

SEYCHELLES NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

2024–2028

FRIENDLY VERSION



*Ministry of Finance,
National Planning and
Trade*

OVERVIEW

The National Development Strategy 2024-2028 (NDS) builds on the previous plan from 2019-2023 and aims to achieve the goals of Vision 2033. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the earlier plan, causing more public debt and requiring a new approach. The NDS 2024-2028 addresses these challenges by focusing on key actions and adapting to changing economic and social conditions, stressing flexibility and proactive planning. Initiated under a new government, it takes a practical and focused approach, reaffirming commitments to Vision 2033, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Agenda 2063.

***“A resilient, responsible and prosperous
nation of healthy, educated and
empowered Seychellois living together in
harmony with nature and engaged with
the wider world.”***



VISION

2033

***Towards a Sustainable
and Inclusive Future***

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Per Capita: Seychelles improved its global ranking from 71st in 2019 to 65th in 2022, indicating sound management and improving conditions post-pandemic.
- High-Income Status: Seychelles is the only Sub-Saharan country classified as high-income
- Poverty Reduction: A World Bank and NBS study showed a decrease in monetary poverty from 38.4% in 2013 to 25.3% in 2018. The Multidimensional Poverty Index highlighted issues such as gender disparities and substance abuse.
- Gender Equality: Seychelles improved its ranking in women's equality in Africa, moving from 9th in 2012 to 4th in 2021. However, gender-based poverty and violence against women remain challenges

SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS (Continued)

NATIONAL PLANNING
DEPARTMENT, 2024

- **Life Expectancy:** As of 2022, male life expectancy is 71.3 years and female is 75.5 years. However, there is a growing gap between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy.
- **Non-Communicable Diseases:** Issues like obesity, hypertension, and diabetes are prevalent. Substance abuse, particularly alcohol and drugs, significantly impacts health and society.
- **Education:** Seychelles has met several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to education, including equal gender access and high literacy rates. Challenges remain in inclusivity and the quality of educational outcomes, particularly in vocational skills and STEM subjects
- **Growth:** The economy grew at an average rate of 4.9% from 2008 to 2023. Post-pandemic recovery reduced public debt from 77.6% of GDP in 2020 to a forecasted 60.1% by end of 2023.

SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS (Continued)

NATIONAL PLANNING
DEPARTMENT, 2024

- **Tourism and Fisheries:** Tourism accounts for over 25% of economic output and 56.7% of exports. Fisheries, especially canned tuna, are critical, contributing 54.1% of commodity exports in 2023. Both sectors face sustainability and competition challenges.
- **Financial Sector:** Accounts for 6.3% of output. Strengthened regulatory oversight aims to position Seychelles as a future financial hub.
- **Technology:** ICT sector accounted for 4.2% of economic output in 2021, with growth potential through the Digital Economy Agenda.
- **Inflation:** Average inflation rate stood at 4.6% (2009-2023), with policies in place to manage price shocks and maintain fiscal sustainability.

Structural Challenges and Trends

NATIONAL PLANNING
DEPARTMENT, 2024

- **Informal Economy:** Often connected to issues such as poor quality and non-inclusiveness of education, fragmented societal wellbeing, low youth employment, and stagnating wage growth. Tackling it effectively needs a cross-sectoral strategy that involves coordinated efforts across various sectors.
- **Funding Gap:** Related to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Government aims to reduce public debt and improve economic efficiency to address the funding gap.
- **Demographic Dynamics:** Seychelles has an aging population, raising concerns about funding social programs and primary healthcare.
- **Climate Change and Energy:** Rising ocean levels and storm surges pose significant threats to key infrastructure, livelihoods and socio-economic development. Seychelles aims to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 26.4% below BAU scenario by 2030 and promote the energy efficiency.
- **Technology and Social Media:** The digital age impacts various sectors, requiring strategic adaptation to leverage technology for economic growth.

