

# JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002

## SEYCHELLES



## COUNTRY PROFILE



UNITED NATIONS

## **INTRODUCTION - 2002 COUNTRY PROFILES SERIES**

Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, underscored the important role that States play in the implementation of the Agenda at the national level. It recommended that States consider preparing national reports and communicating the information therein to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) including, activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the obstacles and challenges they confront, and other environment and development issues they find relevant.

As a result, in 1993 governments began preparing national reports for submission to the CSD. After two years of following this practice, the CSD decided that a summarized version of national reports submitted thus far would be useful. Subsequently, the CSD Secretariat published the first Country Profiles series in 1997 on the occasion of the five-year review of the Earth Summit (Rio + 5). The series summarized, on a country-by-country basis, all the national reports submitted between 1994 and 1996. Each Profile covered the status of all Agenda 21 chapters.

The purpose of Country Profiles is to:

- Help countries monitor their own progress;
- Share experiences and information with others; and,
- Serve as institutional memory to track and record national actions undertaken to implement Agenda 21.

A second series of Country Profiles is being published on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development being held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4, 2002. Each profile covers all 40 chapters of Agenda 21, as well as those issues that have been separately addressed by the CSD since 1997, including trade, energy, transport, sustainable tourism and industry.

The 2002 Country Profiles series provides the most comprehensive overview to date of the status of implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level. Each Country Profile is based on information updated from that contained in the national reports submitted annually by governments.

Preparing national reports is often a challenging exercise. It can also be a productive and rewarding one in terms of taking stock of what has been achieved and by increasing communication, coordination and cooperation among a range of national agencies, institutions and groups. Hopefully, the information contained in this series of Country Profiles will serve as a useful tool for learning from the experience and knowledge gained by each country in its pursuit of sustainable development.

## **NOTE TO READERS**

The 2002 Country Profiles Series provides information on the implementation of Agenda 21 on a country-by-country and chapter-by-chapter basis (with the exception of chapters 1 and 23, which are preambles). Since Rio 1992, the Commission on Sustainable Development has specifically addressed other topics not included as separate chapters in Agenda 21. These issues of trade, industry, energy, transport and sustainable tourism are, therefore, treated as distinct sections in the Country Profiles. In instances where several Agenda 21 chapters are closely related, for example, chapters 20 to 22 which cover environmentally sound management of hazardous, solid and radioactive wastes, and chapters 24 to 32 which refer to strengthening of major groups, the information appears under a single heading in the Country Profile Series. Lastly, chapters 16 and 34, which deal with environmentally sound management of biotechnology, and transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation, capacity-building respectively, are presented together under one heading in those Country Profiles where information is relatively scarce.

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## LIST OF COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AMCEN	Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CARICOM	The Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations
DESA	Department for Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIDA	Foundation for International Development Assistance
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development

IEEA	Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategies
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization for African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance/Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNU	United Nations University
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)



## CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES

**Decision-Making:** The Cabinet of Ministers of the Seychelles Government at the highest level reviews and endorses all proposed policies, plans and even some categories of development projects to ensure they are compatible with national sustainable development principles, with a view to optimise economic return and conserve the environment. These principles are embedded in Seychelles Constitution and guided by the sustainable principles stated in the Environment Management Plan of Seychelles (EMPS 2000-2010).

**Programmes and Projects:** EMPS 2000-2010 is currently the most comprehensive national plan aimed at implementing Agenda 21. The overall goal of EMPS 2000-2010 is the promotion, coordination and integration of sustainable development programmes that cut across all sectors of society in the Seychelles in order to attain the above mission.

Ten thematic areas were selected through a multi-stakeholder consultation process to cover all major social and economic sectors as well as certain key subjects of relevance to environmental management such as environmental economics. Other cross-sectoral themes that would cut across the main thematic areas were also identified.

The ten thematic areas are:

- Society, Population and Health (including Gender);
- Land Use, Coastal Zones and Urbanisation;
- Biodiversity, Forestry and Agriculture;
- Energy and Transport;
- Fisheries and Marine Resources/Processes;
- Water, Sanitation and Waste;
- Tourism and Aesthetics;
- Environmental Economics and Mainstreaming, and Sustainable Financing;
- Regulatory, Policy and Institutional Mechanisms; and
- Commerce, Industry and Production.

The cross-cutting themes identified were: Education, awareness and advocacy; Partnerships, public consultation and civil society participation; Training and capacity-building; Management; Science, research and technology; Monitoring and Assessments; and Vulnerability and global climate change.

The institutional arrangements for EMPS 2000-2010 include a Coordinating Unit within the Ministry of Environment, functioning through a cross-sectoral Steering Committee. The Ministry of Environment (MoE) is the Coordinating Agency for EMPS 2000-2010.

**Status:** Detailed projects and proposals to implement this plan have been submitted to the EU and the GEF. See further details under **each relevant chapter of the profile**.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The issue is treated as a cross-sectoral theme in EMPS. An Environment Education Committee has been set up at national level five years ago, and is involved in coordinating monthly educational activities which include among other themes, UN environment days, such as wetland, water, biodiversity and ozone days. NGOs are also active in this particular area, especially the Wildlife Club of Seychelles.

**Information:** The Public Library, located in Victoria, has extensive facilities for children and adults, including reading and reference rooms, activity area for young children, computer and Internet access (a small fee is charged), exhibition space, and a bulletin board (with displays of newspaper cuttings of general interest). There is also a mobile library van, which travels to other parts of Mahe. Each institution in Seychelles also maintains their own small library that can be good sources of information.

**Research and Technologies:** Due to the small population of the country, about 73,850 (1994 Census), there are no tertiary level education establishment in the Seychelles, and research initiatives have only focused in applied areas consistent to the needs for better decision-making. A new centre, the Seychelles Centre of Marine Research and Technology aims to increase the level of research within the marine environment in the Seychelles.

**Financing:** The 10 Year Implementation Programme's budget is estimated an overall cost of 144 million USD with funds required amounting to some 78 million USD or 54% of its total cost. Institutional contributions, which include government and other stakeholder contributions for programme implementation, accounts for 46% of the total cost. The Government has already committed 10 million USD in its budget per year, to implement this plan, aimed at implementing Agenda 21 in Seychelles.

