



# **Country Progress Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063**

**Republic of Seychelles**

**November 2019**

## Introduction and country context.

The Republic of Seychelles is a small island developing state (SIDS) in the Indian Ocean, comprising 115 islands, with a population of approximately 97,000 with almost all of the population living on just three of the inner granitic islands of Mahé (home to 86 percent of people), and Praslin and La Digue (11 percent combined). The capital, Victoria, lies 1,500 kilometers (932 mi) east of mainland East 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 is very land-scarce, having little land in absolute terms, but also amongst the smallest amount of arable land per person of any country. Seychelles has also been dubbed a “large ocean state”, however, as it has an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of approximately 1.4 million square kilometers, about 3,000 times the size of its land territory or 2.5 times the size of France.

Seychelles’ life expectancy of 74.3 years is relatively high compared to countries in the region but still lags behind its income-level peers, mostly because of the wide life expectancy gap between women and men. Seychelles has an ageing population, mainly due to increased life expectancy and a low and declining birth rate. Nevertheless, the projected population is expected to increase slightly over the next 25 years.

Seychelles’ recent economic performance has been strong, benefiting from the continued growth of the tourism sector. Gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2018 was 3.6%. Visitor arrival numbers in 2018 were in excess of 360,000 (more than 3.5 times the resident population), which corresponds to a 3% increase over 2017. European markets remain key to the Seychelles tourism industry, but the sector is also benefiting from increases in tourists from other regions. The formal unemployment rate was 3.5% in the third quarter of 2018, indicating a tight labor market

consistent with robust recent economic conditions. Unemployment rates were higher for men (4.2%) than for women (2.9%). Youth unemployment was 14.5%.

Seychelles has a generous broad-based transfer programme, which has helped to eliminate absolute poverty. By international norms, Seychelles has eradicated absolute poverty (individuals living on less than \$1.90 per day). The country is now adding on multidimensional measures of poverty, which address a multitude of aspects relating to poverty, rather than being solely income-focused. Income inequality remains an issue, as shown by the Gini coefficient (Household Budget Survey 2013), in which Seychelles had a relatively high value of 0.47.

The time frame given to produce this report did not allow for sufficient consultation and validation at national level. This initial report should therefore be treated as zero-draft and the basis for further amendments. The preparation of this report was spearheaded by the Economic Planning Department within the Ministry of Finance, Trade Investment & Economic Planning, with core inputs received from various Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Government of Seychelles. The report will be validated in due course to include the inputs of a multitude of stakeholders including the private sector and civil society.

## **Key strategies for implementing Agenda 2063**

### **Policy Frameworks.**

A wide array of policy/legal frameworks are in force, to ensure the enabling environment for sustainable development which integrates the core values of Agenda 2063. The aforementioned frameworks are broadly aligned to the aspirations, goals, priority areas of Agenda 2063, covering thematic areas such as job creation, poverty/inequality, education, health, peace and justice and good governance, to name a few.

The Constitution of Seychelles recognizes the right of every citizen to health and to health care. Article 29 is emphatic that primary health care shall be free in state institutions and that citizens bear a substantial degree of responsibility for their own health. This is consistent with Goal 3 of Agenda 2063 “Healthy and well-nourished citizens”. In Seychelles, there is universal access to education: pre-primary, primary and secondary, with boys and girls enrolling at the appropriate age. Seychelles has also seen success in the provision of tertiary education for selected priority areas which reflects, “Well Educated Citizens and Skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation”, goals four of Agenda 2063.

On the economic side, various frameworks provide the platform for the successful implementation of Agenda 2063. The Tourism Masterplan sets forth the path towards sustainable and inclusive tourism practices in Seychelles, anchoring the role of the tourism industry as a pillar of the economy. Various other policy frameworks for fisheries and agriculture are in place guiding the development and innovation of these sectors. The aforementioned policy frameworks address Aspiration one (1) of Agenda 2063. One flagship initiative, which Seychelles launched, was the world’s first sovereign blue bond, a financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects. The blue bond, valued at US\$15 million over 10 years with


guarantees from the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is to support the Seychelles’ transition to sustainable fisheries. As one of the world’s biodiversity hotspots, Seychelles with an Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.4 million square kilometers, is balancing the need to both develop economically and protect its natural endowment. This ties in well with Goal 6 of Agenda 2063, “Blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth”. A priority area for the economic development of Seychelles.

