



**UNITED NATIONS**  
Mauritius and Seychelles



# **UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK FOR SEYCHELLES 2024 - 2028**



# CONTENT

Joint Statement	2
Signatories Page	4
Executive Summary	6
Acronyms	8
Structure of this United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework	10
<b>1 COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA</b>	<b>12</b>
Country Context	15
Gaps and Challenges	17
National Vision for Sustainable Development	18
Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals	20
<b>2 UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>24</b>
Consultations and Analysis Informing UNSDCF Priorities	26
United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Overarching Theory of Change	28
United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Core Principles	30
Human Rights and Sustainable Development	31
Alignment of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework to National Development Priorities	33
The Comparative Advantage of the United Nations	35
Priority Area 1: People	36
Priority Area 2: Prosperity	42
Priority Area 3: Planet	48
<b>3 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN</b>	<b>52</b>
Cooperation Framework Governance	54
Implementation Strategy	54
Results Groups and Thematic Groups	55
Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning	56
<b>4 ANNEXES</b>	<b>58</b>
Annex 1. United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Results Matrix	60
Annex 2. Status of Treaty Ratification for Seychelles	66
Annex 3. Legal Annex	67

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Art Direction & Design : **Ziyaad Pondor**

# JOINT STATEMENT

The Government of Seychelles and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Seychelles have worked closely to prepare and present this United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024-2028. The United Nations has been a longstanding and trusted partner of the government and the people of Seychelles over many decades. This UNSDCF reflects a continuation of that collaboration and witnesses a strong alignment of development priorities with those set out in the Government's Seychelles Vision 2033, **"Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Future"**.

The UNSDCF is the single most important document for accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Seychelles. It is the main tool for realizing United Nations reform at national level, and the touchstone from which the United Nations Development System derives its collective results.

In addition, this UNSDCF is signed by the Government of Seychelles and the UNCT at a moment of heightened significance in our mutual intention to advance inclusive, sustainable, and resilient development. The UNSDCF will continue to support the country and its people to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UNSDCF also supports the Government of Seychelles to strengthen its resilience to shocks through strengthened institutions and communities at all levels, and the fulfilment of human rights.

To arrive at the configuration of priorities, outcomes and outputs contained within the UNSDCF, the UNCT led an extensive process of analysis.

The United Nations Common Country Analysis (CCA) was the result of a comprehensive review of the development status in Seychelles. The CCA incorporated a root cause analysis to guide the UNCT in the selection of priority areas of work where the United Nations can support systemic and transformative change at scale.

An extensive process of consultations, including collective strategic foresight, accompanied the unfolding process and direction of this UNSDCF. This included a Visioning and Strategic Prioritization Workshop (VSPW) co-hosted by the Government of Seychelles and the UNCT in March 2023. In attendance were representatives from across government, development partners, international financial institutions (IFIs), the private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), industry associations and academia, who consulted and reached consensus on the priorities for United Nations collaboration over the period 2024 – 2028.

Strengthening capabilities for resilience and risk-informed development, alongside climate change adaptation emerged as the issues of greatest significance. Enhanced links between inclusive education and skills, and health services and economic inclusion within the blue-green economic transformation also emerged as important priorities for the UNSDCF. These, among other pressing development priorities, are set out in this document.

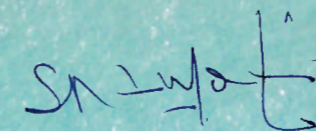
Underscoring our joint commitment, the Government of Seychelles and United Nations agencies, as signatories to this UNSDCF, cement our combined efforts to bring about its priorities and results. Within this scope, the UNCT will

## Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Future.

also draw on the comparative advantages of the entire United Nations system, converging its individual and collective capabilities to ensure the United Nations delivers as one system for the realization of durable development

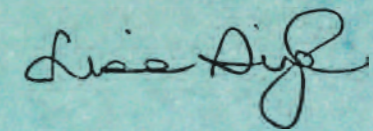
results. Working together with the Government and people of Seychelles in a transparent and accountable manner, we pledge to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the benefit of all people.

Government of Seychelles



H.E. Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism

United Nations



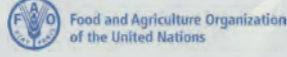
Ms. Lisa Simrique Singh  
United Nations Resident Coordinator

# SIGNATORIES PAGE

**Ms. Mama Keita**  
Director for Eastern Africa



**Mr. Charles Mbuli Boliko**  
Country Director



**Mr. Joseph Rostand Olinga Biwole**  
Country Director



Investing in rural people

**Dr. Coffi Agossou**  
Country Director



International  
Labour  
Organization

**Mr. Ashraf El Nour**  
Regional Director



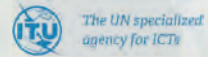
UN MIGRATION

**Mr. Ashish Shah**  
Director Country Programme



ITC

**Ms. Anne Rachel Inne**  
Regional Director for Africa



The UN specialized  
agency for ICTs

**Mr. Jude L. Padayachy**  
Country Director



UNAIDS

**Ms. Lisa Singh**  
for **Mr. Pedro Manuel Moreno**  
Deputy Secretary General



**Mr. Amjad Abbashar**  
Chief of Regional Office for Africa



UNDRR  
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

**Mr. Haitian Lu**  
Head of the Capacity Development  
and Programme Management Office



Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

**Ms. Rose Mwebaza**  
Director and Regional Representative for Africa



UN  
environment  
programme



**Ms. Amanda Serumaga**  
UNDP Resident Representative



**Ms. Josiane Yaguibou**  
Country Director



UNFPA

**Ms. Abigail Noko**  
Regional Representative for Southern Africa



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

**Ms. Etleva Kadilli**  
Regional Director



UNICEF  
Every Child

**Mr. Nikhil Seth**  
Assistant Secretary-General  
of the United Nations  
Executive Director



Unitar  
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

**Mr. Rainer Frauenfeld**  
Director, Kenya Multi Country Office



UNOPS

**Dr. Rex Mpazanje**  
Resident Representative



World Health  
Organization

**Mr. Alexandros Makarigakis**  
Acting Regional Director and Representative



**Mr. Oumar Sylla**  
Acting Director of the  
Regional Office for Africa



UN-HABITAT

**Ms. Monique Ekoko**  
Representative



UNHCR  
The UN Refugee Agency

**Ms. Kawira Bucyana**  
Representative AI



UNIDO  
UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

**Mr. Neil J. Walsh**  
Regional Representative for Eastern Africa



UNODC  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**Mr. Maxime Houinato**  
Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa



UN  
WOMEN

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2024 – 2028) sets out the strategy and overall programme of support of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) the Government and people of Seychelles in seeking to advance the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. It was prepared through an extensive process of analysis and consultations and aligns to the national development priorities.

From a development perspective, Seychelles has a longstanding and impressive development track record. Yet, even as a high-income country, it nevertheless faces a number of structural vulnerabilities characteristic of other Small Island Development States (SIDS). These include a small land mass/small population, geographic isolation, high cost of transport, small resource-based and undiversified economies, fragility of ecosystems, high exposure to climate change and natural hazards, and over-exposure to inflation due to dependency on food and energy imports priced in foreign exchange. The COVID-19 pandemic caused significant social and economic disruption and its impact a poignant reminder of the necessity to address these structural challenges.

Given that context, consensus determined that the overall intention of the UNDS should be to **“provide strategic support for a whole of Government policy and systems shift towards achieving greater RESILIENCE and INCLUSION.”**

Stemming from that objective, the UNSDCF aims to assist three outcome areas:

1. A **resilient social contract** rooted in human rights, with a focus on education, social protection, health and justice;
2. A **resilient economy**, by supporting economic diversification, decent work, and food, water and energy security;
3. **Resilient environmental ecosystems**, through strengthening approaches to climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and biodiversity.

These three objectives and focus areas are intended to be reinforced through resilient **institutions, systems and financing**.

Within these priorities, and to secure an inclusive approach to development, populations most at risk of being left behind will demand the particular attention. These include women, youth, persons with disabilities and migrants, among others.

The UNSDCF aligns with the national development priorities for the 2024 – 2028 period and fits well with the National Vision 2033 for: *“A resilient, responsible and prosperous nation of healthy, educated and empowered Seychellois living together in harmony with nature and engaged with the wider world.”* It is also in accord with the Agenda for Africa 2063<sup>1</sup>.

A detailed results framework (Annex 1) is integral to this UNSDCF. It sets out eight specific outputs where the UN, collaboratively, will support transformative change at scale. Each of the eight outputs has corresponding targets, baselines and indicators, and identifies the lead and supporting UN agencies, funds and programmes working together in support of those objectives. All UN programmes and projects for Seychelles will be predicated by the UNSDCF.

<sup>1</sup> <https://au.int/en/agenda2063>



*Provide strategic support for a whole of Government policy and systems shift towards achieving greater*  
**RESILIENCE and INCLUSION.**

The oversight and accountability mechanism for this UNSDCF is a Joint Steering Committee (JSC), co-chaired by the Minister of Finance, National Planning and Trade and the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC). Annual Joint Work Plans (JWPs) for UNSDCF operationalization and monitoring reports of progress will be presented to the JSC.

A financing plan, a partnership strategy and a UNCT configuration exercise will each be conducted upon signing of this UNSDCF. An independent evaluation of the UNSDCF will take place in its penultimate year.



## ACRONYMS

<b>AfCFTA</b>	African Continental Free Trade Area	<b>JSC</b>	Joint Steering Committee	<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal	<b>UNCT</b>	the Empowerment of Women United Nations Country Team
<b>BOS</b>	Business Operations Strategy	<b>JWP</b>	Joint Work Plan	<b>SEA</b>	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>CCA</b>	Common Country Analysis	<b>LGBTQI+</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and all other gender identities or sexual orientations	<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Development State	<b>UNDESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women	<b>LMIS</b>	Labour Market Information System	<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Sized Enterprises	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus disease	<b>LNOB</b>	Leave No One Behind	<b>SPF</b>	United Nations Strategic Partnership Framework	<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation	<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation	<b>SSTC</b>	South-South and Triangular Cooperation	<b>UNDS</b>	United Nations Development System
<b>CO2eq</b>	Carbon dioxide equivalent	<b>MEL</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	<b>tCO2e</b>	Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent	<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>DRM</b>	Disaster Risk Management	<b>MMR</b>	Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)	<b>TOC</b>	Transnational Organized Crime	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural OrganizationL
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone	<b>MPI</b>	Multidimensional Poverty Index	<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>EPI</b>	Environmental Performance Index	<b>MSMEs</b>	Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises	<b>UHC</b>	Universal Health Coverage	<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>FAO</b>	Food & Agriculture Organisation	<b>NCD</b>	Non-Communicable Diseases	<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based Violence	<b>NCDIs</b>	Non-Communicable Diseases and Injuries	<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization	<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>GDI</b>	Gender Development Index	<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contribution	<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product	<b>NDS</b>	National Development Strategy	<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre	<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gas	<b>NEET</b>	Not in Education, Employment or Training	<b>ITU</b>	International Telecommunication Union	<b>UNRC</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinator
<b>GNI</b>	Gross National Income	<b>NGO</b>	Non-Government Organisation	<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>GTG</b>	Gender Theme Group	<b>OMT</b>	Operations Management Team	<b>UN</b>	United Nations	<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index	<b>PMT</b>	Programme Management Team	<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>HRTG</b>	Human Rights Theme Group	<b>PSEA</b>	Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	<b>UNEG</b>	United Nations Evaluation Group	<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organisation
<b>IFI</b>	International Financial Institutions	<b>RF</b>	Results Framework	<b>UNECA</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	<b>VSPW</b>	Visioning and Strategic Prioritization Workshop
<b>IHDI</b>	Inequality adjusted Human Development Index	<b>R&amp;D</b>	Research and Development	<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change		
<b>IMR</b>	Infant Mortality Rates	<b>RCO</b>	Resident Coordinator's Office	<b>UN Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme		
<b>INFF</b>	Integrated National Financing Framework	<b>REC</b>	Regional Economic Community	<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		
<b>IOM</b>	International Office for Migration						

# STRUCTURE OF THIS UNSDCF

**Chapter 1** of this UNSDCF provides an overview of Seychelles' unique country context before highlighting a number of gaps and challenges that hold the country back from accelerated progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs. This is followed by a brief introduction to Seychelles Vision 2033, "Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Future". A summary of Seychelles' recent development trajectory is then provided.