**Cooperation:** Seychelles is a member of the Indian Ocean Commission and Party to the Nairobi Convention. Seychelles participates actively in those regional programmes aimed at developing regional strategies and approaches to sustainable development. Seychelles is also an active Party to the CBD and the UNFCCC. Due to resource constraints, it has not been able to follow all the deliberations of the preparatory process for WSSD or Rio+10.

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## CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES - TRADE

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry responsible for trade is the Ministry of Finance, which works closely with the Ministry of Industries and International Business, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Seychelles has a well-developed suite of business regulations for both the local and offshore sector. It has also put in place economic incentive schemes to attract foreign direct investment especially in tourism related activities, light industries, and professional services. Several national forums exist for the private sector to interact with Government decision-making.

**Programmes and Projects:** Seychelles has observer status in WTO and is currently evaluating its position to join in. It is also waiting for special consideration, in view of its status as a small island state, relatively small and highly vulnerable economy, as well as distance from international markets.

**Status:** Seychelles is a net importer, with very few exports. However, Seychelles has a very important tourism and fisheries sector. Progress to develop the trade sector has been mostly hampered by current foreign exchange and human resource constraints. However, the private sector has grown considerably over the last ten years in line with government's policy for further liberalization of its economy.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** A regional project aimed at providing capacity-building support to the local industry, mainly small and medium-size businesses is now nearly completing.

**Information:** A trade information clearinghouse is not available in Seychelles, although the Seychelles Industrial Development Corporation (SIDECE), the Ministry of Finance and the Seychelles Chamber of Commerce provide information related to trade. There are no stock markets in the Seychelles, and very few companies have public shareholding.

**Research and Technologies:** At present there is no capacity within the country to engage in trade research with respect to sustainable development, although it is clear current trade developments at international level have always affected the small island state.

**Financing:** Issues addressed under this sector are primarily addressed under the governmental budget, as private sector's contribution to private sector and trade development is sparse.

**Cooperation:** Seychelles officially acceded to the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (PTA) in June 1993, and then signed the COMESA Treaty in 1998, to be able to benefit from the trade advantages of a group of countries rather than a small island state. Seychelles is also a member of the South African Development Community (SADC) since 1998. Seychelles is yet to ratify many of the trade related aspects of SADC, especially the Trade Protocol and Investment Protocol. Seychelles has also signed a number of trade agreements with several countries, in particular EU, through the African-Caribbean-Pacific –European Union Agreement (ACP-EU), which is operating under the Cotonou Agreement. Under the Commission de L'Océan agreement, there are also some trade arrangements. Seychelles is also member of UNCTAD. Seychelles joined the Indian Ocean Rim in 2000, which still at infant stage, aiming to promote trade among countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

## CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

**Decision-Making:** Since 1976, Seychelles has the policy to eliminate poverty, with government's policy to invest in education (Ministry of Education), housing (Seychelles Housing Development Corporation), basic health care (Ministry of Health) and also addressing issues of social stability and gender (Ministry of Social Affairs). This policy has been especially successful so far that poverty levels in Seychelles are very low (as per UN Definition), but the risk of the proportion of people living below the poverty line is high, noting the high economic vulnerability and isolation of the country.

**Programmes and Projects:** EMPS 2000-2010 has some projects that focus on these issues. The Ministry of Education has its own education development strategy to improve education standards at all levels. Likewise, the Ministry of Health has developed its Health Development Plan with the support of WHO. The Ministry of Social Affairs within its strategic plan also works closely with numerous sections of the society to increase livelihood prosperity and address issues of equity, access and gender balance.

**Status:** Many of these programmes are being implemented with the technical support of UNESCO, WHO, UNDP and UNCHS. A number of NGOs are also involved in the process of implementation.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** An ongoing programme is available to train professionals in those areas. In particular, Seychelles has its own school of teacher training: the National Institute of Education; and, Nursing School and Social Services Training. The local paper, the Nation, carries weekly articles focused on family planning, personal health and prosperity.

**Information:** Much information is available within this sector, and is available from the respective ministries and NGOs. However, much of these are in the form of grey literature. A number of guides on social issues are also available.

**Research and Technologies:** Research on the poverty level in the country is carried out in order to be able to provide key social services.

**Financing:** Most of the programmes aimed at alleviating the relative poverty in Seychelles is financed through numerous government schemes, such as social security, short-term employment schemes, housing assistance schemes, low interest loans with flexible repayment terms, free access to education (including adult learning) and health, and in some cases support for legal representation. Seychelles has also very strong laws protecting employee rights as well as tenant rights. Some UN organizations also provide some financing in terms of technical support.

**Cooperation:** Seychelles cooperates actively with the WHO, FAO, UNFPA and IFAD in implementing its policy aimed towards poverty alleviation to guarantee sustainable development.

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## CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Industry and International Business is responsible for setting policy to influence consumption patterns. The Ministry of Finance has a role to play in defining the type of economic measures required to manage consumption patterns. A national body, the National Consumers Forum, is also an active partner in that process and has recently become a full member of the Consumer's International.

**Programmes and Projects:** Consumer education, Training of Trainers programme with the Ministry of Education, Consumer lobby programme, Representation of consumers.

**Status:** There are currently several initiatives to influence consumption patterns, mainly aimed at reducing solid waste generation, greenhouse gas and ozone emissions and conservation of water. However, these are being implemented in varying degrees.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The National Consumers Forum organises several public debates and public awareness programmes. Several workshops have been organized for teachers and young people. Meeting and debates with target groups also have been held.

**Information:** The Seychelles Consumer Association is a good source of information. The information is available to all consumers in the form of leaflets, flyers and radio programmes. The National Consumers Forum publishes a quarterly newsletter in all spoken languages.

**Research and Technologies:** Research on the "the status of consumer protection and quality of life in Seychelles (and other countries in Africa)", as part of an Africa research project, was coordinated by Consumer's International.

**Financing:** Government of Seychelles is the currently the sole founder of the Forum, but there is a plan to increase fund raising from membership fees.

**Cooperation:** The consumer forum networks with many organisations in Seychelles and international organisations such as Consumer's International, UNEP, UNCTAD and WHO.