In terms of the overarching national development framework, Vision 2033 puts forth “A Sustainable and Inclusive Future” and this is put into action by the National Development Strategy (NDS 2019-2023). Both frameworks, launched in August 2019, incorporate Global and regional Commitments including the Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030. The six thematic pillars of NDS 2019-2023 incorporate the aspirations of Agenda 2063 alongside the SDGs, as shown below.


This report provides progress on Goals 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,11,16,17,19,20 of Agenda 2063, owing to availability of data and appropriate country context.

Pillars of the NDS	2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals	Agenda 2063 goals
<p><b>1. Good Governance</b></p>		<p><b>8. United Africa (Federal or Confederate)</b></p> <p><b>11. Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched</b></p> <p><b>12. Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place</b></p> <p><b>13. Peace Security and Stability is preserved</b></p> <p><b>14. A Stable and Peaceful Africa</b></p> <p><b>15. A Fully functional and operational APSA</b></p> <p><b>20. Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development</b></p>

Pillars of the NDS	2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals	Agenda 2063 goals
<b>2. People at the Centre of Development</b>		<p>1. A high standard of living, quality of life and wellbeing for all citizens</p> <p>2. Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation</p> <p>3. Healthy and well-nourished citizens</p> <p>18. Engaged and empowered youth and children</p>

Pillars of the NDS	2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals	Agenda 2063 goals
<b>3. Social Cohesion</b>		<p>1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being of all citizens</p> <p>13. Peace, security and stability is preserved</p> <p>14. A stable and peaceful Africa</p> <p>15. A fully functioning and operational APSA</p> <p>16. African cultural renaissance is preeminent</p> <p>17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life</p> <p>18. Engaged and empowered youth and children</p> <p>19. Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful coexistence</p>

Pillars of the NDS	2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals	Agenda 2063 goals
<b>4. Innovative Economy</b>		<p>2. Well Educated Citizens and Skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation</p> <p>4. Transformed Economies</p> <p>18. Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children</p>

Pillars of the NDS	2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals	Agenda 2063 goals
5. <i>Economic Transformation</i>		<p>1. A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All Citizens</p> <p>4. Transformed Economies</p> <p>5. Modern Agriculture for increased productivity and production</p> <p>6. Blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth</p> <p>9. Continental Financial and Monetary Institutions are established and functional</p> <p>10. World Class Infrastructure criss-crosses Africa</p>

Pillars of the NDS	2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals	Agenda 2063 goals
6. <i>Environmental Sustainability and Resilience</i>		<p>5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production</p> <p>6. Blue/ocean economy for accelerated economic growth</p> <p>7. environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities</p>

### **Institutional arrangements**

At national level, the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of Agenda 2063 rests with the Economic Planning Department (EPD), within the Ministry of Finance, Trade, Investment and Economic Planning. The Department of Foreign Affairs serves as the interlocutor on the international scene.

Furthermore, a high-level national committee to oversee implementation of all regional and international commitments was formed, namely: The **National Oversight Committee for the Implementation of Seychelles’ Regional and Global Commitments (NOSCIS)**. The Minister for Finance, Trade, Investment and Economic Planning and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs act as alternate chairs of the committee. NOSCIS has the explicit mandate to ensure that Agenda 2063/SDGs/SAMOA Pathway are integrated in the national planning process as well as

providing oversight and strategic guidance to the coordinating unit within the Economic Planning Department. NOSCIS periodically provides the President of the Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers with updates on the committee's work and puts forward actions and strategies, which may need to be employed to address any issues regarding regional and global commitments.