**Chapter 2** describes the main priorities of support to be provided by the United Nations through this UNSDCF to the government and people of Seychelles over the period 2024-2028. It commences with an outline of the UNCT CCA and the stakeholder consultation process informing the identification of the UNSDCF priorities and focus areas of United Nations support.

Based on the CCA and root cause analysis, the UNSDCF goes on to outline the Theory of Change and rationale for the UNSDCF. Fundamentally, the UNCT desires to address structural and systemic issues and invest in the areas that hold the greatest prospect of achieving catalytic change. The Theory of Change helps to navigate the inter-connected development pathway across the entirety of the UNSDCF. It also provides the causal chain of attribution that the United Nations seeks to achieve through its various interventions at the level of inter-agency outputs, and the contribution the United Nations thereby makes towards each outcome.

The UNSDCF also sets out the core principles that underpins all of these endeavours and lie at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A summary of the human rights-based approach, with a particular emphasis on inclusion and "leave no one behind", including a strong focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women, is provided as it applies to the Seychelles context.

Seychelles' condition as a SIDS is more important than ever in its sustainable development path, not only because the SIDS Agenda has gained visibility, momentum and traction globally, but also because climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and other overlapping crises, laid bare the vulnerabilities

of every country and that of the global economy, and the subsequent importance of focusing on resilience, at State, economy, businesses, and households levels, with a specific focus on leaving no one behind.

Resilience in all its forms – whether it comes from a strong social contract rooted in human rights, a solid economy, or thriving natural ecosystems – is therefore at the heart of this Cooperation Framework.

The main body of the UNSDCF priorities, outcomes and inter-agency outputs are then described in more detail. In summary:

## **PRIORITY 1. PEOPLE**

Inclusive human development for an empowered, healthy and skilled population and a resilient social contract. Three United Nations inter-agency areas of support are provided in outcome area one, focused on health and social protection systems, and skills development, alongside access to justice and accountable governance.

## **PRIORITY 2. PROSPERITY**

Addressing structural vulnerabilities and diversifying the economy. Three United Nations inter-agency areas of support are provided in outcome area two, focussed on advancing economic transformation by unleashing the potential of the blue economy, the creation of decent jobs, and food and energy security systems.

## **PRIORITY 3. PLANET**

Enhancing resilience of natural ecosystems within the context of climate change. Two United Nations inter-agency areas of support are provided in outcome area three, focussed on adaptation to climate change and better management of risks, in parallel to improved natural resources, bio-diversity restoration and pollution reduction.

For each of the above, an outcome-level Theory of Change is provided to convey the link between the CCA root cause analysis and the development pathways identified by the government and development partners at the VSPW, and subsequently refined further through consultations

with all stakeholder groups, including within the United Nations PMT<sup>2</sup>. Important inter-linkages and interdependencies across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are highlighted. In this respect, the comparative advantages of the United Nations Development System are set out.

**Chapter 3** explains the primary oversight, management and accountability structures governing implementation of the UNSDCF. It

explains the respective roles of the government and the United Nations in this regard, including integrated annual work planning; the operation of specialist thematic groups; as well as reporting, monitoring and evaluation arrangements.

**The annexes** which form an integral part of this UNSDCF include: i) the detailed Results Framework; ii) the current status of human rights treaty ratifications; and iii) the Legal Annex.

*Resilience in all its forms – whether it comes from a strong social contract rooted in human rights, a solid economy, or thriving natural ecosystems – is therefore at the heart of this Cooperation Framework.*



<sup>2</sup> The Programme Management Team (PMT) of the United Nations was convened for a two-day retreat in January 2023 to work through the details of the CCA and for early identification of the emergent UNSDCF priority areas, including the Theory of Change and indicative collaborative output areas.

**CHAPTER 1**

**COUNTRY  
PROGRESS  
TOWARDS THE  
2030 AGENDA**







*The population of Seychelles has a median age of around 35 years, and around 71 percent are aged between 15 and 64 years.*

## COUNTRY CONTEXT

### Geography and Natural Environment

Seychelles is an archipelago with a population of around 119,878 people. The majority live on the main island of Mahé<sup>3</sup>, the capital of which is Victoria, the economic and cultural centre of the country. The second most populated island is Praslin, a popular tourist destination. The third most populated island La Digue, with a population of 2,800, is also popular with tourists.

Seychelles is a SIDS situated in the western Indian Ocean comprising 115 islands with a total land area of 459 square kilometres, spread across over 1.37 million square kilometres of exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Tropical vegetation and beaches are a common feature of all the islands. There are two major groups of islands in Seychelles, the larger of which is the Mahé group, comprising over 40 central islands and featuring granitic mountain topography, while the second major group has over 70 islands with flat, coralline topography, and often without a resident population. Situated beyond the cyclone belt, Seychelles has a tropical oceanic climate, yet seldom experiences severe storms, though it does encounter short periods of drought. Seychelles has a unique array of plants and a vast range of marine life, as well as bird species, many of which are endemic to the islands. National efforts have been made to conserve Seychelles' biodiversity, with these endeavours markedly including rescuing giant tortoises from the brink of extinction.

The remaining islands are sparsely populated, with many of them uninhabited.

### Governance

Despite its high-income status, Seychelles, like other SIDS, continues to be a special case for sustainable development, given its specific vulnerabilities. Well-documented, common development challenges specific to SIDS include: small land mass; small populations; geographic isolation and spatial dispersion; high cost of transport, communications and energy; low-lying areas and extreme vulnerability to climate change and natural hazards; fragility of island ecosystems and high levels of endemism; small resource-based and undiversified economies; remoteness from markets and heavy reliance on trade and travel; high sensitivity to international fluctuations and limited trading partners; and a lack of access to concessional financing.

The population of Seychelles has a median age of around 35 years, and around 71 percent are aged between 15 and 64 years<sup>4</sup>. The country has a diverse population, with people of African, Asian, and European descent, and the main ethnic group is Seychellois Creole, which comprises those of African and Malagasy descent. The official languages of Seychelles are Creole and English.

Seychelles is a republic with a multiparty democratic system and directly elected President as its Head of State and Government. The president and majority of the National Assembly are directly elected through popular votes for five-year periods, with the president able to hold office for a maximum of two consecutive terms. The president appoints a Cabinet of Ministers as an advisory body, and there is a separation of powers between the executive, legislature, and judiciary<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> National Bureau of Statistics, Population and Housing Census 2022, 2023, vi.  
<sup>4</sup> Ibid, 7.  
<sup>5</sup> Electoral Commission of Seychelles, Elections in Seychelles, website accessed in 2023

All Seychellois over the age of 18 years are eligible to participate in elections, in which women and youth actively participate. Seychelles is the least corrupt country in Sub-Saharan Africa and in 2022 ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> out of 180 countries globally<sup>6</sup>, scoring well for both political rights and civil liberties with increased political pluralism leading to an improved status of the country from “Partly Free” to “Free” as of 2021<sup>7</sup>.

## Human Development and Inequalities

In 2019, Seychelles had a Human Development Index (HDI) value of 0.801 indicating ‘very high’ human development and ranked 62 out of 189 countries. However, as result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the HDI value dropped to 0.785 in 2021, ranking Seychelles 72 out of 189 countries. Compared to 2019, this reflects a drop of 10 places and moves Seychelles from ‘very high’ to ‘high’ levels of human development<sup>8</sup>.

Alongside poverty, inequality remains an issue in Seychelles. Although the country’s HDI value for 2021-2022 is 0.785, or 69<sup>th</sup> of 189 countries, when this value is discounted for inequality, the HDI falls to 0.661, a loss of 15.8 percent due to the uneven distribution of the HDI dimension indices<sup>9</sup>. Furthermore, the Gini coefficient shows the largest income inequality among households at the bottom of the pyramid<sup>10</sup>.

The GINI coefficient (30, down from 34.6 in 2013) and the p90/p10 (4.2, down from 4.6 in 2013) are both comparable to high-income countries, for example Portugal or Australia, and the country is considered to be an average performer on inequality. Poverty is limited but persistent, with

25.3 percent of the population living below the national poverty line in 2018 (down from 33 percent in 2013), and 11.9 percent multidimensionally poor in 2019<sup>11</sup>.

Half the population is covered by at least one social protection benefit. However, persisting informal employment – limited compared to regional averages but relatively high for a high-income country (17.3% in 2020) - curtails access of workers to contributory social protection schemes, including old age pensions. Formal employment recovered its pre-pandemic levels in 2023, after two consecutive decreases in 2020 and 2021.

## The COVID-19 Pandemic and Recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic had a major socioeconomic impact on Seychelles due to the reduction in tourism, with international travel coming to a halt, and supply chain disruptions occurring in a country highly reliant on strategic imports such as food, fuel and inputs. This resulted in a fall of 8.5 percent in gross domestic product (GDP), as well as significant job losses within the tertiary sector<sup>12</sup>.

After reopening its borders, Seychelles’ economy has been recovering in 2021 and 2022, mainly due to a dramatic increase in tourist arrivals, back to their 2019 levels. GDP grew by 7.9 percent in 2021, and then slowed to a projected 3.8 percent in 2022. The debt-to-GDP ratio was down to 74 percent in 2021, driven, in part, by the appreciation of the Seychelles rupee. By the second quarter of 2022, employment had grown by 4.5 percent.

## GAPS AND CHALLENGES

While Seychelles has made progress towards achieving the SDGs, there are still gaps and challenges that must be addressed to ensure attainment of Agenda 2030. One of the major challenges facing Seychelles as a SIDS is vulnerability to the effects of climate change, including the imminent rise in sea levels, which puts the whole country – and most urgently coastal buildings, homes and businesses – at risk. Ocean acidification also poses a threat to life below water (SDG 14), which contributes to the economy and livelihoods in Seychelles through tourism and exports of fish and other marine resources, and risks destroying biodiversity that would worsen the impact of the climate crisis. Furthermore, climate change increases the likelihood of extreme weather events in Seychelles, putting people at risk of experiencing heightened disasters that could create displacement, and destroy infrastructure, livelihoods and lives. These factors threaten the country’s economy, health, and environment and pose a significant challenge to SDG attainment (SDGs 11, 13, 14 and 15).

Moreover, while Seychelles is a high-income country, poverty (SDG 1) and inequality (SDG 10) remain significant challenges. Inequality persists across the income, education, and health care sectors, particularly in different regions of the country<sup>13</sup>. Addressing these gaps is essential to achieving SDG 1 and SDG 10, but also has an impact on other goals, making poverty and inequality critical enablers for overall SDG achievement in Seychelles.

Gender-based violence remains an important issue<sup>14</sup> and is indicative of the continuing challenge of gender inequality in Seychelles, rooted in deep patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes. Gender inequality is also manifested in the trafficking in women and girls for the

purpose of sexual exploitation and concerning women migrant workers<sup>15</sup>, including domestic workers as well as with regard to access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and economic services, including finance<sup>16</sup>.

The heavy reliance on tourism as a major contributor to Seychelles’ GDP poses a twofold challenge to the country, due to the potential for both economic instability and environmental harm. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how overreliance on income from tourism has harmed the economy, led to unemployment and disrupted agriculture. The government also recognizes that tourism can lead to significant harm to the natural environment of Seychelles with overconsumption and the exploitation of natural resources, including the degradation of marine habitats, the Government is striving for environmental protection and the need for development in the tourism sector to be done with the least environmental impact. As such, there is a need to ensure that tourism is sustainable, environmentally responsible, and benefits the local communities. Addressing these challenges is essential for achieving SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production).