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## CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - ENERGY

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Industry and International Business is responsible for setting policy for energy within a specific Energy Bureau where has been set up for this purpose. An energy policy has been in place since 1999, with a primary focus on exploring economically viable and financially sustainable forms of energy.

The energy supply of Seychelles is characterised by the importation of refined petroleum products, amounting to about 90% of the primary energy supply of the country. The Seychelles Petroleum Company (SEPEC) is the sole importer of petroleum products. From 158,989 toe imported in 1990, the importation has nearly doubled to 241,028 toe in 1998.

**Programmes and Projects:** Several projects related to climate change can be found in Seychelles National Communications to UNFCCC and EMPS. The Energy Bureau also has its own projects aimed at reducing energy consumption and dependence through better design and management. A cooker replacement project was undertaken in 1998 with much success. The intent was to encourage a shift to gas cooking which is much more efficient and cost-effective. Programmes outlined in EMPS are:

- Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Programme;
- Sustainable Energy Extension and Education Programme; and
- Energy Sector Pollution Monitoring Programme.

**Status:** Many of these projects are currently being implemented by using government resources. Donor support in this area is very poor.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** A series of small leaflets have been circulated widely aimed at increasing awareness towards energy conservation. Periodical television awareness programmes are also done.

**Information:** Information is available at the responsible ministry.

**Research and Technologies:** A number of research initiatives were undertaken in the 1980s, with the solar wood dryer and solar water heating that are now well appreciated by many residents. There is currently little research done in this area, primarily due to lack of capacity.

**Financing:** Government is the main investor in energy project. Donors have not been active in this area.

**Cooperation:** Some cooperation exists between several international organisations and Seychelles, but no formal relationships are in existence.

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## CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS -TRANSPORT

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Tourism and Transport is the main government body, responsible for all forms of transport. Seychelles has a good policy on transport and provides economic incentives for low-fuel consuming vehicles and a high tax on new vehicles. A vehicle testing station ensures exhaust air quality is maintained. There is currently an exploration into the use of alternative types of transports, especially those that do not depend upon fossil fuel. The ministry is also responsible for the construction of roads, and coordinates its activities with the Ministry of Environment to reduce the impact of roads on the environment. From 1990 to 2000, the vehicle population grew from 6,050 to 8,921. Energy consumption of the road transport sector represents nearly 43% of the national total energy consumption.

**Programmes and Projects:** With the support of UNDP a project is being developed to address sustainable transport strategies in the Seychelles. In addition EMPS has proposed the following programmes for this sector:

- Integrated Land-Use and Transport Planning Programme;
- Environmentally Sound Road Design and Construction Programme;
- Victoria Traffic Management Programme;
- Public Transport Improvement and Promotion Programme; and
- Transport Upgrading Enforcement and Surveillance Programme.

**Status:** Development of the UNDP project proposal is now being implemented. Other activities under EMPS are at different stages of implementation.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Media activities especially focusing on road safety are periodically implemented.

**Information:** Available at the respective ministry.

**Research and Technologies:** No research activities exist except for periodical trials such as pilot cars running on liquid petroleum gas.

**Financing:** Funds are primarily raised through loans and government budget.

**Cooperation:** Government cooperates with local authorities such as the Seychelles Licensing Authority and the Seychelles Public Transport Corporation.

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## CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment is responsible for the population matters in Seychelles. National Population Policy Committee and Population Sensitisation Committee consisting of a broad range of stakeholders are currently in place. The Population Unit within the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment is seen as the national centre of studying and monitoring population development in Seychelles. In 1998 it published the National Strategy to follow up the recommendations of the Cairo Conference in 1994. A National Youth Study Survey was undertaken in 1998 and a National Social Development Strategy for Seychelles has been in place since March 2000. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Strategy is being finalized to address adolescent reproductive health in Seychelles.

**Programmes and Projects:** The main project was the development of a comprehensive population policy. EMPS 2000-2010 also introduces a specific programme area “Population-Environment Research and Information Programme”.

**Status:** A number of sectoral studies were undertaken to explore furthering the linkages of the population issues with other sectors. The policy is currently being drafted. The Ministry is also in the process of developing a National Action Plan on Social Development.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** There is specific emphasis on the issue on World Population Day. Annual newsletter is also issued. Within the Adolescent Reproductive Health Action Plan, a number of awareness programmes through media are being organised.

**Information:** The lead Ministry in developing documentation centre on the above issues, leaflets and information brochures, posters are common information sources.  
(Common information sources are documentation centre on the above issues in the lead ministry for developing leaflets and information brochures.)

**Research and Technologies:** Research on the extent of poverty in Seychelles is currently being done to address poverty alleviation. A gender audit study is also being undertaken to facilitate the understanding and way forward regarding gender issues. Among other research on the various components and segments of the population is being undertaken.

**Financing:** Financed by primarily from the Government budget and UNFPA.

**Cooperation:** Close collaboration with all local organisations including NGOs. International cooperation with UNFPA, Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), UNDP, SADC and COMESA exists.

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## CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Health is the lead agency in this sector. Due to the Government's strong commitment to the development of the health care services, particularly in primary health care, which involves the individual and community participation, Seychelles has made remarkable improvements in the health status of its population. The major tropical scourges are currently unknown in the Seychelles, but the risk for their introduction especially through climate change is high. The Seychelles also has a programme to address the issue of AIDS. The existing health care system is a three-tier one, made up of the community (or primary health care), the intermediate (or technical) and the central (or strategic) levels. The Ministry of Health has an Environmental Health Section, which works very closely with the Ministry of Environment on environmental health issues.

**Programmes and Projects:** EMPS 2000-2010 proposes three specific areas for intervention, namely: Environmental Health Sanitation Programme; Environmental Health (Hygiene), Education and Sensitisation Programme; and, Sustainable Resources for Environmental Health (Human, Material and Financial Resources). The National Health Strategic Plan 2000-2005 is currently being undertaken.

**Status:** The Sanitation programme is linked with wastewater treatment plan, in which several investment projects are planned for the mostly heavily urbanized regions of the country.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** An essential part of health sanitation is public education on issues of managing household wastes aimed at decreasing the propagation of insect and pests.