### Country Level Status on the Implementation of Agenda 2063 Goals

Agenda 2063 Goals	Major Interventions	Major Results	Major Areas of Support
<b>Goal 1: A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All Citizens.</b>			
Incomes, Jobs and decent work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of a national minimum wage</li> <li>• Development of the Seychelles’ Decent Work Country Programme in partnership with ILO</li> <li>• The “Unemployment Relief Scheme” has been introduced providing easier access to jobs and on the job training to job seekers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economy reached full employment in 2019, with an unemployment rate of 3.5%</li> </ul>	Tackling youth unemployment; long term unemployment; informal employment, youths not in employment, education or training
Poverty, Inequality and hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty profiling exercise &amp; identification of deprived households</li> <li>• The National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for Seychelles has been launched</li> <li>• Establishment of the Poverty alleviation Department</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the Multidimensional index as broad measure of poverty</li> <li>• Targeted poverty reduction measures carried out</li> <li>• Readiness from within government departments to apply the poverty survey results to their policies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity Building for Life Coaching</li> <li>• Capacity Building for Policy Formulation and implementation</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction and implementation of the On-to-One Life Coaching Program</li> <li>• The Poverty Consensus Forum</li> </ul>		
Social security and protection Including Persons with Disabilities	The government of Seychelles implements various social protection schemes such as specialized medical treatment, bursaries for students and universal retirement pensions for Seychellois aged 63 and above.	Seychelles boasts a robust social safety net, catering to the most needy. Absolute poverty eradicated.	
Modern and Livable Habitats and Basic Quality Services	Social Housing programme of government has been in place for several decades as well as a land-purchasing scheme for first-time buyers.	Thousands of families have been made first-time homeowners  One flagship project on Perseverance Island, gave rise to the construction of 2000 homes.	

Agenda 2063 Goals	Major Interventions	Major Results	Major Areas of Support
<b>Goal 2: Well Educated Citizens and Skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation.</b>			
Education and STI skills driven revolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal provision of education facilities to all citizens.</li> <li>• Establishment of the University of Seychelles as a national knowledge hub</li> <li>• Setting up of the National Institute of Science, Technology &amp; Innovation and the National Innovation Trust Fund</li> <li>• The national scholarship scheme which provides tertiary education opportunities to students who have excelled academically</li> <li>• National Policy and Strategy 2016 – 2025 for Seychelles transition to a</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% enrollment in basic/primary education</li> <li>• Adult literacy rate above 90%, one of the highest in Africa</li> <li>• Seychelles currently holds the highest Human Development Index of 0.801 in Africa</li>   <li>• As an integrated STI governance system, the policy and strategy is helping to foster cross-sectorial collaboration in STI.</li> </ul>	

	<p>knowledge-based economy by 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STEM education program under NISTI's leadership, bringing awareness on frontiers technologies and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.</li> <li>• The national scholarship scheme which provides tertiary education opportunities to students who have excelled academically</li> </ul>	<p>More interest and motivation are being aroused in schools on STEM and awareness as well as appreciation of frontier technologies' roles in the Fourth Industrial Revolution is being developed in schools.</p>	
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<b>Agenda 2063 Goals</b>	<b>Major Interventions</b>	<b>Major Results</b>	<b>Major Areas of Support</b>
<b>Goal 3: Healthy and well-nourished citizens</b>			

Health and Nutrition	Universal access to Primary Health Care	Seychelles' Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Index is >80 and this is on -par with most other high-income countries.	
	Universal access to ARV treatment for all with HIV	ART Coverage stood at 72% in 2018  91% of patients on ART with viral suppression  100% of HIV positive pregnant women provided with ART to reduce mother to child transmission (MTCT) as at end of 2018	
	The national vaccination programme implemented by the Ministry of Health ensures the inoculation against a broad spectrum of preventable illnesses	Immunization Coverage (DPT3 as part of Pentavalent) 99% in 2018	

	<p>The strategic plan for the Ministry of Health highlights the problem of obesity as an issue that needs to be tackled in order to reduce the burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD).</p>		<p>Prevalence of overweight or obesity among children under 5 years of age was 15.5% in 2016. Obesity in the adult population was recorded at 26.9%. tackling of obesity and promotion of healthier lifestyles.</p>
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	<p>Since NCD accounts for more than 65% of deaths in Seychelles, the Ministry of Health has developed a dedicated strategy: The Seychelles Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable diseases 2016-2025. The strategy adopts the 9 targets agreed by WHO member States including 25% reduction in NCD, reduction in alcohol use, reduction in prevalence of insufficient physical activity, reduction in mean population salt intake, tobacco use and reduction in raised blood pressure and zero increase in obesity amongst others.</p> <p>As of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, additional taxation rates will be applied under Excise Tax as “Sugar Tax”. The Sugar Tax applies to drinks containing sugar content exceeding 5 grams per 100ml, including flavored milk.</p> <p>Tobacco Control Act (ban on sale of single cigarettes)</p>	<p>Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease (30-70 years of age) was 284 per 100,000 in 2017.</p>	
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Agenda 2063 Goals	Major Interventions	Major Results	Major Areas of Support
<b>Goal 4: Transformed Economies</b>			
Sustainable and inclusive economic growth	Development of Blue Economy sector, to boost value addition.	Steady Economic Growth of 3.6 % in 2017	
Hospitality/Tourism	<p>Launch of the SEYCHELLES SUSTAINABLE TOURISM LABEL (SSTL) in 2011: a sustainable tourism management and certification programme designed specifically for use in Seychelles. It is voluntary, user-friendly, and designed to inspire more efficient and sustainable ways of doing business. The SSTL is presently applicable to 21 hotels of all sizes.</p> <p>Diversification: From Weddings/Honeymoons to Adventure and sports tourism as well as Cruise Tourism.</p> <p>There has been an increase in sporting events in Seychelles which attract participants internationally including the FINA Marathon Swim Series,</p>	<p>3% increase in visitor arrivals between 2017-2018</p> <p>20% increase in tourism earnings from 2017 to 2018. Restaurants recorded the biggest increase (approximately 27%)</p> <p>Connectivity: 14 Airlines serving 16 destinations</p> <p>Seat Capacity: From January to December 2019 there were over 790,000 (airplane) seats available to the Seychelles</p> <p>Number of hotels: over 650 establishments providing accommodation including small guesthouses and 5* hotels.</p>	