While rates of enrolment in formal education in Seychelles are high, challenges remain in providing access to quality education for all, adapting to swiftly changing societal patterns and labour market needs. Training of teachers, infrastructure and the curriculum pose a challenge to ensuring that students are adequately trained and prepared for future jobs, thereby indicating gaps that must be addressed to achieve quality education (SDG 4). Together with quality education, this will contribute to a reduction in poverty (SDG 1) through increased access to decent work (SDG 8).

6 Transparency International, Country Profile – Seychelles, 2023

7 Freedom House, Country Overview – Seychelles, 2021

8 While both mean years of schooling and GNI per capita have increased, life expectancy at birth fell by 2 years from 73.3 years and expected years of schooling by 1.6 years from 15.5 years in 2018. UNDP, Human Development Report 2019, 2019

9 UNDP, Human Development Report 2021/2022, p. 273.

10 Ibid. p.282.

11 National Bureau of Statistic, Poverty and Inequality in Seychelles, 2021. A p90/p10 ratio of 4.2 means that the 10 percent of the population with highest income receive 4.2 times more income than the bottom 10 percent.

12 ANA 2021 Bulletin, Special Ad-Hoc Release.

13 National Bureau of Statistics, Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2019.

14 Honourable Desheila Bastienne, Statement to the National Assembly, 2022. See further Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Seychelles CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/6 paras 25-26.

15 Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Seychelles CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/6 para 27-28.

16 Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Seychelles CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/6 paras 33, 35, 37, 39.

There is a pressing need to improve governance and strengthen institutions in Seychelles in line with SDG 16. Weak institutions and governance hampers access to justice for marginalized and vulnerable groups and impeding further progress on all SDGs.

Data and resources gaps, including challenges in accessing financing must be addressed and overcome to support sustainable development in

the country. To ensure that Seychelles achieves the SDGs it is important to build on the progress made to date, while addressing the social, economic and environmental gaps and challenges affecting the country. Finally, there is significant missing data on gender within Seychelles, which has 77.9 percent of gender-related SDG data missing, compared to the regional average in Africa of 62.3 percent of data missing<sup>17</sup>.

## NATIONAL VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Vision 2033 of the Government of Seychelles is of “A resilient, responsible and prosperous nation of healthy, educated and empowered Seychellois living together in harmony with nature and engaged with the wider world.” Through implementation of five-year National Development Strategies (NDSs) the Government of Seychelles endeavours to achieve socio-political and economic transformation and build resilience to the adverse effects of climate change and other external factors. There are six thematic pillars within NDS 2024-2028, aligning with the SDGs, beginning with a Modern Public Service, within which the Government of Seychelles seeks to address SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9 and 11. This priority area looks to promote a performance-based, accountable and transparent public service that ensures successful implementation of results-based management; addresses human resource gaps and instils a culture of lifelong learning within the public sector to enhance public service delivery; and digitalizes government services to increase access and public engagement and thus improve efficiency.

The second priority of the NDS is the Transformative Economy Agenda, which endeavours to address SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 17. The Transformative Economy Agenda looks to make the tourism sector more resilient, increasing its contribution to the economy and building its sustainability, while promoting product enhancement and diversification. The agricultural sector is considered to be the second priority area, with a focus on

improving food security, encouraging increased consumption of local produce, and ensuring economically sustainable import substitution. In the fisheries and blue economy sector, the Government of Seychelles seeks to promote the modernization of infrastructure to increase value-addition and diversification of marine species, and to sustainably develop emerging sectors of the blue economy. Finally, this priority area looks to enable other aspects of development in Seychelles through the digital economy and improved access to the financial sectors.

In the third priority area, A Healthy Nation, the Government of Seychelles seeks to address SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 9. The primary aim of this priority area is to promote healthy living for all age groups and address the risks of diseases. In addition, the A Healthy Nation priority area aims to provide quality health services nationwide, aided by a strengthened health system.

Priority area four – Promotion of Law and Order – addresses SDGs 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17, aiming to reinforce community policing for improved community trust and confidence, to reduce repeat offences, and to strengthen border security.

A Modern Education System aligned with future needs is the fifth priority area, which seeks to reform the education system through curriculum modernization anchored in digital skills, with heightened focus on technical and vocational

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

<sup>17</sup> UN Women, Country Profile – Seychelles, 2022

education and training (TVET). This priority area seeks to promote inclusion in educational institutions and to foster life-long learning for employment and productivity, SDGs 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10.

Priority area six looks at Environment Sustainability and Climate Change Resilience, addressing SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17. Under this priority area the Government of Seychelles endeavours to take preliminary measures to attain the long

run Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets, to mitigate the impact of flooding in coastal areas and the effects of sea level rises in the most vulnerable areas. Furthermore, there are efforts to ensure the legal protection of maritime and terrestrial spaces, with the goal of increasing the cover of protected spaces, as well as of ensuring proper implementation of energy policies and strategies, while developing an effective waste management system.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SDGs



**Poverty, Social Protection, and Food Security (SDG 1 and 2):** Seychelles has made good progress in reducing poverty (SDG 1), with national poverty around 25.3 percent in 2018 compared to 38.4 percent in 2013<sup>18</sup>. The government has implemented various social protection programmes to reduce poverty, including cash transfers. However, there are still inequalities that lead to higher rates of poverty among vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Severe food insecurity was residual before the COVID-19 pandemic, and inflation was low (0.7 percent). However, moderate food security is still consistent (9 percent). In general, food systems would need to be strengthened, with 90 percent of food imported; and structural challenges, such as limited land area and water scarcity, need to be addressed.

**Education and Health (SDGs 3 and 4):** Health and education indicators are outstanding compared to regional average and global benchmarks. However, these indicators have been slowly improving or stagnating in the last decade. Non-communicable diseases and substance abuse remain major health issues. Some persisting sexual and reproductive health and rights challenges also hamper SDG progress through their pervasive impact on certain groups among the most vulnerable. Investing in data and health information systems to boost preparedness is another burning priority.

Although SDG targets for access to education, adequate education facilities and gender parity in education have been achieved, some skilling issues persist, leading to a mismatch between the profiles needed by the labour market and the skills available among the national labour force, especially youth.

<sup>18</sup> National Bureau of Statistics, *Poverty and Inequality in Seychelles*, 2021, 4.

**Investing in data and health information systems to boost preparedness is another burning priority.**



The inclusiveness of the education systems, especially towards the most vulnerable populations, still shows room for improvement.

**Gender Equality (SDG 5):** Statistics show a high economic empowerment of Seychellois women. However, gender-related issues, such as adolescent pregnancy and gender-based violence, remain burning issues. Gender parity in political participation is not yet fully assured, with 24 percent of seats in parliament and 36 percent of ministerial portfolios held by women.

**Water-Energy Nexus (SDG 6 and 7):** SDG 6 on water is considered as having been achieved. However, water stress remains an issue, with demand projected to keep on rising. Access to improved sanitation services is universal (100 percent), yet 85 percent of households are connected to septic tanks rather than a sanitation network. Access to electricity is also universal (100 percent), yet 90 percent of energy needs are satisfied with imported fossil fuels, and the prospects for renewable energy penetration remain limited. The NDC points to 15 percent as the aim for the share of renewables in the energy mix for 2030.

**Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8):** Despite structural constraints as a SIDS, Seychelles secured a first economic transformation (from traditional agriculture to a limited range of “modern” sectors, mainly in services), consistent growth over recent decades, and constant job creation for both Seychellois and migrant workers. The engines of growth remained fragile though, with a high concentration on tourism, fisheries and financial services, and a low diversification base. As a result, Seychelles’ economy faces significant challenges and risks, especially in terms of job creation for Seychellois youth. While economic growth has recovered well from the COVID-19 pandemic, an overreliance on tourism, which was heavily affected by the pandemic, suggests there is insufficient resilience to economic shocks. There is room for improvement in this domain, both at macro and micro levels. For the latter, for instance,

the pandemic showed how many informal workers came forward seeking social protection support and the minimum welfare assistance, therefore accelerating transition to formality and enhancing their resilience to shocks.

**Industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9):** there have been efforts to improve transportation infrastructure and promote innovation for technological advancements, particularly for the blue economy in Seychelles<sup>19</sup>.

**Reduced inequalities (SDG 10):** Seychelles continues to experience inequality, particularly relating to income, gender and wealth: this leads to disparate access to services and enjoyment of fundamental rights. While there have been efforts to improve social inclusion and reduce inequalities in Seychelles, including through a fiscal reform in 2018, more can be done to address the roots of inequality and thereby strengthen the social contract.

**Sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11):** Seychelles continues to experience rapid urbanization, alongside constraints for resources and land, placing significant pressure on the environment, natural resources, infrastructure and the provision of essential services.

**Responsible consumption and production (SDG 12)** practices remain limited, so does access to technology and renewable energy. In addition, Seychelles being heavily reliant on imports faces a huge challenge with waste management, including single-use plastics and the impact that these products have on the environment. Promoting the circular economy concept would help cut down waste to a more sustainable level.

As a SIDS that is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, Seychelles must ensure that **climate action (SDG 13)** is being enacted to promote resilience, protect biodiversity and reduce pollution and waste. However, Seychelles remains dependent on imported fossil fuels, while lacking

**In conclusion,  
Seychelles has made significant progress towards achieving the SDGs, particularly relating to health and well-being, economic growth and infrastructure development.**

access to financial and technical resources that could boost the energy transition.

Seychelles is committed to protecting its life below water (SDG 14), and it has established several marine protected areas, implementing measures to combat illegal fishing. However, overfishing and marine pollution remain major challenges in the country, and risk having a severe effect on marine ecosystems<sup>20</sup>.

Seychelles has a rich natural environment with significant flora and fauna, as well as a variety of species of land animals and birds. Nonetheless, the country faces challenges of habitat and biodiversity loss<sup>21</sup> indicating an impact on **life on land (SDG 15)**.

**Governance and institutions require improvement and strengthening in Seychelles (SDG 16)** in order to ensure an efficient and accountable public service, access to justice, and equal enjoyment of human rights by all.

**Partnerships (SDG 17)** are crucial for ensuring that Seychelles meets the SDGs, by providing access to capacities, technologies and finance. South-South cooperation, regional partnerships and partnerships with other vulnerable SIDS offer opportunities to leverage national capacities and develop mutually beneficial partnerships for progress towards the SDGs. Partnerships at national level, between public entities, civil society and the private sector are fundamental too, with the objective of reinforcing policy coherence (SDG 17.14) to ensure the best use of limited resources and capacities to advance a transformative agenda.

In conclusion, Seychelles has made significant progress towards achieving the SDGs, particularly relating to health and well-being, economic growth and infrastructure development. However, there are still challenges to address, particularly in areas such as gender equality, poverty and inequality reduction, economic diversification and environmental sustainability, governance, and partnerships.

<sup>20</sup> Baker, S., & Constant, N. L. (2020). Epistemic Justice and the Integration of Local Ecological Knowledge for Marine Conservation: Lessons from the Seychelles. *Marine Policy*, 117, 103921.

<sup>21</sup> Senaratne, M., Zimbroff, A., & Stevens, J. T. (2021). An Instrument to Assess Blue Economy Entrepreneurship Ecosystems: A study from the Seychelles. *Journal of the Indian Ocean Region*, 17(2), 205-223.

<sup>19</sup> Benzaken, D., & Hoareau, K. (2021). From Concept to Practice: the Blue Economy in Seychelles. In *The Blue Economy in Sub-Saharan Africa* (pp. 141-157). Routledge.

## CHAPTER 2

# UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



# CONSULTATIONS AND ANALYSIS INFORMING UNSDCF PRIORITIES

The UNCT co-led an extensive process of consultations with the Government of Seychelles to inform the development of this UNSDCF. These commenced in May 2022 with a multi-sector policy dialogue between the government and the UNCT. This was followed by technical discussions between the United Nations and government ministry technical teams in December 2022. The UNCT PMT then reviewed the emerging priorities in January 2023. The consultation process culminated in a Visioning and Strategic Prioritization Workshop (VSPW), co-hosted by

the Government of Seychelles and the UNCT, in March 2023.