**Information:** The Ministry of Health has special library that contains information on a wide range of topics. Leaflets and television talk shows are also a common mode of the dissemination of information.

**Research and Technologies:** Seychelles has been developing approaches to rat eradication using both traditional and newer methods.

**Financing:** Financed almost entirely by the Government of Seychelles, with support from the WHO, and commercial loans.

**Cooperation:** Seychelles has a very strong relationship with WHO that has an office based in Seychelles.

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## CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

**Decision-Making:** See Chapter 10 of this Profile.

**Programmes and Projects:** Current projects are to develop long term development plans at district level, which are more detailed, focusing on reduce density or increase density of various zones in a planned manner, provision of proper support infrastructure, and cognizant of the surrounding environment.

**Status:** Almost completed La Digue and the foreshore of Anse aux Pins, through process of consultation and public consultation.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** There is a training plan, which is being implemented. Two people are in overseas training on urban planning. In addition two employees of the Ministry of Land Use and Habitat are taking distance-learning courses on environmental management. A number of in-house training is also held.

**Information:** Information is usually provided during consultation stages in the development of district plans.

**Research and Technologies:** Researches on past documents and on the GIS are being held but need to be updated frequently.

**Financing:** Financed only by Government of Seychelles.

**Cooperation:** Government cooperates with all local sectors. No international cooperation exists in this area.

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## CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

**Decision-Making:** Environmental and Development issues are central elements in the decision-making process of Government. The Environment Impact Assessment Process and the Planning Authority Process provide a framework for integrating environmental and developmental issues in decision-making.

**Programmes and Projects:** The implementation of EMPS programmes will involve the setting up of coordination mechanisms to further integration of sustainable development issues into decision-making. Government recently undertook a national visioning exercise, which also includes elements of environmental management and conservation as well as economic development.

**Status:** EMPS is being implemented with many projects exploring how environmental issues can be integrated within the wider national framework, and the implementation of the national vision seeks to ensure all forms of development are undertaken in due consideration of the environment.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** the Government and NGOs have done Training in coastal zone management at several levels, since the early nineties. Approaches to stakeholder involvement in the decision-making process are being explored.

**Information:** See **Chapter 2** of this Profile.

**Research and Technologies:** Research for decision-making and adaptive frameworks is being done and will help capacity building.

**Financing:** The Government of Seychelles financed the visioning exercise. Other activities such as coastal management leadership courses were held with the support of the World Bank and the Government of Seychelles.

**Cooperation:** Cooperation with stakeholders in the process of decision-making is in progress.

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## CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Environment is responsible for policy aimed at protecting the atmosphere in collaboration with the Seychelles Bureau of Standards and the Ministry of Tourism and Transport. There is currently legislation aimed at protecting the ozone layer, standards for air quality, and air emissions from both stationary and non-stationary sources. Seychelles is an active party of the UNFCCC, to engage countries in adopting greenhouse gas emission measures. As being a small country, Seychelles is an insignificant contributor to any form of atmospheric pollution, but nevertheless plays an important role to advance strong commitment for the protection of atmosphere like other larger countries.

**Programmes and Projects:** Implementation of the Montreal Protocol and the UNFCCC, and enforcement of air emission standards.

**Status:** Recently study on technology transfer options in various sectors impacted by climate change is being done.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Under all the projects, there is a significant investment in capacity-building and public awareness. This has been ongoing for the last seven years.

**Information:** The Seychelles Bureau of Standard hosts a special documentation centre where much of the information related to this sector can be found, and is also easily accessible through the Internet based search facility.

**Research and Technologies:** Under its UNFCCC enabling activities programme, a technology assessment study is being done to determine a working framework for sustainable technology transfer in all sectors of the country. This is being facilitated by UNDP.

**Financing:** The GEF has played an important role through guidance received from the relevant conventions in advancing progress on these issues.

**Cooperation:** Extensive cooperation exists with the convention bodies and the implementation agencies of the GEF.

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## CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

**Decision-Making:** The main institution involved in this sector is the Ministry of Land Use and Habitat (MLUH). The Town and Country Planning Act is the primary instrument dealing with land use and development for the last 28 years. The Act also made the provision for the establishment of an inter-ministerial body, the Town and Country Planning Authority, which is the authorizing body for all land development proposals today. In 1992 the National Land Use Plan (*Plan d'Aménagement du Territoire – PAT*), was introduced for the three main islands providing zoning schemes and indicating land use patterns up to the year 2000.

**Programmes and Projects:** District Level Land Use Plans are being prepared and combined with the strengthening the capacity of the GIS unit. A review of the Town and Country Planning Act (1972) is also ongoing.

**Status:** Abovementioned projects are ongoing.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** So far, very few initiatives exist, but there are plans to increase public awareness on land use planning and management of land resources, which is an extremely critical issue in Seychelles.

**Information:** Information is available through a dedicated front office that provides potential developers with guidelines and regulations applicable to land use and construction.

**Research and Technologies:** The further development of the use of GIS in land use management.

**Financing:** The Government of Seychelles funds almost all programmes.

**Cooperation:** Seychelles participates actively to the programmes of UN Habitat.

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## CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

**Decision-Making:** Forestry was historically an important activity in Seychelles. Modern forestry practices were put in place in the 1950s by the colonial government. In 1993 a Forestry Plan was drafted under an EMPS project and for the first time it identified the priorities of biodiversity for forestry. The current legislation affording legal protection to trees is the Breadfruit and other Trees (Protection) Act 1917 listing 30 species to date. The main institution is the Ministry of Environment and Transport. The private sector is involved in the tree felling and timber industry. There are currently two large national parks and several terrestrial protected areas or reserves, within which various projects are undertaken, aimed at habitat restoration.

**Programmes and Projects:** A number of important projects have been identified within EMPS 2000 -2010, specifically the Integrated Forest Protection Programme, Forest Biodiversity Conservation Programme, Integrated Forest Research Programme, and Institutional Forestry Support Programme. A number of nurseries also exist and is focusing on endemic and environmentally important plants.