	<p>the Eco-Friendly Marathon and in 2020 Seychelles will be hosting the FINA World Junior Open Water Championships</p> <p>Additionally, Seychelles also hosts the Staysure Golf Championships.</p> <p>Digitalization - Increase the destination's presence across the digital platforms.</p>	<p>Number of Rooms/Beds: In December 2018 there were over 6,400 Rooms and close to 13,000 beds available.</p> <p>Length of stay: The average length of stay for visitors is approximately 10-11 days</p> <p>Approximately 20%-25% employed in tourism sector</p> <p>Engagement level across the social media platforms increased by 11.6% compared to 2018. Total impressions increased by 122% compared to 2018</p>	
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<b>Agenda 2063 Goals</b>	<b>Major Interventions</b>	<b>Major Results</b>	<b>Major Areas of Support</b>
<b>Goal 5: Modern Agriculture for increased productivity and production</b>			



<p>Agricultural Productivity and Production</p>	<p>Launching of the National Comprehensive Agricultural Plan to expand agricultural sector</p> <p>To address issues of national food security, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has put emphasis in increasing the practice of climate smart agriculture, as well as sustainable fisheries. All of these strategies are reflected in the National Development Strategy (NDS 2019-2023).</p>		
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<p><b>Agenda 2063 Goals</b></p>	<p><b>Major Interventions</b></p>	<p><b>Major Results</b></p>	<p><b>Major Areas of Support</b></p>
<p><b>Goal 6: Blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth</b></p>			

<p>Marine resources and Energy</p>	<p>To conserve marine areas, Seychelles launched the Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) Initiative in 2014. In 2012, the Government of Seychelles set a goal for protected area expansion: 50% of all terrestrial areas and 30% of the Exclusive Economic Zone of which 15% as ‘no take’ areas and 15% as sustainable use areas. The marine protection areas will be legally gazetted by 2020. Implementation of the Marine Plan will commence as of 2021. .</p> <p>In October 2018, Seychelles launched the world’s first sovereign “Blue bond”, a financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects. Proceeds from the bond will be used to support the expansion of marine protected areas, improved governance of priority fisheries and the development of the Seychelles’ blue economy. Grants and loans will also be provided through the Blue Grants Fund and Blue Investment Fund, managed by the Seychelles’ Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) and the Development Bank of Seychelles.</p> <p>In Seychelles, efforts to controlled access to its small scale fishery a Mahe Plateau trap and line fisheries co-management plan has been approved by cabinet in 2018 and is in process of implementation.</p>	<p>Seychelles is a pioneer in the Blue/Ocean Economy sector.</p> <p>President Faure Awarded by the African Union as an "Ocean Champion” in recognition of Seychelles’ efforts in developing the Blue Economy</p> <p>Over 400, 000 square km of the Seychelles EEZ gazetted in marine protection status.</p> <p>First Marine plan for the Indian Ocean Region and second largest in the world.</p> <p>The fisheries sector is one of the most important pillars of the country’s economy. The artisanal fishery, which is still an open access</p>	<p>Pre-2014 Seychelles Marine Protected Areas coverage was 0.04%. As a result of the MSP as at April 2019, the total coverage is 26.2 %,</p>
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	<p>In 2019 the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture have develop its new fisheries Policy 2019-2019 and launched its Fisheries comprehensive plan 2019-2022.</p>	<p>fishery. Total catches in the artisanal fishery from 2006 to 2016 have declined, on average, from over 4000 to below 3000 tons per annum</p> <p>The tuna fisheries are relatively stable except for concerns on the sustainability of yellowfin tuna, which is currently under a restricted Total Allowable Catch.</p>	
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<p>Ports Operations and Marine Transport</p>	<p>The rehabilitation and extension project Port Victoria, which is Seychelles main harbour, was launched in April 2018 with EU support. The project is expected to be completed in 2021.</p>	<p>The port's yard area will be extended and dredging works will be carried out, allowing larger vessels into the harbour and increasing overall port capacity. The interventions will mean an increase in the port's safety and environmental performance in the handling of goods, and overall improvement of the efficiency of port operations.</p>	
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<b>Agenda 2063 Goals</b>	<b>Major Interventions</b>	<b>Major Results</b>	<b>Major Areas of Support</b>
<b>Goal 7: Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities.</b>			