At the VSPW the emergent national development priorities of the government were shared. Representatives from across government ministries and agencies, development partners, IFIs, the private sector, civil society, industry associations and academia consulted and reached broad consensus on which of these priorities the United Nations should focus on over the period 2024 – 2028. The following statement captures the overall direction:

***“the overarching value proposition of the UNSDCF resides in the United Nations being able to provide strategic support for a whole-of-government policy and systems shift towards RESILIENCE and INCLUSION”.***

Within the scope of this intention the United Nations will also need to support the strengthening of institutional and community capabilities for resilience and risk-informed, risk-tested development, and climate change adaptation. The consultations featured a strong focus by all stakeholders on the linkages between the main objective of being resilient in all dimensions of sustainable development, and the corresponding priority areas of education, social protection, health and justice (resilient social contract); economic diversification, decent work, and food, water and energy security (resilient economy); climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and biodiversity (resilient environmental ecosystems). The lessons arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and other major global disruptions point to an urgent need to place energy and food systems on more sustainable localized foundations, and to move away from an overreliance on strategic external inputs, one of the country’s major drivers of vulnerability.

Participants at the VSPW mapped out the main development pathways required for securing a successful outcome in each priority area, including the identification of obstacles to be overcome and strategies for success<sup>22</sup>. Following the VSPW, the UNSDCF concept and draft results framework (RF) for the UNSDCF were crafted following further discussions with government. These consultations helped to refine and sharpen the core results section, partnerships, and implementation arrangements of the UNSDCF.

In addition to these important consultations, an independent evaluation of the preceding United Nations Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) 2018-2023 provided an important source for learning about what is working well, and which adjustments need to be made when conceptualizing the UNSDCF. Chief among these lessons learned and recommendations brought forward by the evaluators – and now integrated into the design of this UNSDCF –



is strengthened co-ownership with the government, and the requirement for a far more deliberately focused approach by the United Nations; this is now reflected in a more exacting results framework (Annex 1)<sup>23</sup>. Enhanced partnerships with the private sector and civil society were also recommended in that evaluation.

The United Nations CCA provided an important injection of analytical rigour and stimuli for

reaching consensus on the underlying, structural and root causes of the development challenges present in Seychelles today. The UNCT has expressed a strong desire for the UNSDCF to be strategic and focused on systemic responses to national development challenges. This was behind the development of the Theory of Change on which the priorities, outcomes and focus areas for United Nations intervention are founded, and which is contained in this UNSDCF.

<sup>23</sup> The SPF (2018-2023) Evaluation generated the following key lessons learned and recommendations: 1. Improve strategic partnerships: Involve all stakeholders (especially private sector and civil society) in the design of the CF 2024-28 and popularize the content of the RRF for stakeholder buy-in; 2. Improve effectiveness: sharpen and focus the RRF and monitoring and evaluation (M&E); 3. Improve coherence and efficiencies: streamline United Nations interventions, develop joint programmes / work plans in areas of UN comparative advantage, and align to the RRF of the CF; and 4. Improve convening and coordination functions: establish results groups co-chaired between the United Nations and government for mutual ownership and accountability, monitoring and reporting.

<sup>22</sup> This sequence of steps provided the basis for the UNSDCF Theory of Change.

# UNSDCF'S OVERARCHING THEORY OF CHANGE

The UNSDCF's overarching Theory of Change (Fig 1 below) seeks to outline a comprehensive development pathway for Seychelles that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient within the parameters of charted risks and assumptions. It identifies the key development priorities and interventions that aim to address the socio-economic needs and rights of the population, support economic transformation in the blue-green and circular economy, and attempt to restore Seychelles' natural environment while adapting to climate change. It supports the perpetuation of a socially cohesive and inclusive society for all people in Seychelles, supported by more effective and accountable institutions at all levels.

The Theory of Change also seeks to embed adherence to cross-cutting issues and enablers that must necessarily feature within each pillar of the UNSDCF. These include gender equality

and women's and youth empowerment, data, digitalization, public and private financing, alongside the needs for enhanced skills, technologies, partnerships, and capacities to ensure climate adaptation and resilience.

Resilience in all its form – whether it comes from a strong social contract, a solid economy that enhances human rights, or thriving natural ecosystems – is at the heart of the accelerated transition foreseen by the desired change. Seychelles' condition as a SIDS, as underlined by the multiple, overlapping crises that has been affecting its development path in recent years, indicate a higher-than-average vulnerability. Addressing this vulnerability in the various dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic, environmental – should accelerate and stabilize the sustainable development path for the next five years.



Fig 1. UNSDCF (2024 - 2028) SEYCHELLES - THEORY OF CHANGE DIAGRAM<sup>24</sup>



<sup>24</sup> Major risks included here are a combination of those cited in the United Nations CCA and those presented by the government at the Strategic Prioritization Retreat in March 2023.



# UNSDCF CORE PRINCIPLES

The development of this UNSDCF has been guided by the following principles:

- A comprehensive human rights-based approach to development, with a strong focus on inclusion and leaving no one behind
- Gender equality and women's empowerment
- Sustainability and resilience
- Accountability and transparency

Each of these principles is summarized below, to give a sense of the level of commitment of the UNCT and the Government of Seychelles to their centrality at the heart of this UNSDCF.



## HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The UNSDCF and its Theory of Change are underpinned by a human rights-based approach to development. Agenda 2030 is grounded in human rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Human rights are crucial for advancing stable, inclusive, and prosperous societies and for the pursuit of sustainable development. In the same way that human rights standards and principles<sup>25</sup> informed the United Nations CCA for Seychelles, the UNSDCF includes human rights and leaving no one behind (LNOB) throughout all phases of programming, planning, implementation and in monitoring and evaluation. This UNSDCF reinforces the United Nations' ongoing contribution to the development of the institutional capacities of 'duty-bearers' to meet their obligations and of 'rights-holders' to claim their rights.

On the Government side, important improvements have occurred in the institutional and legal frameworks for human rights through the Human Rights Act of 2018, which established the Seychelles Human Rights Commission as an independent body monitoring the enjoyment of human rights and implementation of human rights treaties. Seychelles is party to a range of international human rights treaties (see Annex 2).

Given the characteristics of Seychelles, the UNCT will strengthen the linkages between human rights and climate change to ensure that development meets the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In this light, the UNCT will ensure that United Nations environmental and climate change programmes are informed by human rights and work to foster greater recognition of the effects of ecological degradation and climate change on the enjoyment of rights and well-being of people. The UNCT will work with the national authorities to promote good natural resource governance, and encourage greater inclusion and participation of communities and citizens in environmental and climate matters. Similarly, the UNCT will help ensure that an inclusive economy in Seychelles enhances human rights for all, and does not replicate existing global inequalities.

Hence, across all three pillars of the UNSDCF a people-centred approach is applied, aiming at preventing and addressing inequalities, discrimination, exclusion and poverty, and ensuring that all people in Seychelles are able to participate in and benefit from development, including women, youth, people with disabilities, stateless persons, refugees and asylum seekers and migrants. The UNSDCF will seek to advocate and mainstream principles of participation with a diversity of civil society actors, through the promotion of safe civil and digital spaces, as well as through engagement with transparent and accountable public and private sector institutions, including the media.

In the framework of human rights, Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) is also among the top priorities of the UNCT in Seychelles, with a special focus on putting victims first and ensuring senior management is held accountable for PSEA. While noting the disproportionate effects of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) on women, children, and vulnerable persons in Seychelles, the UNCT is committed to approaching its collective action on PSEA in order to safeguard beneficiaries/ service recipients from SEA through this programme line. The United Nations' system has a strategic focus to building systems to strengthen its internal structures, processes and accountabilities, as well as to provide support to governments and other partners and service providers to establish efficient organizational capacities to prevent and respond to SEA.

<sup>25</sup> The principles and standards ascribed to are derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other related instruments. Human rights guide all development cooperation and programming in all sectors and in all phases of the programming process.

# SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

In consultations and analysis preceding the formulation of this UNSDCF, including a multistakeholder foresight exercise, the government, development partners and UNCT identified a number of key risks and assumptions relevant to Seychelles' future development. Issues of sustainability and resilience quickly came to the fore, becoming a recurrent theme from every perspective. For example, in Outcome one, inclusive human development, social protection, health and education systems need to be resilient to extreme stress, especially the pressure of multiple crises on public finance that hamper these systems' sustainability and the impact of exogenous shocks, such as that presented by the COVID-19 pandemic or the cost-of-living crisis. They also need to remain relevant in a swiftly changing landscape, with a shift in the skills needed to thrive and new health and economic threats emerging. These systems, while social by nature, present increasingly economic and environmental aspects, for instance when healthy lifestyles and dignified lives are intrinsically related to the health of natural ecosystems and the performance of the economy, in terms of productivity, among others. They also need to be fiscally sustainable in a context of constant pressure on state finance from multiple, overlapping crises, some of them protracted, such as climate change, geopolitical turmoil, and economic and supply chain disruptions. From a systems approach, and informed by CCA root cause analysis, the education and skills sector is central for producing the next generation of highly educated and trained personnel who develop their full potential while being capable of meeting these challenges, and the economy will have to provide this generation with decent work opportunities to use these skills in Seychelles, rather than elsewhere. Since people are the ultimate true wealth of any nation, Seychelles must place the highest priority on being able to bring up successive generations of people with the creative, technical, and digital skills

sets needed to find solutions to these most pressing of national challenges, and to thrive in transformed societies and labour markets. This has repercussions across UNSDCF outcome areas 2 and 3.

A similar challenge exists at the interface between the blue-green economy and the environment (outcomes areas 2 and 3). The economic model (Outcome 2), which has generated tremendous wealth over the past few decades is potentially a growing liability to stability in Seychelles' society due to the vulnerabilities created by an overreliance on imported fossil fuels, food and inputs linked to a carbon-intense, globalized economy that will no longer be relevant in the future (Outcome 3). As Seychelles seeks to manage a just transition to a sustainable and resilient society, the relationship between the economy and the natural environment needs to be adjusted and adapted to climate risk. Hence the proximity of both economy and natural resources will increasingly need to be considered as one whole system, and issues of sustainability and resilience (which were traditionally the domain of Outcome 3), now need to be considered across the entire system of UNSDCF Outcomes 1 – 3.

Furthermore, the United Nations CCA revealed that Seychelles is highly vulnerable to climate change. Much of the population lives – and infrastructure is located – in areas geographically susceptible to sea level rise<sup>26</sup>. Resilience and sustainability are also central to considering reformed approaches to food, energy and water systems in Seychelles. Seychelles' food and energy systems must be resilient to withstand insecurities and be greater insulated from exposure to imports and inflation (see Inter-agency Output 2.3 below). Climate adaptation within the food, water and energy systems is thereby of central importance to the UNSDCF.

# ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

The Cooperation Framework serves as a core accountability tool between the UNCT and the Government of Seychelles. Among UNCT members, the UNSDCF is collectively owned, with United Nations entity-specific country programmes

being derived from the Cooperation Framework. The UNCT commits to an annual meeting with government and key development partners for the purposes of reporting progress, financial reporting and accountability of results.

<sup>26</sup> UNCT CCA, p.9

# ALIGNMENT OF UNSDCF TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

The priorities and outcomes of this UNSDCF align closely with the priorities and objectives of Seychelles Vision 2033. It is aimed to support 9 of the 10 major challenges set out in Seychelles

Vision 2033 within the cycle of the UNSDCF: see Table 2 below.