The National Development Strategy 2024 - 2028 focuses on 6 national priority areas:

- 1. A Modern Public Service**
- 2. The Transformative Economic Agenda**
- 3. A Healthy Nation**
- 4. A Modern Education System in line with future needs**
- 5. Promotion of Law and Order**
- 6. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Resilience**

A MODERN PUBLIC SERVICE

To modernize its public service, Seychelles prioritizes effectiveness, efficiency, and responsiveness, emphasizing a data-centric approach to inform decisions and track progress. Significant reforms focus on enhancing service delivery through technology, breaking organizational silos, and fostering a culture shift in human resources. Key initiatives include public engagement through the Open Government Partnership, legal reforms for transparency, and the acceleration of public sector digitalization. The implementation of the Results-Based Management (RBM) policy aims to improve public sector effectiveness and accountability, promoting a leaner, performance-based, and strategic civil service.

A MODERN PUBLIC SERVICE

1.1: A performance-based, corruption-free and accountable public service.

- Ensure successful implementation of the results-based management.
- Implement corruption prevention policies to reduce the prevalence of corruption and economic crime.
- Ensure sustainable financial management of public finances.

1.2: An established and operational public sector college to address human resource gaps and instill a culture of lifelong learning within public sector.

- Establish a dynamic public sector college to enhance public service delivery.

1.3: Increased access and efficiency of government services.

- Embed digitalisation to improve efficiency of the public service.

A MODERN PUBLIC SERVICE

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



AU 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.

THE TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIC AGENDA

The Seychelles economy relies heavily on tourism, fisheries, and the financial sector, each facing unique challenges. Tourism has driven economic growth, especially post-independence, but has led to overreliance and increased foreign labor dependency, highlighting the need for diversification. The pandemic underscored the importance of fisheries, yet sustainability remains uncertain due to quotas and climate risks, necessitating better resource management. The financial sector has grown, but private sector credit lags, needing innovation and improved financial literacy. The Transformative Economic Agenda aims for sustainable diversification, focusing on tourism, agriculture, fisheries and blue economy, addressing longstanding structural issues, and promoting private sector investment and policy inclusivity.

THE TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIC AGENDA

2.1 Tourism: Increased yield from the sector

- Product and pricing strategy focused on increasing yield.
- Grow visibility and awareness of Seychelles across all markets thereby increasing demand for the destination.

2.2 Tourism: A more sustainable, resilient and integrated Tourism model achieved through product enhancement, capacity building, diversification, and market differentiation.

- Implement enhanced green, responsible and sustainable tourism practices through the adherence to standards, including the SSTL.
- Increase qualified and trained local talent in the industry.
- Monitor and enhance standards of businesses available to visitors and within the tourism industry.

2.3 Agriculture: Improved food and nutrition security coupled with economically sustainable import substitution.

- Increased sustainable production in the agricultural sector and improved integration within the economic value chains.

2.4 Agriculture: Appropriate short- and medium-run structures and mechanisms established in support of sustainable and economically viable forms of agriculture.

- Develop land allocated for Agricultural development.
- Facilitate and improve access to irrigation water to farmers.
- Improve credit allocation through the ADF and enhanced financial literacy of farmers.
- Reduce the negative effects of pest and diseases on agricultural production.

2.5 Fisheries: Increased sustainable value-addition and product diversification.

- Implement sector governance and management of fisheries resources by undertaking maritime resource assessments.
- Promote sustainable Trade and build capacity in the sector.
- Develop the Fish Processing Zone and other fisheries related infrastructures.
- Develop aquaculture.

2.6 Blue Economy: A thriving and sustainable Blue Economy sector supporting increased job creation and improved economic efficiency and revenue generation.

- Explore and develop Extractive Industry (Non-living resources oil, gas and other minerals) in our EEZ.
- Exploration of the Extended Continental Shelf-ECS.
- Maximize Revenue from Research in the ocean space and sale of data captured.
- Develop the Circular Economy, using by-products & waste from fish transformation and other sectors in the economy.

THE TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIC AGENDA UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



AU AGENDA 2063 GOALS

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

A HEALTHY NATION

Seychelles ranks highly in the 2021 United Nations Human Development Index due to universal health access and full primary school enrollment, but faces significant health challenges including rising infections and chronic non-communicable diseases driven by lifestyle factors. The National Health Strategic Plan (2022-2026) highlights the need for preventive measures and a holistic "Healthy Nation" approach, involving all stakeholders to mitigate long-term impacts. An aging population and high child obesity rates further strain resources. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed weaknesses and opportunities in the healthcare system, emphasizing the need for continued investment in health to ensure a productive workforce and sustainable growth, aligning with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063. The NDS 2024-2028 underscores the importance of healthy citizens for economic resilience and a better future.