<p>Sustainable natural resource management and Biodiversity conservation</p>	<p>47% of terrestrial land under legal protected area status</p> <p>Through an Adaptation Fund Ecosystem Based Adaptation Project the Government of Seychelles is undertaking Restoration of Ecosystems along the coasts, forests and water catchments of several sites across the main islands of Seychelles</p> <p>In a partnership between the University of Oxford the Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF), a major clean-up project aimed at clearing Aldabra island of man-made rubbish, while also quantifying the amount and types of plastic and finding a sustainable way to process it. Aldabra -- one of the world's largest atolls -- is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Seychelles, a group of islands in the western Indian Ocean. The Atoll, which is located 1,000 km from Mahe, the main island, consists of four main islands of coral limestone separated by narrow passes and enclosing a large shallow lagoon.</p> <p>In December 2018, The Cabinet endorsed a National Access and Benefit Sharing Policy to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. This policy provides a framework for the access to genetic resources of the Seychelles and ensures that there will be fair and equitable sharing of benefits to the providers of the genetic resources. This policy is being used to inform the establishment of a new legal framework for all Access and Benefit issues.</p>	<p>Species and ecosystems including ecosystems services have been protected</p> <p>Improved water security for potable use and for farming communities.</p> <p>Restoration of coastal wetlands at Anse Royale and North East Point which is helping to alleviate flood risks</p> <p>Endemic species of Flora and Fauna have been preserved.</p> <p>Twenty-five tonnes of waste were collected in a five-week clean-up on the Seychelles' remote atoll of Aldabra.</p>	
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<p>Sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>	<p>The government of Seychelles has also banned the importation of single-use plastic straws and plastic bags. There was also an intensive education programme to present importers with suitable alternatives.</p> <p>Seychelles has for several years now, preferential excise tax rates on the importation of hybrid and electric vehicles, which has been in force as a means to incentivize the purchase of cleaner modes of transportation.</p> <p>The national carrier, Air Seychelles, acquired the first Airbus A320 NEO aircraft in Africa in August 2019. The A320 NEO is the World's most advanced and fuel-efficient single-aisle aircraft.</p> <p>Energy Efficiency Policy and Legislation approved by cabinet 2019. Currently in the drafting stage.</p>	<p>The aircraft will contribute towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•50% reduction in noise reduction</li> <li>•A five thousand Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emission reduction per year</li> <li>•Nitrogen oxide (NOx) emission 50% below the industry standard</li> <li>•20% less fuel consumption in comparison to its peers</li> <li>•20% improvement fuel-burn per seat</li> </ul> <p>Have a system of VAT exemption on imported Energy Efficient products that comply to minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) set by Energy Commission.</p>	
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<p>Water security</p>	<p>In order to improve water resilience, the Government is increasing the capacity of the largest reservoir in the country, the La Gogue Dam. The feasibility study has indicated that raising the reservoir by 6 meters will increase the capacity of storage by 60%.</p>	<p>The proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services (SDG target 6.1) was 93% in 2010, while the proportion of people using at least basic sanitation services (% of population) was 100% in 2015.</p>	
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<p>Climate resilience and natural disasters preparedness and prevention</p>	<p>The Cabinet of Ministers endorsed a Coastal Management Plan in recognition of the growing threat of hazards such as coastal erosion, flooding, tidal variations and cyclones caused by climate change and infrastructure development . The plan stresses on the importance of investments in numerous adaptation strategies to effectively cope with such issues.