**Table 2. Alignment between the UNSDCF Priorities and Seychelles Vision 2033 and challenges to be addressed**

UNSDCF Outcome	Seychelles Vision 2033 <sup>27</sup>	Vision 2033 Challenges to be Addressed in this UNSDCF
<p><b>OUTCOME 1</b> By 2028, all people in Seychelles, especially youth (not in education, employment or training), women, people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, are empowered and have access to improved and sustainable services, protection, and opportunities that meet their needs.</p>	<p>Build a prosperous people-centred nation, providing excellent public services characterised by wide stakeholder participation with fair opportunities for all.</p> <p>Build a highly and appropriately skilled, healthy and productive population to support Vision 2033.</p>	<p><b>CHALLENGE 1</b> Governance and transparency – Being a small country, Seychelles faces inherent challenges to governance, especially to accountability with potentially destabilizing consequences. Therefore, improving transparency and accountability can contribute to addressing the constraints identified above to strengthen government's performance.</p> <p><b>CHALLENGE 2</b> Consistent fiscal policy – Sound fiscal measures and policies will have to be maintained in the prioritization of public expenditure (with regard to both investment and social spending) within a consistent and sustainable macroeconomic framework, to avoid the build-up of fiscal pressures and risks.</p> <p><b>CHALLENGE 5</b> Drug and alcohol disorders – Complex social challenges related to drug and alcohol use and their impacts on national socioeconomic development are one of the most pressing and costly challenges for Seychelles as the country seeks to develop further.</p> <p><b>CHALLENGE 7</b> Quality of education – Unsatisfactory educational outcomes raise concerns about the productivity of the labour force. The education system will have to ensure that the youth are equipped with the necessary academic, soft, and vocational skills.</p> <p><b>CHALLENGE 8</b> Limited health care resources – On matters pertaining to health and well-being, widespread concerns and challenges of rising obesity rates, and the prevalence of non-communicable diseases, linger.</p>

<sup>27</sup> At the Strategic Prioritization Retreat held on 6-7 March 2023, the government presented six interlinked priorities of the emergent National Development Plan: 1. Modern Public Governance; 2. Economic Transformation; 3. Health; 4. Law & Order; 5. Education/Skills; 6. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change. Within this context, financing, digitization, entrepreneurship, innovation, technologies and partnerships were presented as leading cross-cutting enablers. In addition, the government is pursuing a detailed exercise to cost and adapt all sectors to climate risk.

Table 2. Alignment between the UNSDCF Priorities and Seychelles Vision 2033 and challenges to be addressed (con't)

UNSDCF Outcome	Seychelles Vision 2033 <sup>27</sup>	Vision 2033 Challenges to be Addressed in this UNSDCF
<p><b>OUTCOME 2</b> By 2028, all people in Seychelles, especially youth not in education, employment or training, women, and other vulnerable groups, benefit from a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive economy enabled by a responsive public and private sector.</p>	<p>Build a modern, diversified and resilient economy.</p> <p>Become a world leader in sustainable, responsible, ethical and sustainable tourism, closely integrated with the nation's high environmental protection standards, and socioeconomic goals.</p> <p>Create a strong enabling environment for free enterprise and entrepreneurship, foreign direct investment and global partnerships.</p> <p>Become a global Knowledge Hub for research and implementation of the "blue economy" in partnership with global institutions.</p> <p>Seek innovative and sustainable science &amp; technology solutions to Seychelles' unique opportunities and challenges, including energy and food security.</p>	<p><b>CHALLENGE 3</b> Access to development funds – The year 2015 saw Seychelles graduate to "high-income" status, owing to a relatively high GNI per capita. While this represents a milestone in the country's socioeconomic progression, it has resulted in reduced access to concessional development funds. Seychelles now faces the challenge of resource mobilization with considerably fewer financing options.</p> <p><b>CHALLENGE 4</b> Managing migrant labour – In recent years, economic growth has been driven by high levels of investment and ever-increasing imported labour, with only moderate increases in overall productivity. This has, in itself, created challenges pertaining to the nation's capacity to adequately manage the influx of foreign workers needed to sustain economic growth.</p> <p><b>CHALLENGE 9</b> The technological frontier – The impact of technological advancement and modernization serves as a catalyst for development. However, technology brings about inherent risks pertaining to security of data and requires technical capacity to apply innovations and latest practices. Seychelles will face the trial of keeping abreast of the ever-evolving technological advancements, and identifying appropriate scientific, technological and innovative solutions suited to the national context.</p>
<p><b>OUTCOME 3</b> By 2028, people and institutions are better prepared for disaster risks, and natural ecosystems are more resilient to climate change, biodiversity losses and pollution.</p>	<p>Build a nation in which our people and nature sustainably coexist and flourish, resilient to both natural and manmade threats.</p>	<p><b>CHALLENGE 10</b> Conservation balance – As can be anticipated, Seychelles faces the challenge of maintaining its position as a leader in environmental conservation and protection. With further development, increasing pressure for land and natural resources and threats of environmental displacement, Seychelles must prepare itself for the inevitable trade-offs, experienced by its peers on the international scene, between preserving the environment and accelerating national development. The sector visions put forward indicate a desire to see growth and positive change in various socio-economic sectors. These sector visions seek to overcome the current-day challenges, and set forth a sustainable development pathway.</p>

## THE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations is able to provide immense scope across the national and international development landscape to support the Government and people of Seychelles to advance towards the stated national vision 2033:

***“A resilient, responsible and prosperous nation of healthy, educated and empowered Seychellois living together in harmony with nature and engaged with the wider world.”<sup>28</sup>***

The UNSDCF also aligns with the regional Agenda for Africa, Agenda 2063, especially on its goals of “High standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens”, “Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation”, “Healthy and well-nourished citizens”, and “Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched” (Outcome 1) ; “Transformed economies”, “Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production”, “Blue/ocean economy for accelerated economic growth” (Outcome 2); and “Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities” (Outcome 3).

Not only does the United Nations facilitate leadership of the international community in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it also provides extensive support to the government, districts authorities and development partners at all levels.

Moreover, the United Nations has a deep and longstanding commitment and endeavour to support the Government of Seychelles to implement human rights treaties and conventions to which it is party, including advancing economic, social, environmental and cultural rights and development based on principles of equality, inclusion, resilience and sustainability.

The United Nations can also leverage its global network of development expertise and draw continuously on this pool to capitalize on the exchange of development best practice through South-South and Triangular Cooperation mechanisms and regional collaboration.

The United Nations can build on the wealth of tools, knowledge, and expertise that resident and non-resident United Nations agencies have accumulated over the years and adapted to several contexts, and adapt it to Seychelles in order to provide analysis for science-based policy making and strategic planning, as well as facilitate multistakeholder dialogue, informed by quality, timely support, including data, digital tools, strategic foresight, and innovative approaches and solutions.

Throughout implementation of the UNSDCF, the United Nations will provide a strong synergistic and coordinated approach to the priorities, outcomes and inter-agency outputs, enabling it to maximize its comparative advantage across the full breadth and depth of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

<sup>28</sup> Seychelles Vision 2033, p.17



# PRIORITY AREA 1: PEOPLE

Inclusive human development  
for an empowered, healthy  
and skilled population

Photo credit: Conrad Shamlaye

## OUTCOME 1

**By 2028, all people in Seychelles, especially youth (not in education, employment or training), women, people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, are empowered and have access to improved and sustainable services, protection, and opportunities that meet their needs.**

### United Nations Contribution to Outcome 1

Based on the Theory of Change for Outcome 1 contained in Box 1 below, in consultation with the government and development partners, three areas have been identified for collaborative working to deliver transformative results that achieve impact at scale.

In this regard the United Nations will focus on the delivery of the following outputs in order to significantly advance progress in this outcome area:

- **Inter-agency Output 1.1: Health and social protection systems are increasingly inclusive and resilient.** [FAO, ILO, IOM, ITU, UNFPA, UNODC, WHO]
- **Inter-agency Output 1.2: The youth, especially young women and young persons living with disabilities, enjoy enhanced access to skills leading them to decent work opportunities corresponding to their aspirations and the labour market possibilities.** [ILO, IOM, ITU, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNWomen, WHO]
- **Inter-agency Output 1.3: Improved access to justice, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized groups, within a governance framework characterized by strong, efficient and accountable institutions.** [IOM, UNHCR, UNODC, UNOPS, WHO]

To improve the resilience of the social contract, the United Nations will support government institutions to provide increasingly integrated, shock-responsive, and adaptive social systems that are financially sustainable over time. As noted in the Theory of Change above, data and digitalization will play an important role in enabling refined targeting for service delivery while also enabling monitoring to ensure that no one is left behind, and to provide better analysis based on improved attention to data collection. As a result of United Nations intervention, and underpinning the United Nations' position to

place people at the centre of development, the United Nations will support the adaptation of systems to improve access for people at risk of being left furthest behind, with a particular focus on: women; youth not in education, employment and training; people with disabilities; stateless, refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants. This will include closer attention to ensuring protection from economic, climate, health and other social and financial shocks; the provision of adequate skills to thrive in a swiftly changing world, society, and economy; and ensure better access to decent opportunities, services and livelihoods as a result.

### Outcome 1 Alignment with National Priorities

**Outcome 1 aligns with Seychelles National Vision 2033 to:**

- Build a prosperous people-centred nation, providing excellent public services characterized by wide stakeholder participation, with fair opportunities for all;
- Build a highly and appropriately skilled, healthy and productive population to support Vision 2033.

These areas are closely aligned to the long-term sector specific goals set out in the National Vision 2033<sup>29</sup>.

- **Health Sector:** "The attainment by all people in Seychelles of the highest level of physical, social, mental and spiritual health, and living in harmony with nature."
- **Education Sector:** "Educated, empowered and responsible citizens engaged in building a sustainable, inclusive and equitable society."
- **Social Sector:** "A resilient society built on strong communities, happy families, driven by empowered individuals who embody core values."

<sup>29</sup> Sectors Visions as set out in Seychelles Vision 2033, p 84-94

## Theory of Change for Outcome 1

Box 1 below briefly describes the Theory of Change and rationale as to why the outputs and interventions supported by the United Nations have been selected in this outcome area. In addition to transformational impact at scale, the outputs selected also represent particular areas in which the United Nations has a comparative advantage and is able to support meaningful change across the lifecycle of the UNSDCF.

### BOX 1



IF health and social protection systems are better able to deliver timely, equitable, and innovative services to all, especially to youth not in education, employment and training, as well as to women and migrants, and do so in a manner financially sustainable over time, THEN the well-being of Seychellois, especially the most vulnerable, will be improved, and poverty and inequality will be reduced.



IF more people, especially women and youth (with a focus on youth not in education, employment or training), gain access to future oriented education and vocational training, THEN more opportunities will be generated for social and economic transformation and to the creation of an inclusive, resilient and sustainable society.



IF financing opportunities and governance systems are improved, AND IF improved access to justice is achieved, especially for marginalized groups, THEN Seychelles will become a fairer and more inclusive society.

### Inter-agency Output 1.1: Health and social protection systems are increasingly inclusive and resilient. [FAO, ILO, IOM, ITU, UNFPA, UNODC, WHO]

**Rationale:** This output is intended to provide a basic safety to support individuals and households in greatest need, while reinforcing the financial sustainability of health and social protection systems, and supporting healthy lifestyles and sexual and reproductive health and rights. It places the principles of inclusion, “leaving no one behind” and “reaching the farthest first” at the forefront of the UNSDCF. Drawing on the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, this reflects the importance the UNCT places on practical measures that can be used to tackle poverty and vulnerability, by strengthening the functional institutional mechanisms and governance systems to enable this. As part of the resilience agenda, consideration is given to how to better prepare for, cope with and respond to life-cycle socio-economic, environmental and climate shocks. Once implemented, the Output will also support the prevention of cohorts of the population sitting just above the poverty line from slipping back into poverty.

Practical measures the United Nations will work on, in partnership with national and local authorities, the private sector, civil society, academic institutions and the media, include:

- Reinforcing functional institutional mechanisms and governance systems to enable evidence-based policy and decision making, and the adoption of innovative solutions to deliver health services and social protection benefits;
- Improving health regulations for preventive care, reduced substance use disorder and improved mental health, supporting quality assured health services nationwide, prioritizing LNOB population groups;
- Promoting healthy lifestyles for all age groups, notably youth and the elderly, including ‘Revitalize Health-in-All Policies’, while addressing risk factors for priority diseases and changing the burden of disease with respect to NCDs;
- Enhancing occupational safety and working conditions to address the issues of health and other behaviours affecting worker safety and productivity;

- Promoting ways to assist the fiscal sustainability and resilience of the health and social protection systems in the context of an ageing population, including vulnerable groups such as stateless persons, refugees and asylum seekers, and migrant and informal workers;
- Promoting sexual and reproductive health, particularly for youth, women, and other vulnerable groups;
- Supporting data and digitalization of the health and social protection systems, including e-health, digital social registry, data management and analysis as a basis to support evidence-based policy and decision making;
- Improving analysis of fiscal space and financing opportunities to improve the financial sustainability of the social protection and health systems, including through the installation of an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF).