**Status:** Substantial reforestation, most using specific endemic trees has been undertaken with the assistance of Commission de l’Océan Indien (COI), the Dutch Trust Fund and others in the main islands of Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue. Endemic tree nurseries have been set up. Some private sector and NGO initiatives are also being implemented on islands such as Cousin, Aride, Cousine, and Fregate, aimed mainly at habitat restoration. Many of these initiatives are also linked with the protection of animal species that depends upon these habitats to survive.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Training has been undertaken in ecotourism trail network and management. An inventory of all endemic and indigenous tree species of Seychelles has been made as well as recommendations for conservation and rehabilitation of the most threatened floral species.

**Information:** Sources of information includes the documentation centres of the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources.

**Research and Technologies:** Research for combating several plant infections and recent mass epidemics, especially among the Takamaka Tree, an important anti-erosion plant, has been undertaken. Assistance was obtained from FAO to undertake research on the cause and treatment techniques.

**Financing:** Financing has been obtained from the World Bank, FAO, the Dutch Trust Fund and other donors.

**Cooperation:** Certain commitments to multilateral environment agreements, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), have to be pursued to ensure that the country fulfils its international obligations. Seychelles also collaborates with many international NGOs and organisations such as IUCN, Swedish Agency for Development Cooperation (SIDA) /Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries (SAREC), Kew Gardens, Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux International (CABI) Science, the Eden Project (in Cornwall, UK) and others.

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## CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry involved in decision-making in this sector is the Ministry of Environment, which also works with many NGOs and other governmental bodies to ensure proper management of fragile ecosystems. In Seychelles, a huge proportion of the ecosystems are fragile and impacts are apparent. Management of fragile ecosystem is facilitated through the set up of terrestrial national parks, special reserves, sensitive areas, areas of outstanding beauty and buffer zones. A number of these fragile ecosystem falls under private ownership requiring specific management approaches to be developed and implemented.

**Programmes and Projects:** EMPS presents a series of programmes aimed at improving the management and status of fragile ecosystem in the Seychelles.

These are:

- Integrated Forest Protection Programme;
- Forest Biodiversity Conservation Programme;
- Integrated Forest Research Programme;
- Institutional Forestry Support Programme; and
- Protected Areas Programme

Besides these programmes, a number of initiatives are also ongoing, such as fire risk minimisation, partnership programmes with the private sector, and watershed management approaches for fragile ecosystems.

**Status:** Many of these programmes are now at the very earliest stages of planning, although activities of demarcation of the national parks for management are ongoing.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The National Parks Unit has been responsible for the development of land-based ecotourism and any trails have now been set up to allow ecotourism to experience the fragile habitat of the Seychelles without severe impacts. This unit provides information on the trails in form of leaflets. Several NGOs also organise small-scale ecotourism activities aimed at providing financial support to the management function of the protected area.

**Information:** Information on this section is readily available in the Ministry of Environment Documentation Centre or at the archives where a lot of historical information is also available.

**Research and Technologies:** Quite a lot of primary research is done in this area, mainly aimed at ecosystem function, animal behaviour and plant-animal interactions. Applied research aimed at improving knowledge of habitat restoration and translocation techniques especially with birds is also frequent.

**Financing:** Financing has been obtained from the World Bank, FAO, the Dutch Trust Fund and other donors.

**Cooperation:** Certain commitments to multilateral environment agreements, in particular the CBD, have to be pursued to ensure that the country fulfils its international obligations. Seychelles also collaborates with many international NGOs and organisations such as IUCN, SIDA/SAREC, Kew Gardens, CABI Science, the Eden Project (in Cornwall, UK) and others.

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## **CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT**

**Decision-Making:** See **Chapter 11 and 12** of this Profile.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources is responsible for developing and implementing policy for this sector in Seychelles. A new policy for the development of agriculture and fisheries, a result of stakeholder consultation, is in the process of finalisation. Agricultural development in Seychelles is principally based upon intensive practices and selective rearing of livestock. The overriding objective for agriculture is to achieve higher national food security on a sustainable basis. The Government provides an enabling environment to enhance local agricultural production and to promote agricultural technologies. One of the guiding principles of the agricultural policy of the Seychelles is “to ensure safe and sustainable agriculture development with due regard to the biodiversity and the environment”.

**Programmes and Projects:** EMPS 2000-2010 identifies two key programmes areas within this sector, namely the Agriculture Capacity Building and Training Programme, and the Sustainable Agriculture Programme.

**Status:** Projects are under development.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources runs a very effective and well organised extension service. In addition, there are a monthly television programme on these issues and a weekly technical page in the national paper providing guidance to farmers.

**Information:** The Agricultural Documentation Centre is open to all parties. Most of the information is available in form of easy-to-read leaflets and being distributed to farmers and other interested parties.

**Research and Technologies:** Seychelles has an agricultural research station where applied research on better agricultural techniques as well as testing of new varieties is done.

**Financing:** FAO is a substantial contributor to the agricultural development programme. Other financing sources include IFAD, the African Development Bank (ADB), the European Development Fund (EDF), EU and the German Technical Cooperation Programme (GTZ).

**Cooperation:** Seychelles has very strong cooperation with local institutions, national association of farmers, and with the abovementioned organisations, especially FAO. Seychelles also has bilateral cooperation with Mauritius, India, Japan, Israel, Egypt, among others.

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## CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

**Decision-Making:** The institution for the policy-making is the Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources. However, in the consultative process, the Ministry engages with other Government and a number of environmental NGOs operating in Seychelles. The Ministry also utilizes several forums to facilitate decision-making such as the National Environment Advisory Council, EMPS Steering Committee, various biodiversity-related forums and multi-stakeholder workshops.

**Programmes and Projects:** This sector constitutes one of the largest and most complex components of EMPS 2000-2010, primarily because of its importance in the Seychelles. At least 12 programmes are elaborated for this sector. In Seychelles, the number of projects for biodiversity exceeds other types of projects. Both local and international donors primarily fund these projects. During the first EMPS (EMPS 1990-2000), a number of conservation projects such as: improvements in the protection of rare species; reduction in harvesting of sea turtles; management of protected areas; control of import of exotic plants and animals; preservation of several key species; habitat restoration; and, recovery of bird species were implemented successfully.