</p> <p>Government of Seychelles has increased its natural disaster and climate resilience efforts considering our geographic and isolated location. The adoption of a disaster risk management (DRM) Act in 2014 that establishes the country’s first comprehensive legal DRM framework. The act further commissions the Division of Risk and Disaster Management (DRDM) to act as the national body responsible for preparing a national DRM plan and strategy and implementing an integrated emergency management and coordination system</p> <p>In an effort to strengthen the DRM and climate resilience agenda, the government is also ensuring that a few measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of a strong institutional basis for disaster risk reduction at local and national levels;</li> <li>• Identifying, assessing, and monitoring disaster risk and enhancing early warning;</li> <li>• Enabling effective response capacity by strengthening disaster preparedness at local and national levels; and,</li> </ul>	<p>Seychelles is today a key leader in the areas of governance, climate change adaptation, protection of the marine environment and biodiversity</p> <p>Seychelles ranked first out of 180 countries in the climate change and energy category of the 2018 Environmental Performance Index (EPI).</p> <p>Seychelles ranked 39th overall and was labelled as the most improved country over the past decade, rising from a baseline score of 47.05 to 66.02 in 2018.</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mainstreaming climate change considerations into national policies, strategies, and plans.</li></ul>		
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<p>Renewable energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seychelles has undertaken a new venture in the construction of Africa’s first utility-scale floating Solar Photovoltaic (PV) system on the main island of Mahe, which is expected to contribute to 1.6% of the Seychelles energy target set for 2030.</li> <li>• Seychelles in collaboration with Masdar (a UAE-based renewable energy company) developed and delivered the first large-scale renewable energy project in the Seychelles, consisting of eight wind turbines across two small islands that are off the coast of Mahe - five turbines on Romainville Island and three at Ile du Port.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It accounts for , wind farm producing 7.39 Gwh, that is 1.7% share of total electricity generation mix for 2018. (energy balance report 2018). Before the wind farm began operations, Seychelles was entirely dependent on imported fossil fuels to supply its electricity needs. The integration of clean, sustainable energy is helping the island nation decrease its power outages, address its long-term energy security and reduce its carbon footprint. The Port Victoria Wind Power Project is a major step towards meeting the Seychelles’ energy policy, which aims to produce 15 per cent of its energy from renewable sources by 2030.</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Government of Seychelles, in partnership with commercial banks and the Seychelles Energy Commission, launched the Seychelles Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Programme (SEEREP) in 2013, which allows purchasers of renewable energy products and technologies to secure finance at a low 5 percent interest.</li><li>• In 2014, a rebate scheme was launched in Seychelles to make the purchasing of photovoltaic panels more affordable to the commercial sector. This is a follow-up to the financial incentive scheme launched earlier this year to make investment in renewable energy technology more attractive for residential households. The project is a collaboration between the Seychelles government, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).</li></ul>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “say NO to plastic bags” campaign which involves a complete ban on the use of plastic bags and encourages the use of recycled bags instead.</li></ul>		
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<b>Agenda 2063 Goals</b>	<b>Major Interventions</b>	<b>Major Results</b>	<b>Major Areas of Support</b>
<b>Goal 8: United Africa (Federal or Confederate)</b>			
Framework and Institutions for a United Africa	Seychelles is one of 44 African countries to have signed the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement that will help members trade with fewer challenges. The signing of the agreement took place during the Extraordinary Summit of the African Union (AU) in Kigali, Rwanda on March 21 2018.		
<b>Goal 11: Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democracy and Good Governance</li> <li>• Human Rights, Justice and The Rule of Law</li> </ul>	<p>In July of 2019, Seychelles has joined other nations in committing to work to protect media freedom by signing a joint declaration led by the U.K. and Canada</p> <p>In 2018, Seychelles sent a Letter of Intent to join the Open Government Partnership (OGP). Seychelles is currently working on its first National Action Plan (NAP).</p>	<p>Seychelles ranked 85 out 180 countries in the 2018 World Press Freedom rankings, moving up and improving two places from last year.</p> <p>Seychelles ranked 28 out of 180 countries in Transparency International’s Perception of Corruption Index.</p>	