### Inter-agency Output 1.2: The youth, especially young women and young persons living with disabilities, enjoy enhanced access to skills leading them to decent work opportunities, corresponding to their aspirations and the labour market possibilities. [ILO, IOM, ITU, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNWomen, WHO]

**Rationale:** This output is central to inclusive and sustainable human development, and lies at the heart of building a resilient advanced nation. As indicated in Inter-agency Output 1.2, although the Seychelles education system is modern and efficient, serving the nation well in contributing to sustained levels of national development, it now needs to adjust to the needs of a rapidly evolving economy and society, to better meet the aspirations of all young people, especially those that might be at risk of being ‘left behind’. The education system needs to reorient towards the acquisition of knowledge and skills for creative and fulfilling lives within the context of a modern, productive, sustainable and increasingly digitally and AI-transformed economy. A considerable minority of young people are not in education, employment or training; this is a missed opportunity at the individual and collective level for the Seychellois, and a drag on economic growth,

adding to pressure on limited fiscal space. On the other side of the issue, economic opportunities (mostly in the form of decent work) need to be available for the youth to use their skills locally, to avoid accelerating the brain drain. As such, the synergies between output 1.2 and outputs 2.1 and 2.2 are fundamental, and United Nations interventions in the areas of education and vocational training, decent work, and economic transformation will be approached together rather than in silos. Decent work opportunities include transition towards formality, to mitigate the risk of living some workers behind as informal workers are deprived of legal benefits or protection. This transition is especially important in a context of ageing population, when an increasing share of the population will arrive at retirement age and live on pensions if they were enrolled on contributory social protection.

**The United Nations** will lend assistance to the government’s efforts to further advance the overall performance of Seychelles’ education system, including support for:

- Educational sector reform, including curriculum modernization, catering to the diverse needs of students, and equipping young people and life-long learners with the broad range of modern skills (digital, creativity, enquiry and so on), with a strong moral and values base, to improve learning outcomes;
- Policies and strategies, including their implementation, and fully aligned to international standards and norms, to enable early childhood education and the acquisition of skills required to accelerate digital transformation, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and entrepreneurship, with a specific focus on girls;
- A strengthened system to support qualified, well-trained, and supported teachers, educators, coaches and mentors at educational and TVET institutions;
- Strengthened partnerships and linkages between the educational and economic systems, such as in blue/green economy, research and development (R&D), digitalization and innovation, agrifood systems, and health tourism, as well as data and

analysis on sectors with decent work potential for career orientation;

- Educational initiatives to further develop and integrate climate adaptation into the curricula, research, analysis, technologies and solutions;
- Stronger youth inclusion and empowerment to prevent school and college dropouts through initiatives aimed at educational, health and economic empowerment, gender autonomy, and political participation, alongside promotion of innovation, R&D, and youth entrepreneurship;
- Ensuring gender equality at all levels of education and within the curricula, including on participation in tertiary education where gender gaps are unfavourable to men;
- Skilling and reskilling initiatives for job seekers – women, youth, and other vulnerable groups – to allow them to seize employment and entrepreneurship opportunities;
- Transition to formality for informal workers and business owners, by supporting the enabling legal and policy framework on the one hand, and the capacities of informal workers on the other, including digital and financial literacy.
- Capacity building and operationalization of the Labour Market Information System (LMIS) through a public-private platform to identify and match the skill needs of students;
- Promoting distance learning to enhance the higher education offer for African students as well as South-South bilateral migration cooperation, including the promotion of circular skills mobility and skills development pathways;
- Leveraging the potential of the diaspora to fill labour skills gaps, including youth diaspora volunteering schemes, short term assignments, skills development, investments and technology transfers;
- Within all of the initiatives outlined above, the United Nations will promote a human rights-based approach in which inclusiveness and

opportunities for all, especially for populations at risk (women, youth, persons with disabilities, stateless, refugees and asylum-seekers, migrants, and informal workers) are more deliberately considered and included in the measures of success of programmes;

- Education as a catalyst for empowerment for civic engagement, social enterprise and volunteerism within an inclusive, cohesive, and climate-adapted society that enables Seychelles to accelerate its progress towards SDG achievement.

**Inter-agency Output 1.3: Improved access to justice, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized groups within a governance framework characterized by strong, efficient and accountable institutions.** [IOM, UNHCR, UNODC, UNOPS, WHO]

**Rationale:** This Output seeks to support the population, with a special focus on the most vulnerable, through improved access to effective justice and well-functioning institutions. It focuses on ensuring that the strong governance framework of Seychelles is inclusive, 'leaving no one behind' and providing mechanisms for the protection of human rights for women, especially victims of gender-based violence, youth, people with disabilities, stateless persons, refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and those facing challenges to their wellbeing. Through the promotion of data, this Inter-agency Output endeavours to enhance the resilience of the justice system and the population with evidence-based preventive and protective policies and actions. Implementation of this Output will help to reduce inequalities and promote equity within Seychelles, while enhancing the country's strong institutions in order to be more efficient, effective and accountable. These strong institutions will in turn continue to enable solid economic development. As such, the synergies between this output and output 2.2, with a strong focus on economic governance, are significant and United Nations interventions in these areas will be designed and implemented in a coordinated manner.

Within this Inter-agency Output area the United Nations will provide capacity-building and technical support for:

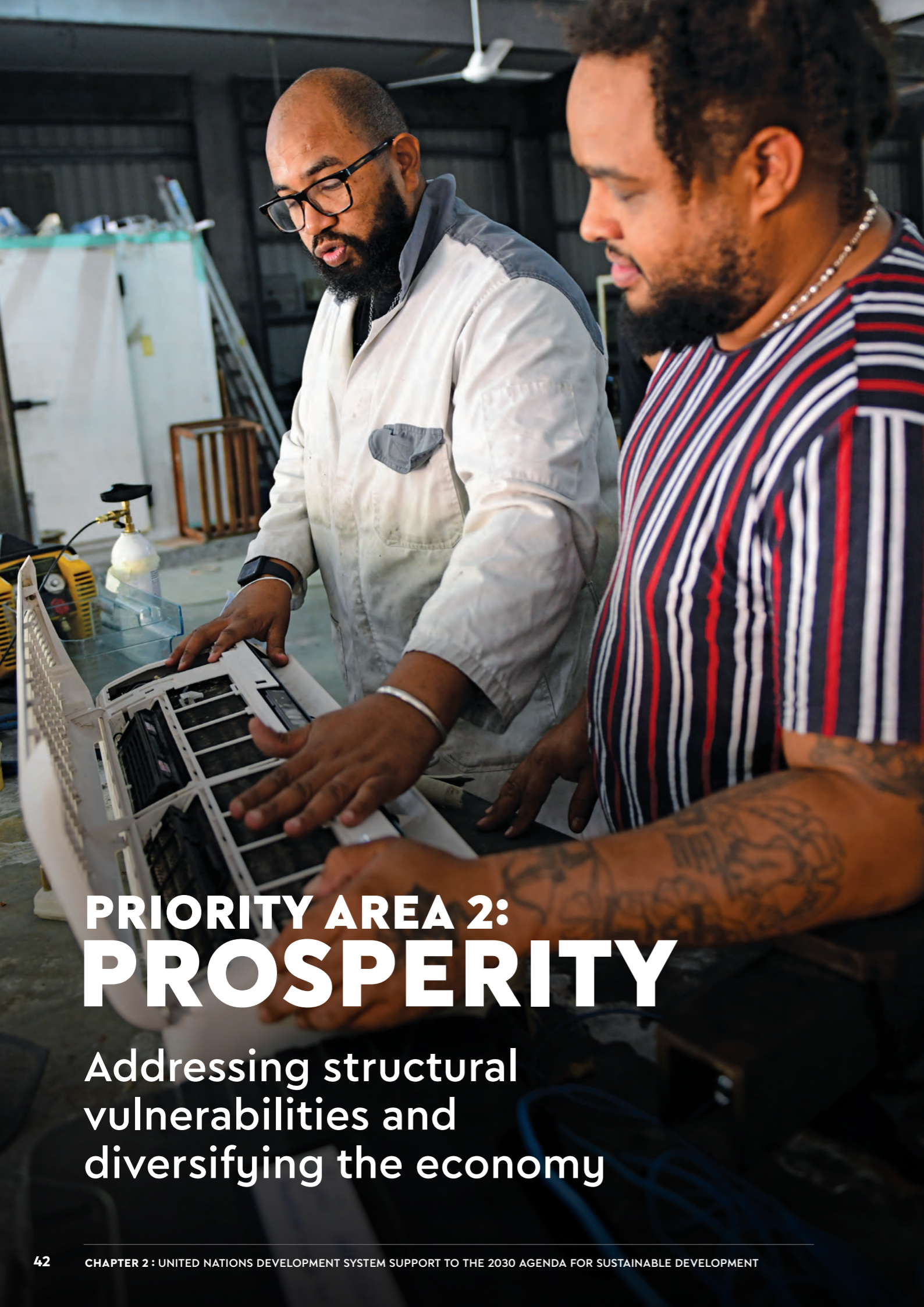
- The government, the National Human Rights Commission, associated institutions, and civil society organizations to enable stronger contributions to human rights mechanisms and outcomes, including the establishment of a functional National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up, and strengthening the national recommendation tracking database;
- Strengthening data for evidence-based policy making and strategic planning for improved analysis, disaggregation, and for sharpened service delivery and monitoring for populations at greatest risk of being "left behind";
- Strengthening of government digital systems and platforms for improved and equitable service delivery, accountability, and institutional efficiency;
- Achieving the priority objectives of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular cross-border migration and the Global Compact for Refugees, in particular addressing and reducing vulnerabilities in migration and asylum through measures to ensure health and well-being, as well as security and safety throughout the mobility continuum;
- Empowering and enabling all genders, ages, abilities and diversities to live in an equitable, inclusive, cohesive society where they are able to access essential services, claim their rights and contribute to sustainable development;
- Addressing gender-based violence through prevention and access to justice for victims, by building human and institutional capacities in relevant institutions;
- A performance-based, accountable and transparent public service to ensure successful implementation of result-based management and digitized services for enhanced public service delivery, including leadership of SDG implementation;
- Strengthened cross-border, regional and sub-regional cooperation, governance and security.

## Key Measures of Success in Outcome 1

Success in Outcome 1 will be measured against a selection of SDG indicators based on increasingly available high quality, disaggregated data, which is well managed and digitalized<sup>30</sup>. In accordance with the human rights-based approach, outcome indicators vary between duty bearers and rights holders. From an inclusion perspective, measures focus on women, youth, children, people with disabilities, stateless people, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in order to be certain that these population segments are able gain improved access to, participate in, and benefit from, services supported in this UNSDCF priority area:

- The Human Development Index (HDI) (including the inequality-adjusted IHDI);
- Universality of access to / coverage of social protection systems, disaggregated by: i. unemployed, ii. workers in case of injury, and iii. older persons;
- Universal Health Coverage Index, disaggregated by: i) reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, ii) infectious diseases, iii) noncommunicable disease, and iv) service capacity and access;
- Proportion of population with large household expenditure on health as a proportion of total household expenditure or income;
- Prevalence of obesity in adults aged 25 to 64 years old;
- Proportion of youth (aged 15- to 24-years-old) not in education, employment or training;
- Proportion of youth and adults with digital skills, by type of skill, disaggregated by: i) gender, ii) disability; and iii) migration status;
- E-government development index;
- Mo Ibrahim Overall Governance Index;
- Existence of national human rights institution in compliance with Paris Principles;
- Fully functional national mechanism established for reporting and follow-up.