A HEALTHY NATION

3.1: Increased life and healthy life expectancy with decreased key risk factors for health

- Promote healthy living for all age-groups and address risk factors for priority diseases.
- Revitalise Health-in-All Policies.
- Promote good mental health and prevent and manage substance abuse disorders.
- Implement One-Health Approach.

3.2: Improved Quality Health Services Nationwide

- Improve health services through implementation and monitoring of PHC Package.
- Improve secondary and tertiary care through implementation of a quality improvement initiative.

3.3: A well-performing health system

- Implement e-Health Information System.
- Develop and implement a Human Resources for Health Strategy.
- Ensure sustainable financing for health

A HEALTHY NATION

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



AU AGENDA 2063 GOALS

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

PROMOTION OF LAW AND ORDER

Ensuring the safety of both Seychellois citizens and visitors is crucial for Seychelles, especially given its reliance on tourism. Despite its reputation for hospitality and safety, the country has recently faced rising crime, judicial backlogs, and resource challenges. Addressing these issues requires a dual approach: tackling the socioeconomic determinants of criminality, such as unemployment and poverty, and reforming law enforcement and judicial processes. Efforts include various rehabilitation programs, social support services, and initiatives targeting youth and substance abuse. However, improving safety and security also depends on enhancing public trust in legal institutions and fostering better coordination among stakeholders to address long-term socioeconomic challenges.

PROMOTION OF LAW AND ORDER

4.1: A reduction in crime following improved community trust and confidence in policing

- Introduce competency framework for a more professional workforce
- Introduce an IT based Command and Control system that provides capabilities for centralised Incident/Crime Recording and management, resource dispatch, subsequent case management with service wide access for analytics and reporting
- Introduce systems that make it easier to report complaints against police when not satisfied with the service
- Increase the number of priority volume crimes where a suspect is progressed into the criminal justice system
- Build confidence in the Police's ability to effectively deal with crime through partnerships with key stakeholders
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4.2: Criminal Justice reforms for a more efficient and modern legal framework

- Improve efficiency through digitalization and automation
- Introduce a sentencing framework with stricter measures to deter serious crime and alternative sentencing for a relief on infrastructure resources
- Develop and implement tailored rehabilitation and re-integration programs responsive to the type of addiction

4.3: A reduction in Cyber and Financial crimes

- Introduce an Institutional Framework under which Cyber and Financial crimes can be regulated
- Develop and implement sensitization programs on cyber and financial crimes
- Strengthen capacity to investigate cyber and financial crimes to build prosecutable cases
- Promote cooperation among multiple intelligence agencies for facilitated information sharing

4.4: Strengthened Border security at all points of entry into the country

- Implement digital systems to support border control agencies in early detection
- Greater deployment of Regional Coordination Operation Centre (RCOC) & National Information-Sharing and Coordination Centre (NISCC) operations for the reinforcement of intelligence & information analysis and sharing
- Management of Bio-security threats and impacts on the economy

PROMOTION OF LAW AND ORDER

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



AU AGENDA 2063 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 APSA
- Full gender equality in all spheres of life

A MODERN EDUCATION SYSTEM IN LINE WITH FUTURE NEEDS

Human resource capacity is essential for economic growth and social cohesion, with education playing a pivotal role in building vocational and civic skills. Seychelles has achieved significant milestones in education, including being the only African country to meet all UNESCO's Education goals. The country offers free education up to age 16 and maintains high literacy rates, supported by both formal and informal education structures. However, challenges persist, particularly in foundational literacy and numeracy skills at the primary level. Secondary education shows mixed results, with a strong performance in English but lower achievements in mathematics, highlighting the need for educational reform. At the tertiary level, professional centers and the University of Seychelles address skill mismatches and promote lifelong learning. Despite progress, the evolving socioeconomic environment demands updated approaches, and the government is working on a Human Resource Development Plan to better align education with labour market needs and national development goals.

