Data	Current year (period)	Current progress	Status
8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries	8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	%	2019		2024	3	
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small-and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex	%					
	by Sex						
	Male		2020	25.7	2023	24.4	
	Female		2020	9.1	2023	8.4	



Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline Data	Current year (period)	Current progress	Status
8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of employees	Rs					
	Proxy Indicators : Average earnings of formal employees						
	(i) By sex		2019	15,474	2023	17,543	
	Male		2019	17,660	2023	19,798	
	Female		2019	14,270	2023	16,356	
	(iii) By age group	Rs					
	Adult aged 15 years and over		2019	15,474	2023	17,543	
	8.5.2 Unemployment rate	%					
	8.5.2.a By sex		2019	2.7	2023	3	
	Male		2019	3	2023	3.6	
	Female		2019	2.5	2023	2.4	
	8.5.2.b By age group						
	Age 15+		2019	2.7	2023	3	
	Age (15-24)		2019	9.7	2023	9.5	
	8.5.2.c By disability		2020	1.5	2022	3.6	

Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline Data	Current year (period)	Current progress	Status
8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training	8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training	%					
	8.6.1.a By sex						
	Male		2019	19.8	2023	18	
	Female		2019	19.7	2023	18.5	
8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment	8.8.1 Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, by sex and migrant status	Number					
	Non-fatal occupational injuries		2019	77	2023	158	
	Fatal occupational injuries		2019	3	2023	0	
	<i>Proxy indicators: proportion of non-compliant employers after enforcement actions have been taken.</i>		2019	38.14	2023	5.66	



Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline Data	Current year (period)	Current progress	Status
8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	(ii) Growth rate of tourism direct GDP	%	2019	11.7	2023	12	
8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all	(a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults	Per 10,000 adults	2020	4	2024	3.2	
	(b) Number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults		2020	9	2024	7.9	
	8.10.2 Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider						
8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization	Number of work placements (among youth) by programme	Number					
	MFJ Scheme		2019	433	2023	525	
	SDP programme		2019	255	2023	248	
	Re-skilling programme		2021		68		




SDG 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline Data	Current year (period)	Current progress	Status
9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all	9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport	Number (000)					
	(i) Passengers by mode of transport						
	Air transport						
	Arrival		2019	463.1	2023	424.4	
	Departure		2019	457.7	2023	422.7	
	(ii) Freight volumes by mode of transport	Number (000 tonnes)					
	Air transport freight						
	Loaded		2019	1.6	2022	1.7	
	Unloaded		2019	9.3	2022	8.8	
	Sea transport freight	(000) Tonnes					
	Loaded		2019	39,155.00	2022	42,241.00	
	Unloaded		2019	39,549.00	2022	43,393.00	











SDG 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline Data	Current year (period)	Current progress	Status
9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries	9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita						
	(i) Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP	%	2019	5	2022	5.5	
	9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	%	2020	11.5	2023	11	

Goal 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline Data	Current year (period)	Current progress	Status
10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	proxy indicators: (i) Average real monthly household income per adult equivalent						
	- Lowest 40% households		2018	3,713			
	- All households		2018	7,008			
	(ii) Average real annual growth rate for the past five years	%					
	- Lowest 40% households		2018	3.49			
	- All households		2018	1.9			
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income	%					
	10.2.1.a By age group						
	<i>Among youth (15-24 years)</i>		2018	17.3			
	<i>Among adults (15 years and over)</i>		2018	11.9			
	10.2.1.b By sex						
	<i>Male</i>		2018	12.5			
	<i>Female</i>		2018	13.7			
	10.2.1.c By disability		2018	8.1			






Goal 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline Data	Current year (period)	Current progress	Status
10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations	Financial Soundness indicators		2019		2023		
10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies	10.7 Facilitate or 10.7.2 Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies						



Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline Year	Baseline Data	Current year (Period)	Current Progress	Status
11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations	11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	Number					
11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	11.6.1 Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities	Tons	2021	21,063	2023	24,676	
11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters	11.b.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 XX		2022	NIEMP launched	2025	Disaster Risk Financing Strategy (2025)	




Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline Year	Baseline Data	Current year (Period)	Current Progress	Status
12.1 Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries	12.1.1 Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production					Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) 2012–2020: Seychelles Tourism Master Plan: Updated in 2019 Blue Economy Strategic Framework and Roadmap	
12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement						
	12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment		2021	39	2023	86	
12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	12.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment XXX		2019		2023		