**Status:** Most of these new programmes are now in the early stages of the development of project and some have started to be implemented. Efforts to build on past achievements are a guiding policy.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** There is a specific programme on capacity-building for biodiversity management. Training of teachers and trainers is an important activity and many organizations, including NGOs in Seychelles contribute for the implementation. Training activities for conservation and park management are included in national, regional and international courses, workshops and seminars. Trainings are also implemented at various levels and, in some cases, these target NGOs and private sector. There are no institutions for the training of biodiversity, hence most training are either ad-hoc, focused or short-term.

**Information:** The introduction of the Internet enabled better interaction between experts and practitioners in the biodiversity sector, as well as allowed exchange of experience and information. There are also several database servers, with the longest being kept at the Seychelles Fishing Authority which maintains a fisheries and oceanographic database. Databases on species sightings and habitats are being developed.

**Research and Technologies:** Local research is mainly focussed on the aspects of assessments, socio-economic and species inventory. Local research is dominated mainly through grey material publications. Key Government research institutions include the Seychelles Fishing Authority (assessments and monitoring of artisanal and demersal fishery), Ministry of Environment and Transport (assessments and monitoring of pollution, habitat, bird and forest), and Marine Parks Authority (studies of reef and turtle). Some also conduct primary research in areas of avian ecosystems (e.g. Bird Life Seychelles); reptiles and molluscs (e.g. Nature Protection Trust of Seychelles); and tortoise/turtles (e.g. Seychelles Island Foundation). Seychelles also attracts a number of international researchers.

**Financing:** Seychelles benefited from the support of the Kingdom of Netherlands, EU, GEF, and other donors for its conservation projects. Government also provides substantial counterpart funds.

**Cooperation:** Seychelles is an active party to the CBD and takes part in all of its negotiations.

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## **CHAPTERS 16 AND 34: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING**

### **Decision-Making:**

*Technologies:* No information available.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Programmes and Projects:**

*Technologies:* No information available.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Status:**

*Technologies:* No information available.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:**

*Technologies:* No information available.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Information:**

*Technologies:* No information available.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Research and Technologies:**

*Technologies:* No information available.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Financing:**

*Technologies:* No information available.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Cooperation:**

*Technologies:* No information available.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

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## **CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES**

**Decision-Making:** A number of institutions are involved, since Seychelles has an EEZ of 1.4 million km<sup>2</sup>. The relevant principal institutions are the Ministry of: Tourism and Transport; Land Use and Habitat; and, Environment, the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), and the Marine Parks Authority (MPA). There are currently several frameworks that govern management of the marine resources in the Seychelles. These include one of the largest networks of marine protected areas, shell reserves, special reserves, and legal protection of certain species such as turtles and whales.

**Programmes and Projects:** Several programmes areas are elaborated in EMPS 2000-2010, as follows: An Inshore Fishery Conservation Programme, Tuna and Billfish Management Programme, Marine Coastal Assessment and Research Programme, Marine Protected Areas Programme, and the Oil and other Minerals Exploration and Extraction Management Programme. A local NGO, the Marine Conservation Society, is also implementing a GEF project aimed at improving marine conservation, focussing on the assessment of coral reefs, whale shark tagging and placement of mooring buoys.

**Status:** Many of these programmes are yet underdeveloped and further work will be required to identify the issues properly. The GEF project is being implemented with many achievements. On the issue of enforcement of marine protection regulation, more efforts need to be done.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** See **Chapter 15** of this Profile.

**Information:** See **Chapter 15** of this Profile.

**Research and Technologies:** Most of the researches of fisheries are focused on stock assessments and dynamics of the fish population. Other institutions such as the Ministry of Environment conducts research on the coral reefs, and the Seychelles Centre for Marine Research and Technology which focuses on the much more specific issues is currently involved in investigating the nature of species at the base of the marine food chain. Development of adequate oceanographic services is also ongoing. The Marine Conservation Society is also involved in the research of coral and whale shark.

**Financing:** Sources of finance include EU, GEF, World Bank, UNESCO, WMO, FAO, the Dutch Trust Fund and the Government of Seychelles.

**Cooperation:** Seychelles cooperates with a number of regional fisheries bodies, FAO, marine universities and research institutions. Seychelles is signatory to the International Law of the Sea, MARPOL, IMO, the Nairobi Convention, and fisheries agreements, such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Fisheries Agreement.

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## **CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES**

**Decision-Making:** The National Policy for Water Resources Management falls under the Ministry of Environment, whilst the Public Utilities Corporation (PUC) has mandate to plan, built and manage water extraction and distribution infrastructure. PUC is also involved in the monitoring of river flow and management of water supply especially during the periods of drought. All three main inhabited islands have integrated into the plans of water supply, which are discussed at Cabinet and National Assembly level before execution. To address current problems of water availability, due to reduced rainfall during the dry season, Government is investing in a desalination system to enhance the water security of the country. The 1993 Constitution defines access to potable water as a basic right of all Seychellois. Government has formulated a policy on water, which aims at providing 95% of the population with potable water by the year 2010. To date, about 20% of the population are still using untreated water often from local streams. The average per capita of the consumption of water in Mahe is 140 litres a day that adds up to a total net demand of 14,500 kilolitres a day.

**Programmes and Projects:** Several programmes areas are elaborated in EMPS 2000-2010, as follows:

- Water Demand Management Programme;
- Desalination Programme;
- Improvements of Safe Yields of Existing Water Sources Programme;
- Improvements to Transmission/Reticulation Systems Programme;
- Improvements to Water Treatment Works Programme;
- Water Management Institutional and Human Resources Capacity-building Programme; and
- Water Shed Management Programme.

**Status:** Most of these activities are in progress. Current huge investment projects include four desalination plants, upgrading of the distribution network and repair of current treatment stations.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** PUC employs a full-time training coordinator and has a training plan. PUC has intensified its public awareness programme on water conservation in recent years through using the combination of television and literature approaches.

**Information:** PUC employs a public relations officer charged with disseminating proper information to all stakeholders.

**Research and Technologies:** The adoption of desalination technology to meet water shortages during periods of drought was the main subject of several feasibility studies and socio-economic analyses.

**Financing:** Most of these infrastructures are the result of commercial loan, Government Capital Financing, and EU.

**Cooperation:** The Seychelles cooperates with WMO, UNESCO (Hydrological Programme) and SADC in addressing the challenges for providing access to potable water.