<sup>30</sup> See Annex 1 for full Results Framework of the UNSDCF



## PRIORITY AREA 2: PROSPERITY

Addressing structural vulnerabilities and diversifying the economy

### OUTCOME 2

By 2028, all people in Seychelles, especially youth not in education, employment or training, women, and other vulnerable groups, will benefit from a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive economy enabled by a responsive public and private sector.

#### United Nations Contribution to Outcome 2

Based on the Theory of Change described in Box 2 on next page, the United Nations identified three key leverage points where it can collectively make a difference in boosting economic transformation towards resilience and sustainability, by addressing the economy's main vulnerabilities as a SIDS (concentration of the economy in few, fragile sectors; weak economic fabric; and overreliance on strategic imports such as food, fuel and inputs). In order to realize these goals, the United Nations will partner with the government and the private sector to enable a planned shift towards a more inclusive, resilient, climate-adapted, blue-green economy. Policy and technical interventions will support economic transformation through greater degrees of innovation, technologies, and the provision of digital solutions. Strengthened inclusive value chains, decent and safer working conditions, improved performance of labour markets, enhanced food and water systems, reduction of pollution, and the transition to cleaner energy will be the key focus areas. The United Nations will support comprehensive financing frameworks and partnerships with the private sector to accelerate attainment of the SDGs. The United Nations will focus on the delivery of the following inter-agency outputs in order to make significant advancements in this outcome area:

- **Inter-agency Output 2.1: Value chains in the blue economy are strengthened to generate decent employment and stable livelihoods, especially for MSMEs, youth, women, and other vulnerable groups.** [FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, ITU, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNODC, WHO]
- **Inter-agency Output 2.2: The capacities of public and private sector and communities to engage in green and inclusive businesses for livelihood and job creation, are enhanced.** [FAO, IFAD, ILO, ITC, ITU, UNDESA, UNDP, UNECA, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO]

- **Inter-agency Output 2.3: Food and energy security systems are enhanced.** [FAO, IFAD, ITC, UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNWomen, WHO]

#### Outcome 2 Alignment with National Priorities

Outcome 2 aligns with several key strands of Seychelles National Vision 2033:

- Build a modern, diversified and resilient economy.
- Become a world leader in sustainable, responsible, ethical and sustainable tourism, closely integrated with the nation's high environmental protection standards and socioeconomic goals.
- Create a strong enabling environment for free enterprise and entrepreneurship, foreign direct investment and global partnerships.
- Become a global knowledge hub for research and implementation of the blue economy in partnership with global institutions.
- Seek innovative and sustainable science and technology solutions to Seychelles' unique opportunities and challenges, including energy and food security.

#### Theory of Change for Outcome 2

Box 2 on next page briefly describes the Theory of Change and rationale as to why the outputs and interventions supported by the United Nations have been selected in this outcome area. In addition to transformational impact at scale, they also represent the particular areas in which the United Nations has a comparative advantage in supporting meaningful change across the lifecycle of the UNSDCF.

## BOX 2



IF value chains in the blue economy are strengthened, AND IF economic inclusion measures are pursued, THEN greater opportunities will exist for decent jobs and livelihoods for MSMEs, youth, women, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.



IF the public sector, private sector, workers' organizations, academia and communities come together to collaborate more effectively on blue-green growth, including to close financing gaps, THEN more opportunities will open up for inclusive, resilient and sustainable growth for the benefit of all.



IF collaborative approaches can be pursued by the entire ecosystem of actors in the essential areas of food, energy and water systems, THEN more inclusive, resilient and sustainable solutions can be found to help Seychelles address its key structural vulnerabilities.

**Inter-agency Output 2.1: Value chains in the blue economy are strengthened to generate decent employment and stable livelihoods, especially for MSMEs, youth, women and other vulnerable groups.** [FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, ITU, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNODC, WHO]

**Rationale:** While Seychelles has successfully navigated a first economic transformation from traditional agriculture to a number of “modern” sectors, generating consistent growth over recent decades, its main engines of growth remain highly concentrated on tourism, fisheries and financial services. Alongside an import-dependent economy, this left the country exposed to structural vulnerabilities. Going forward, Seychelles is

seeking to diversify and further cultivate blue-green economic opportunities, effect a digital transformation, and become more self-sufficient and resilient as a nation. Unleashing the potential of the blue economy (that is, the sustainable ocean economy) is fundamental in this sense, including sustainable tourism with a higher yield and lower environmental and social impact, sustainable shipping and aquaculture, offshore renewable energies, and marine biotechnologies. Untapping these sectors with high potential for the creation of wealth and decent, resilient jobs will require an enabling environment, which the United Nations will support by facilitating assessments, plans, policies, investments, capacities, and partnerships. The enabling environment created today for the promotion of private sector investments, skills development, technology and decent jobs is central to Seychelles' success story in 2030-2050. Skills development and decent work are also addressed under output 1.2 above, and UN interventions in these areas will be considered in a coherent manner.

United Nations support will be provided to policies, initiatives and solutions aimed to:

- Foster the dynamism, productivity, sustainability and resilience of an innovative circular ocean economy (such as through analysis and support for small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, marine biotechnologies, offshore energy), as well as via R&D support;
- Develop human, institutional and financial capacities in public entities for common understanding of the blue economy and various subsectors;
- Support strategic planning and policy making to create an enabling environment to unleash sectors with high growth potential in the blue economy (technical assistance, fiscal incentives, and access to finance), including by identifying investment gaps and public and private investment opportunity areas through an INFF;
- Raise awareness of the value and role of marine and coastal ecosystems and biodiversity in human welfare, wealth creation and planetary health, as well as quality data and analysis for evidence-based policy making, investment,

risk sharing and risk management in the blue economy;

- Involve coastal communities in decision making regarding the development of the blue economy in their areas, including public and private investment in local infrastructure, and pilot innovative solutions for blue economy business development at community level;
- Accelerate the transition to sustainable tourism that makes a meaningful and measurable contribution to both economic development and ecosystem and biodiversity restoration simultaneously, through partnerships and platforms with civil society, social enterprise, volunteerism and the private sector;
- Build legal, institutional and regulatory capacities for strengthened maritime governance, safety and security, with particular emphasis on cross-border issues, including combating transnational organized crime (TOC).

**Inter-agency Output 2.2: The capacities of the public and private sector and communities to engage in green and inclusive businesses for livelihood and job creation are enhanced.** [FAO, IFAD, ILO, ITC, ITU, UNDESA, UNDP, UNECA, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO]

**Rationale:** Although the rate of economic growth has been impressive over recent decades, inequalities persist and the economic system tends towards practices that are environmentally and ecologically unsustainable over the long-term, while appearing to be less inclusive. Attention is needed to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, and reduce pollution of all kinds. The economy is characterized as a having a narrow base and in need of accelerating climate adaptation, calling for an urgent, just transition. Furthermore, youth unemployment remains a structural issue. Thus, an economy-wide dialogue is required, and could lead to improved institutional arrangements and adapted human and institutional capacities, and transformative, innovative partnerships among public entities, the private sector, workers' organizations, academia, and communities. Empowering women, especially

the most vulnerable – such as victims of gender-based violence or heads of poor households – to seize opportunities related to value chain transformation will be a cross-cutting focus.

The United Nations will work with the government and a coalition of business and community partners to support economic transformation and climate adaptation, including in the following areas:

- Upgrading the innovation, R&D and entrepreneurial ecosystems for decent employment and livelihoods in the green, blue, circular, digital, and care economies with a focus on young people, women, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups;
- Brokering knowledge and partnerships to accelerate regional integration, including by leveraging the opportunities associated with the AfCFTA, and support the diversification and resilience of external trade and international supply chains;
- Installing the enabling environment, including legal and policy frameworks and human and institutional capacities for public and private investment in just transition, economic transformation, and innovation;
- Accompanying transition to formality through the enabling environment and the capacities needed;
- Installing policy frameworks that facilitate more productive and safe working conditions, where rights at work are fully realized, in accordance with workers' organizations;
- Fostering both public and private partnerships and investment in the blue economy, including mobilizing support for private sector implementation of the SDGs;
- Strengthening labour market arrangements, instruments, and mechanisms for migrants (as per Inter-agency Output 1.3 above), to enable them to fill labour market gaps and contribute to the economy, while always ensuring their protection;



- Building capacity for skills analysis and forecasting in line with the new HRD (Human Resource Development) Plan and Strategy to be developed;
- Increasing engagement of the diaspora (skills, resources, networks, funds, investment, and so on) to accelerate economic development and mobilize their support for funds, initiatives, and priorities;
- Promoting public and private dialogue and partnerships, including with workers' organizations, to address youth unemployment (linked with TVET and Inter-agency Output 1.2 above);
- Empowering women, especially the most vulnerable (victims of gender-based violence, heads of poor households, and so on), to identify and seize economic opportunities in the blue and green economies.

**Inter-agency Output 2.3: Food, water, and energy security systems are enhanced.** [FAO, IFAD, ITC, UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNWomen, WHO]

**Rationale:** Seychelles faces structural constraints rendering food security and access to clean and affordable energy a challenge. The country has a small share of arable lands and the commendable protection of forest areas (50 percent of the land area is protected) further limits agricultural use of land, and underpins the country's overreliance on food imports (90 percent of the food consumed is imported). There are also concerns about the quality, quantity and affordability of food. While opportunities exist for diversification of agricultural and fisheries livelihoods, skills and technologies are sometimes lacking, and the sector is less appealing for the Seychellois. Water and energy systems mirror the same challenge. Seychelles is among the four countries in the African continent with 100 percent access to electricity; however over 90 percent is generated from imported fossil fuels, with an increasing trend to greenhouse gas emissions. Fluctuations in oil prices expose Seychelles to uncontrollable inflation and balance of payments deficits, impeding sustainable development objectives. The government has begun an ambitious plan to

pursue a wider diffusion of renewable energy, yet skills, technologies and investment financing are required. Water scarcity, especially in a context of repeated droughts and salination of freshwater resources induced by climate change, is another challenge to be addressed urgently. In line with the food system pathways identified by the government for the Food Systems Summit in 2021, the United Nations will support the transformation of the food, water, and energy systems to make them more self-reliant and sustainable. By addressing the Water, Energy, Food and Environment nexus, this output directly contributes to output 3.1 on climate action, and synergies will be sought to ensure positive feedback loops.

The United Nations will support the Government and its partners working in food and energy systems with the objective of increasing productivity, diversification, skills and technologies, pollution reduction, and climate adaptation, through more inclusive people-centred approaches, including:

- Fostering innovative solutions to enhance quality and efficiency of local food and energy production, in line with the food systems pathways and the Nationally Determined Contributions, through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, including agroecological approaches and foodtech;
- Promoting an inclusive production and supply chains within food and waters systems with emphasis on quality and nutrition, access, affordability and health, linked to Output 1.1 above concerning public health and lifestyles;
- Improving food security and economically viable and sustainable import substitution, including the creation of avenues to encourage consumption of local products;
- Enhancing access to public and private investment, finance, and partnerships to support renewable energy and the green economy;
- Improving availability and sustainable use of water for households, the state, and businesses, thus strengthening the nexus between water, energy, food, and environment;

- Fostering innovation and an enabling environment for strengthened local value chains in the green economy;
- Integrating circular economy approaches and boosting the just energy transition, in particular for women, people with disabilities and youth, through initiatives that demonstrate scalable results;
- Digital transformation measures in agriculture, fisheries, water, and energy.