Agenda 2063 Goals	Major Interventions	Major Results	Major Areas of Support
<b>Goal 16: African Cultural Renaissance is preminent</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Values and Ideals of Pan Africanism</li> <li>• Cultural Values and African Renaissance</li> <li>• Cultural Heritage, Creative Arts and Businesses</li> </ul>	<p>The FetAfrik festival celebrates African culture in the Seychelles. It features a weekend of music, dance, food and visual art in late May. It's one of the more exuberant festivals in the region</p>		

Agenda 2063 Goals	Major Interventions	Major Results	Major Areas of Support
<b>Goal 17 Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life.</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women and Girls Empowerment</li> <li>• Violence &amp; Discrimination against Women and Girls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the National Gender Policy</li> <li>• Sensitization on the prevalence and dangers of Gender-based violence (GBV)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet of Ministers is at Gender Parity as of 2019</li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Seychellois Charter of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms (Chapter 3 of the Constitution) which incorporates many of the principles of international human rights instruments, guarantees 25 rights applicable to both men and women equally.</li></ul>		
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<b>Agenda 2063 Goals</b>	<b>Major Interventions</b>	<b>Major Results</b>	<b>Major Areas of Support</b>
<b>Goal 19: Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful coexistence</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Africa’s place in global affairs.</li> <li>• Partnership</li> </ul>	<p>The NBS was established in June 2010, under the new National Bureau of Statistics Act 2010 and operates as a semi-autonomous government agency responsible for collecting, compiling, analyzing and publishing statistical information. The Bureau is also responsible for coordinating, monitoring and supervising the National Statistical System.</p> <p>The NBS replaces the National Statistics Bureau (NSB) which was setup in 2005.</p> <p>The NBS Act is currently under review to strengthen the NBS and to reflect the realities and standards of the day.</p>	<p>The NBS has become the national repository of data and the official statutory entity which holds the statistical mandate.</p>	

Agenda 2063 Goals	Major Interventions	Major Results	Major Areas of Support
<b>Goal 20: Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African Capital market</li> <li>• Fiscal system and Public Sector Revenues</li> <li>• Development Assistance</li> </ul>	Strengthening tax collection mechanisms and incentives and removing harmful subsidies	32% of Total tax revenue as a % GDP in 2018	