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## **CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS**

**Decision-Making:** Only one or two of the 12 Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are currently imported into Seychelles. However, their presence in the environment has not been quantified, especially since it is known that a majority of these 12 POPs chemicals or contaminants therein were utilised in the past, especially in agriculture and industry. The Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with the Ministry of: Agriculture and Marine Resources; Industries and International Business; Health; Finance, the Seychelles Bureau of Standards, and the Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will elaborate its policy on POPs.

**Programmes and Projects:** A GEF enabling activity to implement the POPs Convention in Seychelles has been submitted through UNIDO for GEF funding.

**Status:** Funding is not secured, however, Government is undertaking surveys on the past use of these chemicals, with a view to better quality and determines the spatial impact of such chemicals on the environment. Currently, Seychelles has no laboratory capabilities to analyse trace contaminants, especially POPs.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The proposed project includes a number of capacity-building and awareness components.

**Information:** The information gathered during the various surveys will be used as information source for better management of the agreed list of POPs and other potential toxic chemicals that may be categorized as POPs in the future.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** GEF is expected to fund the project by co-financing form with the Government of Seychelles.

**Cooperation:** Seychelles ratified the POPs agreement in June 2002.

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## **CHAPTERS 20 TO 22: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS, SOLID AND RADIOACTIVE WASTES**

### **Decision-Making:**

*Hazardous Wastes:* No information available.

*Solid Wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive Wastes:* No information available.

### **Programmes and Projects:**

*Hazardous Wastes:* No information available.

*Solid Wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive Wastes:* No information available.

### **Status:**

*Hazardous Wastes:* No information available.

*Solid Wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive Wastes:* No information available.

### **Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:**

*Hazardous Wastes:* No information available.

*Solid Wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive Wastes:* No information available.

### **Information:**

*Hazardous Wastes:* No information available.

*Solid Wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive Wastes:* No information available.

### **Research and Technologies:**

*Hazardous Wastes:* No information available.

*Solid Wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive Wastes:* No information available.

### **Financing:**

*Hazardous Wastes:* No information available.

*Solid Wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive Wastes:* No information available.

### **Cooperation:**

*Hazardous Wastes:* No information available.

*Solid Wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive Wastes:* No information available.

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## **CHAPTERS 24 TO 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS**

**Women:** No information available.

**Children and Youth:** No information available.

**Indigenous People:** No information available.

**Non-Governmental Organizations:** No information available.

**Local Authorities:** No information available.

**Workers and Trade unions:** No information available.

**Business and Industry:** No information available.

**Scientific and Technological Community:** No information available.

**Farmers:** No information available.

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## CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

**Decision-Making:** External funding for capacity-building has been mostly in the form of grants, whereas funding for capital projects has been on the basis of loans from international banks, such as the African Development Bank and the South African Development Bank. Local funding generated from the governmental budget is a significant contributor to sustainable development in Seychelles. Local NGOs have been awarded funding from both local and international sources. Some funding is also in the form of counterpart funding arrangements, whereby the implementing agency has to meet financial and in-kind contributions to the project. Fund-raising activities are not yet widespread for environmental projects, as often the project results are not tangible. Few initiatives, especially by NGOs such as the Wildlife Clubs are supported by the member contributions and other fund raising activities. The Ministry of Environment and Transport also leads ambitious fund-raising activity to replenish the Environment Trust Fund.

**Programmes and Projects:** EMPS identified a programme to explore issues of sustainable financing for some environment and conservation services. These still need to be explored.

**Status:** Much still needs to be done, especially since ODA has decreased to virtually zero in Seychelles over the last five years.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** Seychelles tries to develop good relations with donors and international implementing agencies in order to develop programmes of intervention. In many cases the nature of the cooperation is in the form of exchange of expertise and knowledge. See also under **Decision-Making**.

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## CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Decision-Making:** Government is currently reviewing its current science and technology policy, with a view to embark on a national process of consultation and involvement. Stakeholders are being asked to consider science and technology as their basis of decisions and activities. The Ministry of Industry and International Business is the lead ministry, however it has cooperated closely with other ministries and the new marine research centre, the Seychelles Centre for Marine Research and Technology (SCMRT). Seychelles Bureau of Standards also plays an important role in the approval of all research projects in Seychelles. In Seychelles there are no universities, but a number of organisations undertake applied research.

**Programmes and Projects:** The development and implementation of ISO 14000 in Seychelles, the Shoals of Capricorn Project undertook two years of primary marine research in the Seychelles. The SCMRT is preparing its own research programme.

**Status:** All of these activities are in progress.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Science is an important activity at all schools. Every year a national science fair and competition is organised. Many exhibits focus on approaches to conserve energy and water, and reduce pollution.

**Information:** Information is available at Centre for Industrial, Scientific and Technical Information Documentation (CISTID).

**Research and Technologies:** Applied research is encouraged in all organisations, especially on the wise use of resources, e.g. the artisanal fisheries research; in reaction to an emerging problem, such as coastal adaptation approaches in reaction to the increased coastal erosion; and to identify causes, e.g. the causes of poor nesting of turtles on certain beaches.

**Financing:** Programmes in this sector are primarily driven with the funding from the Government of Seychelles, private foundations, EU, UNESCO and other organisations.

**Cooperation:** Seychelles cooperates with a number of local and international institutions such as research institutes, universities and organisation such as the Commonwealth Science Council, UNESCO, and UNEP.

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## CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

**Decision-Making:** The Ministries of: Environment; and Education jointly oversee the Environmental Education focused on sustainable development. Local NGOs, such as the Wild Life Clubs, are also involved in this process. The Seychelles has very intensive public education programmes on the environment, covering almost every topics related to environment and sustainable development. Various media is used.

**Programmes and Projects:** EMPS includes an element of education and public awareness in each programmes and will implement it during the implementation of the particular EMPS project. SADC also has a specific programme for environmental education focussed on capacity-building in environmental education, materials development, media activities and publication aimed at the various target groups of the society. Recently, the Education and Information Unit in the Ministry of Environment, and the NGO, Bird life Seychelles, published several guides and books designed for field identification and easy learning. There is also a programme aimed at developing environment subjects in school curriculum.