A MODERN EDUCATION SYSTEM IN LINE WITH FUTURE NEEDS

5.1: A reformed the education system aligned with the realities of Seychelles today and for the future

- Improve readiness and developmental outcomes of children in early childhood stage
- Strengthen the Technical and Vocational education and training.
- Improve the quality of Teacher Training.
- Anchor digital skills in the education system.

5.2: Inclusive educational institutions to cater to all students.

- Convert educational institutions into Inclusion schools

5.3: A culture of life-long learning established to ensure employability and productivity.

- Provide increased opportunities for continuing professional development

A MODERN EDUCATION SYSTEM IN LINE WITH FUTURE NEEDS

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



AU AGENDA 2063 GOALS

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

Seychelles, as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), faces significant challenges to its sustainable development goals due to limited land, a narrow resource base, and severe climate change impacts. As such, Seychelles prioritizes the sustainable use of environmental resources, with efforts focused on biodiversity conservation and sustainable waste management to mitigate environmental risks and support long-term sustainability goals. To address the impacts of climate change, the Government promotes an integrated approach to enhance resilience across all sectors and minimize the effects on sustainable development. Despite its minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, the country is actively reforming its energy sector, focusing on promoting energy efficiency and the adoption of renewable energy. However, a substantial funding gap for climate projects persists. To bridge this, Seychelles advocates for a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) and is developing a Climate Finance Mobilization Strategy, aiming for a balanced approach to economic development and environmental sustainability.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

6.1 Effective Implementation of measures to achieve climate mitigation goals

- Reduce economy-wide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions
- Facilitate transition towards renewable energy and improved energy efficiency

6.2 Strengthened resilience to the impacts of climate change

- Ensure conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands
- Develop a pipeline of adaptation projects
- Integrate climate change considerations into sustainable development related plans, policies and strategies

6.3: Enhanced national disaster risk reduction, preparedness and recovery capacity

- Strengthen climate information services and early warning systems
- Strengthen disaster risk coordination across relevant institutions

6.4: Sustainable development mainstreamed through the responsible use and management of environmental resources

- Ensure effective management of designated protected areas
- Minimize the loss of species and ecosystems

6.5: An effective and sustainable waste management system

- Reduce volume of waste reaching final disposal sites
- Divert organic waste from final disposal sites

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



AU AGENDA 2063 GOALS

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

The NDS 2024-2028 is a crucial strategy leading up to Vision 2033, focusing on advancing good governance, resilient economic growth, quality public services, and thriving ecosystems in the face of climate change. Its successful implementation, guided by a Results-Based Management (RBM) framework institutionalized in 2022, depends on the commitment and collaboration of all stakeholders. The strategy outlines roles and responsibilities, emphasizing the need for efficient inter-institutional coordination and a deep understanding of the interlinkages between agents. Key enablers include ownership by all, private sector and civil society engagements, public service innovation, strengthening the National Statistical System and financial sector, the Digital Economy Agenda, effective human resource planning, investment and entrepreneurship, adequate financing, and comprehensive change management. Annual work plans, Medium Term Expenditure Strategies, and budgets will align with NDS outcomes to ensure effective resource allocation and performance monitoring, thus guiding the nation toward its long-term goals as defined by Vision 2033, Agenda 2063, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Risks that may hinder the full implementation of the National Development Strategy (NDS) in Seychelles and the Garden of Eden Scenario include external shocks, domestic structural challenges, and shifts in global trends. These risks impact various aspects of the country, both within and outside the government's control, affecting short-term and long-term objectives. For instance, a sudden rise in oil prices can elevate local energy costs and affect exchange rates, leading to broader economic repercussions. Climate change poses significant risks, with rising temperatures, altered weather patterns, and coastal erosion threatening the environment and economy. Financial constraints, limited concessional financing, and the country's high-income status also present funding challenges for the NDS. Additionally, pandemics, substance abuse, non-communicable diseases, cybercrime, demographic changes, resource constraints, market dependency, terrorism, complacency, social instability, geopolitical risks, technological capacity, biosecurity, and trans-national maritime threats further complicate the nation's ability to achieve its development goals. Therefore, a comprehensive understanding and proactive management of these risks are essential for the successful implementation of the NDS.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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