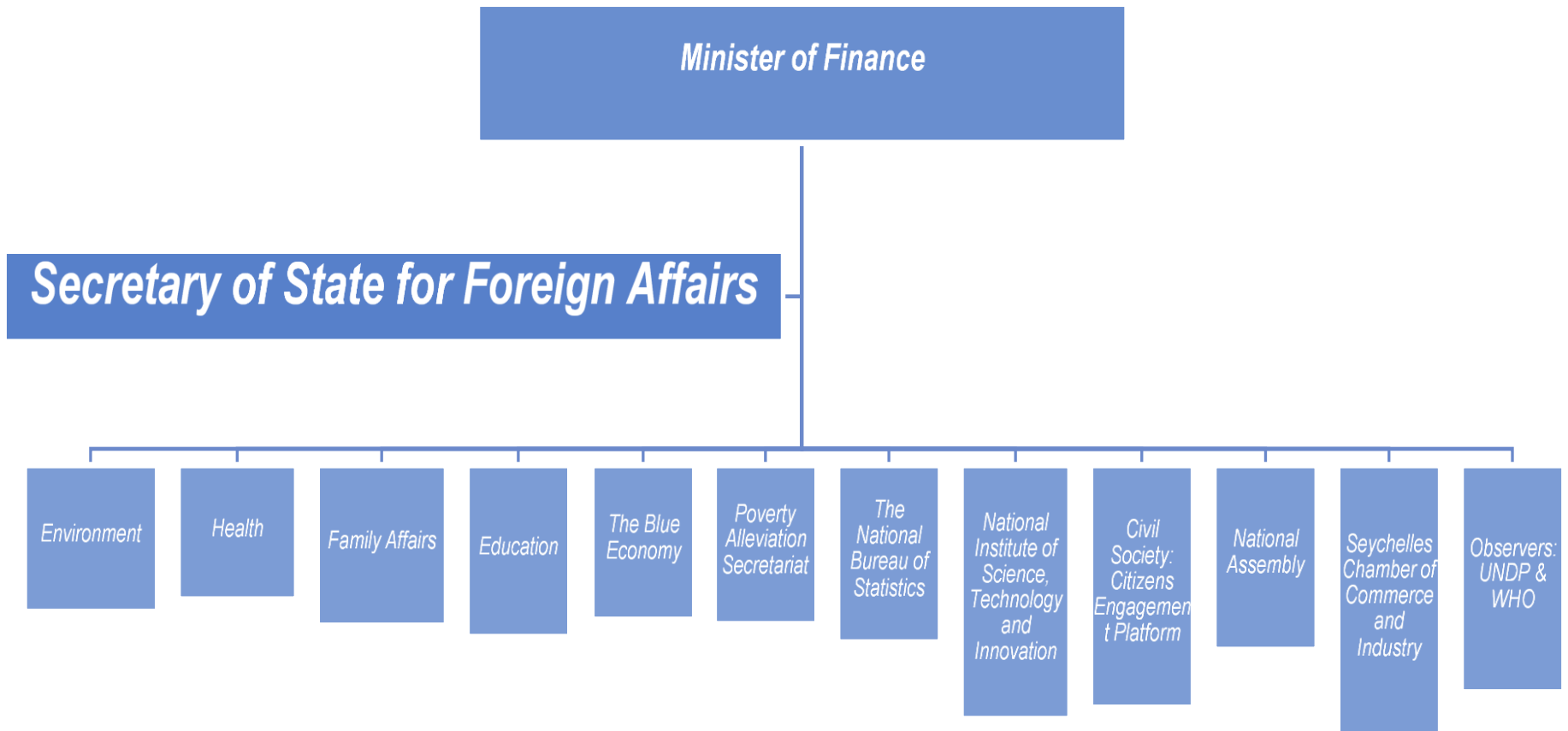


Figure 1: Structure of NOSCIS

## **Challenges.**

A number aspirations goals and priority areas are not applicable to the country context in Seychelles. For instance, issues pertaining to infrastructure, gender, cultural integration cannot be reported on by Seychelles due to the geographical location,

As a “small” country (in terms of population), Seychelles has limited human and financial resources to effectively implement, monitor and evaluate the 2063 development agenda. In addition, there is limited technical capacity within stakeholder groupings.

Reporting on Agenda 2063 compels Seychelles to produce various sets of data, which may not necessarily be readily available. This calls for more robust data collection, processing and dissemination efforts. Furthermore, there exists difference in concepts/ definitions and standards indicators pose comparability.

Agenda 2063 is one of the numerous development frameworks for which Seychelles must implement and report upon. Seychelles is therefore faced with the implementation of other commitments such as the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, which take into account the specificities of SIDS, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and other global and regional development frameworks. There is therefore some extent respondents’ fatigue in the populating of data for the various custodians of these agendas.

With respect to the environmental aspects of Agenda 2063, Seychelles remains vulnerable to climatic phenomenon such as rising global temperatures and subsequent sea-level rise. This poses the threat of adverse events such as flooding of low-lying areas, coastal erosion, storms and heat waves. Floods and storm surges directly endanger economic activities in the tourism, fisheries and real estate sectors, potentially having devastating impacts on the economy. In this regard, Seychelles has gone to considerable lengths to raise awareness on climate change as well as to advocate for the empowerment of countries impacted or threatened by adverse climatic phenomenon.

## **Opportunities**

The continued partnership with the AU/AUC, RECs and AU member states provide the platform for sharing of experiences and best practices, in turn creating opportunities for synergies and alignment of the broader development agenda.

As a pioneer large- ocean state, Seychelles is uniquely positioned to make use of its vast exclusive economic zone and other marine resources to bolster economic growth, all while maintaining its commitment towards sustainable practices to ensure preservation of the resource base. This is line with the goals of Agenda 2063, particularly to goal 6 “Blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth” and goal 4 “Transformed Economies”.

While the existence of other regional and global development frameworks place additional responsibility on the limited capacity at national level, they all reflect common themes and share similar outcomes i.e.: the wholesome development of nations, with sustainability and inclusivity at the forefront.

### **Conclusion**

Seychelles remains committed to the attainment of the aspirations, goals and targets of Agenda 2063, which are compatible to its national development needs. NDS 2019 -2023 incorporates the values and spirit contained within Agenda 2063, reflecting the need to build upon the values of Good Governance, People-centered development, Social Cohesion, Innovative Economy, Economic Transformation, Environmental Sustainability and Resilience. The institutional architecture in place will ensure implementation of Agenda 2063, with a mindful effort to align national priorities and resources.