**Status:** Many of these projects are being implemented.

**Information:** Bimonthly television programmes entitled “Planet Seychelles” focuses exclusively on environment and sustainable development issues. There are also radio programmes (bimonthly) and a full page in the local paper regarding the environment issues in each week. Environmental activities in Seychelles are also reported in two regional newsletters, Newsletter of the SADC Environment Education and the Eco-School for Africa. Monthly environment campaigns on specific themes are also organised mobilising both young and old. A series of leaflets and guides are produced by the various organisations.

**Research and Technologies:** The Education unit undertakes literature research on behalf of teachers and users and presents the results in a simple format for use in education.

**Financing:** The programmes are funded by numerous sources especially from private sector donors, the Environment Trust Fund, Dutch Trust Fund, UNEP, GEF, Government of Seychelles, and SADC.

**Cooperation:** There is strong regional cooperation within the SADC Environmental Education Programme.

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## **CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

This issue has been covered under the heading **Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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## CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

**This issue deals mainly with activities undertaken by the UN System.**

Seychelles is signatory to a number of international conventions, however due to resource constraints only a few of them have consistently been implemented. This includes the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (signed 1977), the Convention of Biological Diversity (signed 1992), the Nairobi Convention (signed 1985), the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes (signed 1993), the MARPOL Convention (signed 1990), the Montreal Protocol (signed 1994), United Nations Law of the Sea (1982) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (signed 1992). Recently Seychelles has ratified the Stockholm Convention on POPs and will soon ratify the Kyoto Protocol under the UNFCCC, and the Beijing Amendment under the Montreal Protocol.

In March 2000, an International Conventions Unit was set up in the Ministry of Environment and Transport to ensure proper implementation of these conventions. The Ramsar Convention on the Protection of Wetlands was reviewed in March 2000, and it has been proposed that the country would seek to implement the convention to enhance the protection of coastal habitats. Seychelles is party to the SADC Wildlife Protocol (signed 1999). The role of Seychelles in the SADC Environment Commission is increasing. The role of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as an effective adaptation option to sea-level rise and climate change needs to be actively pursued within the UNFCCC framework and related mechanisms to be developed under the Kyoto Protocol.

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## CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

**Decision-Making:** All decision-making related to signing, ratification and implementation of international conventions and instruments are done at the highest level of Government and approved by the National Assembly.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** In the view of large amount of international conventions to keep track, the country is overwhelmed in many instances due to its limited capacity and financial ability to attend all meetings.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Conventions such as the Montreal Protocol and the UNFCCC have specific capacity-building initiatives, which have been implemented since the mid 1990s.

**Information:** The Ministry of Environment acts as a national clearinghouse for all conventions related to the environment. The documentation is mostly kept in electronic format.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** Seychelles currently relies on external funds to attend most meetings.

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## CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

**Decision-Making:** The Town and Country Planning Authority is the main body mandated with approving all infrastructure projects through the information collected by the field inspectors before final decisions are made. In some cases, development projects are refused on the basis of information provided from the field and consultation with stakeholders. Seychelles has also enacted Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations aimed at providing the necessary information and risk analysis before the final decision can be taken.

**Programmes and Projects:** The outcome of several projects outlined in EMPS 2000-2010 will provide critical information for decision-making.

**Status:** Being implemented as an ongoing process, however often conflicts arise which may need to be mediated.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Through the process of decision-making several capacity-building activities are built in.

**Research and Technologies:** Very little science-based researches are done, although a number of applied research programmes exist.

**Financing:** Mostly, the existing projects and the Government fund them.

**Cooperation:** Often decision-making requires cooperation among many Ministries, NGOs and the private sector. However, this coordination is not always perfect.

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## CHAPTER: INDUSTRY

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Industries and International Business is responsible for the policy of industrial development in Seychelles. Its policy aims at a greater intervention to the private sector, mostly geared toward small and medium-sized operations and professional services. Therefore, the sector of industry is devoid of heavy industries such as manufacturing and chemical plants, with the most activities focused on food processing, packaging and assembly.

**Programmes and Projects:** The Ministry of Industry has several projects aimed at improving sustainability of industries in Seychelles ranging from special concessions and access to global markets. Efforts to introduce the ISO14000 system are also a very important initiative.

**Status:** Aforementioned projects are being implemented.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The Seychelles Institute of Management runs a number of business management courses to suit all levels.

**Information:** The Seychelles Industrial Development Corporation provides an information centre for businesses.

**Research and Technologies:** The Seychelles Bureau of Standards has put in place several minimum standards that can only be achieved with much greener and cleaner technologies.

**Financing:** Private sector funding is an important factor here.

**Cooperation:** The Ministry works closely with SIDEC, and has also close links with current industry associations.

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## CHAPTER: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

**Decision-Making:** the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Environment lead the development of the policy for sustainable tourism. Besides the policy statements in EMPS 2000-2020, the Ministry of Tourism recently launched its policy document, entitled Vision 21: Tourism Development in Seychelles 2001-2010. A high-level focus group to implement this vision has been set up. Vision 21 has a specific chapter on “Integrating Tourism for Environment Sustainability” focussing on issues such as management of protected areas, tourism planning, sustainable tourism infrastructure, and roles of private sector in promoting conservation and sustainable tourism. A Project Appraisal Committee is in place that considers all tourist projects in Seychelles. This is to ensure compatibility with Seychelles Policy on tourism and the sustainability of the proposed tourism activity. EIAs are often used to guide the decision-making process.

**Programmes and Projects:** With technical support from the French Government, several approaches are being explored to introduce standards and good practices in hotels. The Labelling of hotels is also being discussed. Through the African Partnership Process, a number of projects have also been submitted for consideration.

**Status:** All of these activities are in progress.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** This is done through the schools for the local hotel training as well as the numerous programmes focussed on tourism.

**Information:** Information is available at the Ministry of Tourism and Transport.

**Research and Technologies:** Funds have been approved to two research projects namely: study of the determinants of sustainable tourism; and, the impacts of climate change on tourism.

**Financing:** The major sources of finance include the Government of Seychelles, local businesses, GEF, SIDA/SAREC and others.

**Cooperation:** Seychelles is an active participant in the World Tourism Organization (WTO), and other related bodies.

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