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline Year	Baseline Data	Current year (Period)	Current Progress	Status
13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	13.2.1 Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications		2021	NDC 2.0	2023	Third National Communication	
	13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year	Gg CO2 -eq	2019	37.73	2022	54.34	
13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	13.3.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment						
13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities	13.b.1 Number of least developed countries and small island developing States with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications XXXX						














SDG14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline Data	Current (year)	Current progress	Status
14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution	Proxy Indicators: Beached plastic debris in the inner Seychelles islands	plastic (kg)	2019	806	2024	590	
14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	% of marine protected areas	%	2019	26.1	2024	32.8	
14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels		pH	2020	7.9	2024	7.9	
14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics	14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	%	2020	16	2024	25	
14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information	14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	%	2019	26.1	2024	32.8	

Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline	Current year	Current progress	Status
14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiations	14.6.1 Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	Number Band: 1 to 5 reflected as follows: 1: Very low 2: Low 3: Medium 4: High 5: Very high implementation	2020	2	2024	3	
14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets	14.b.1 Progress by countries in the degree of application of legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries	Number Band: 1 to 5 reflected as follows: 1: Very low 2: Low 3: Medium 4: High 5: Very high implementation	2020	3	2024	5	


SDG 15: Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline	Current year	Current progress	Status
15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements	15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area	%	2015	73.3	2020	73.3	
	15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type					The Seychelles terrestrial Protected Area Network (PAN) constitutes 46.6% of Seychelles' total landmass.	
15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally	15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management				2025	Coco de Mer Decree: Scheduled for revision in 2025 to update conservation measures for this endemic species.Coco de Mer Kernel Regulation: To be revised next year to improve sustainable harvesting and trade practices.	
15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species 15.5.1 Red List Index	15.5.1 Red List Index						
	Proxy Indicator: Number of endangered species					186	
	Proxy Indicator: Number of critically endangered species					103	







**SDG 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**



Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline	Current year	Current progress	Status
16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000	Per 100,000 population	2019	2	2024	2.5	
	16.1.1.a By sex						
	Male		2019	4	2024	3	
	Female		2019	-	2024	1.8	
16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	%	2019	19	2024	27	
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	(a). National legislatures Proxy indicator - Proportion of seats held by women/men in the national parliament	%					
	Male		2019	79	2024	74	
	Female		2019	21	2024	26	
	(b) Judiciary Proportion of female/male judges (incl. Registrar)						
	Male		2019	53	2024	48	
	Female		2019	47	2024	52	





Targets	Indicators	Unit	2018	2019	2020	2021	Status
16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.	16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	%	2020	100	2024	100	
16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements	16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information	Yes/No	2020	YES	2024	YES	
16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime	16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles	Yes/No	2020	YES	2024	YES	



Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline	2020	2021	Status
16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance	16.8.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations XX						
	International organisations in which Seychelles has membership and Voting rights :						
	The United Nations General Assembly – Membership *	%			2024	100	
	The International Monetary Fund				2024	0.03	
	The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development				2024	0.04	
	The International Finance Corporation				2024	0.03	
	The African Development Bank				2024	0.03	
	The World Trade Organisation *				2024	100	

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development							
Targets	Indicators	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline Data	Current (year)	Current progress	Status
Finance							
17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection	17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source	%	2019	36	2024	36	
	17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	%	2019	88	2024	95	
17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources	17.3.1 Foreign direct investment, official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of gross national income						
	Total Foreign Direct Investment	USD Mn	2019	257.09	2023	239.71	
	Total Foreign Direct Investment as a proportion of gross national income	%	2019	13.76	2023	11.15	
	17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP	%	2019	1.27	2023	0.53	
17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress	17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services	%	2019	1.4	2024	2.1	

Target	Indicator	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline Data	Current (year)	Current progress	Status
<b>Technology</b>							
17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism	17.6.1 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed	Per 100 inhabitants	2019	27.6	2023	33	
17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology	17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet	%	2019	76.6	2023	86.7	

Target	Indicator	Unit	Baseline (year)	Baseline Data	Current (year)	Current progress	Status
<b>Data, monitoring and accountability</b>							
17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts	17.18.1 Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring						
	17.18.2 Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics						
	17.18.3 Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding						
17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries 17.19.2 Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration	17.19.2 Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration						



# THE GLOBAL GOALS



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