## Key Measures of Success in Outcome 2

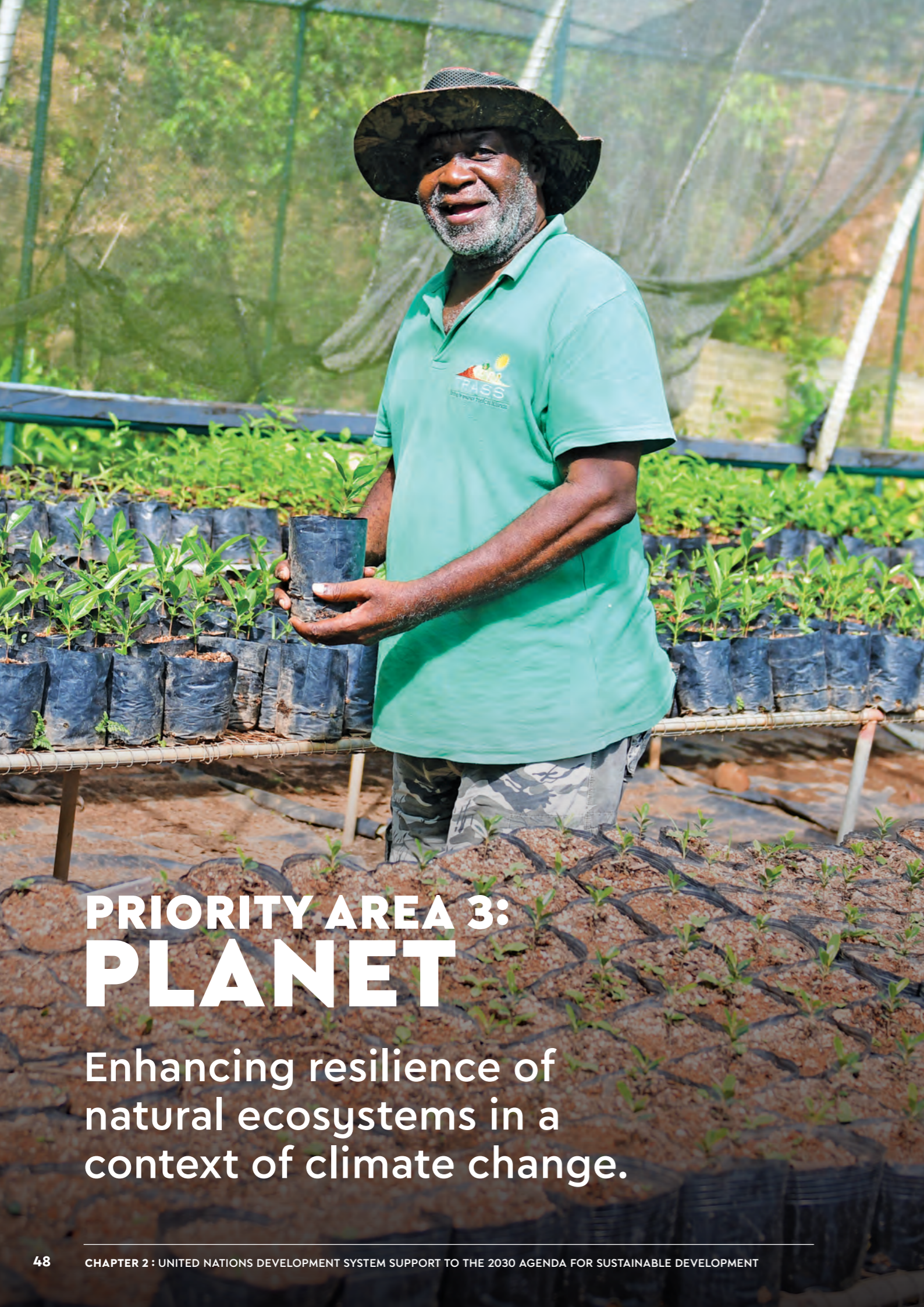
Success in Outcome 2 will be measured against a selection of critical SDG-centric outcome indicators based on available data<sup>31</sup>. From an inclusion perspective, measures focus on women, youth, people with disabilities and migrants in order to ensure that these population segments are gaining improved access, participation in and benefits from services operating in this UNSDCF priority

area. From a sustainability perspective, attention is focused on climate change adaptation and the transition to renewable energy:

- Average hourly earnings of female and male employees;
- Level of national compliance with labour rights based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by occupation, sex and migrant status;
- Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture;
- Renewable energy share in total final energy consumption;
- Number of public institutions that leverage digital technologies to improve people's lives;
- Number of institutional initiatives adopted by public and private actors to align public and private finance.



<sup>31</sup> See Annex 1 for the full Results Framework of the UNSDCF



# PRIORITY AREA 3: PLANET

Enhancing resilience of natural ecosystems in a context of climate change.

## OUTCOME 3

By 2028, people and institutions are better prepared for disaster risks, and natural ecosystems are more resilient to climate change, biodiversity losses and pollution.

### United Nations Contribution to Outcome 3

Based on the Theory of Change described in Box 3 below, and in line with the United Nations Secretary General's statement on the triple-planetary crisis, the United Nations will support the conservation, preservation and restoration of Seychelles' precious natural resources and biodiversity, ensuring that air, water, and land pollution are reduced, and that hazardous substances are better controlled. The United Nations will step up its support for strengthened, evidence-based policies and strategies for the safeguarding and preserving natural resources and enhancing access to climate finance. The United Nations will focus on the delivery of two outputs to significantly advance progress in this outcome area:

- **Inter-agency Output 3.1: Institutions and communities are better prepared and collaborating to adapt to climate change and manage risks.** [FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITU, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHabitat, UNIDO, WHO]
- **Inter-agency Output 3.2: Capacities of institutions and communities are strengthened to sustainably manage natural resources, ecosystems and waste.** [FAO, IFAD, ILO, ITU, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNODC, WHO]

### Outcome 3 Alignment with National Priorities

Outcome 3 aligns with Seychelles National Vision 2033 to:

- Build a nation in which our people and nature sustainably coexist and flourish, resilient to both natural and manmade threats.

### Theory of Change for Outcome 3

Box 3 below briefly outlines the Theory of Change and rationale as to why the outputs and interventions supported by the United Nations have been selected in Outcome 3. In addition to transformational impact at scale, they also represent the particular areas in which the United Nations has a comparative advantage in being able to support meaningful change.

#### BOX 3



**IF** institutions and communities collaborate more effectively towards climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

**THEN** the policies, strategies and investments for adaptation and disaster risk management will improve, and so will the country's resilience to climate change.



**IF** the capacities of institutions and communities are strengthened to ensure sustainable, efficient, evidence-based natural resources management, waste control and the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems,

**THEN** Seychelles will enjoy the benefits of greater environmental sustainability.

**Inter-agency Output 3.1: Institutions and communities are better prepared and collaborating to adapt to climate change and manage risks.** [FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITU, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHabitat, UNIDO, WHO]

**Rationale:** Seychelles is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and depends mostly on climate-sensitive livelihood activities. There is particular risk since 90 percent of economic activities, livelihoods and critical infrastructure are concentrated on the low-lying, narrow coastal zones of the main islands Mahé, Praslin and La Digue, often in the range of 2-4 metres above sea level. As a result, roads, ports, government buildings, electricity, water, and sewerage management systems as well as the flood control structures themselves at risk. Data on the impact of climate change is also a key priority area, especially drawing on innovative technologies for data collection and analysis.

The United Nations will partner with national and local institutions and communities in support of:

- Prioritizing, mainstreaming, and implementing climate change adaptation measures and resources to avert and minimize displacement and strengthen the resilience of communities;
- Enhancing legal and policy frameworks and their implementation, alongside enabling institutional environments that embrace women and youth participation, and gender sensitive approaches, policies and strategies for climate action and the energy transition;
- Supporting the Government in its NDCs and in gathering data on the impact of climate change, and gaining access to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) dedicated fund for loss and damages;
- Mobilizing a society-encompassing approach to climate adaptation and mitigation through a broad range of strategies, initiatives, and campaigns to reduce the impact of climate change;
- Supporting access to climate finance to improve fiscal space for public investment in adaptation and to leverage climate-resilient private investments;

- Ensuring an integrated human-rights based approach, enabling those most at risk of being 'left behind' to be reached and able to participate in child-/gender-/migration-sensitive approaches for climate action, including women, youth, people with disabilities, migrants, displaced persons, and affected communities;
- Strengthening capacity and inter-institutional coordination for disaster risk reduction and preparedness for all forms of natural hazards and human-caused disasters, including among the aforementioned populations deemed most at risk, for example through mitigating the impacts of flooding in coastal areas and effects of sea level rises in the most vulnerable areas;
- Improving access to information, knowledge, technologies, and finance to improve disaster risk management, including through South-South and SIDS-to-SIDS cooperation and access to loss and damage finance.

**Inter-agency Output 3.2: Capacities of institutions and communities are strengthened to sustainably manage natural resources, ecosystems, and waste.** [FAO, IFAD, ILO, ITU, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNODC, WHO]

**Rationale:** Seychelles depends extensively on its natural resources for its livelihoods – tourism, fisheries, and agriculture. The country has a modest land size of 455 km<sup>2</sup>, resulting in scarcity for agriculture and development. The tourism and fisheries sectors suffer from stressors such as coastal erosion, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity and ocean warming. Despite 47 percent of Seychelles' land area being protected, agricultural expansion has contributed towards deforestation and degradation. Seychelles Blue Carbon ecosystems are also thought to have dramatically declined because of coastal development. Access to freshwater is also a concern, given recent findings showing that stream flows have reduced over the last few decades due to changes in the hydrological regime. In addition, the volume of solid waste has increased over time, and available space for landfill will soon be exhausted.

The United Nations will support the government, private sector and community-based organizations working for the sustainable management of natural resources to enable:

- Fostering of the uptake of innovative nature-based solutions for adaptation, including ecosystem services;
- Boosting levels of SIDS-to-SIDS interaction and cooperation and collaboration within Regional Economic Communities (RECs), including joint advocacy, and exchange and co-creation of joint solutions;
- Enhancing levels of collaboration with IFIs to improve analysis, access to climate and biodiversity finance, and innovative financing instruments, including technology transfer for inclusion, resilience and sustainability;
- Reinforcing institutional capacities and policy implementation in line with Seychelles' obligations under various conventions and treaties relating to all forms of biodiversity; natural resource management, including air, water and soil pollution; as well as chemical and hazardous substances, across all sectors;

- Promoting effective and sustainable waste management systems;
- Strengthening legal protection and sustained protection of maritime and terrestrial spaces.

## Key Measures of Success in Outcome 3

Success in Outcome 3 will be measured against a selection of nature-based SDG indicators that seek to preserve and restore Seychelles' unique natural resource endowment<sup>32</sup>:

- Environmental Performance Index (EPI);
- Extent to which climate change measures and disaster risk management have been integrated into national policies, strategies and planning;
- Coverage of protected areas in relation to: i) marine areas, ii) terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity;
- ha of terrestrial and marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness;
- Waste disposal and management schemes implemented.



<sup>32</sup> See Annex 1 for the full Results Framework of the UNSDCF

## CHAPTER 3

# COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



# COOPERATION FRAMEWORK GOVERNANCE

The Seychelles Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade is the primary government counterpart for the joint coordination, implementation and monitoring of this Cooperation Framework. A JSC, co-chaired by the Minister of

Finance, National Planning and Trade and the UNRC, will be responsible for strategic oversight and direction, ensuring overall coordination and interaction between the Government of Seychelles, partner entities and the United Nations system.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The UNCT, under the leadership of the UNRC, will be responsible for the overall effectiveness and implementation of the United Nations contributions and results set out in this Cooperation Framework. The Cooperation Framework will be translated into a JWP of the UNCT as the primary vehicle for ensuring collaborative implementation. The UNCT will devolve implementation responsibilities upon its PMT as required.

In accordance with the United Nations global Theory of Change achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>33</sup>, the United Nations development system in Seychelles will function effectively as “one system”. Both the CCA and the UNSDCF will be “living documents”. At any time during its five-year implementation, the UNSDCF can be reviewed and adjusted according to Seychelles’ evolving development landscape and priorities, as agreed upon by the JSC.

The UN system agencies will provide support to the development and implementation of activities within the Cooperation Framework, which may include technical support, cash assistance<sup>34</sup>, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of the UN system entities’ support may be provided to non-governmental and civil society organizations as agreed within the framework of the individual workplans and project documents.

Additional support may include access to UN organization-managed global information systems, the network of the UN system agencies’ country offices and specialized information systems, including rosters of consultants and providers of development services, and access to the support provided by the network of UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes. The UN system agencies shall appoint staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, technical assistance, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.

Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, the UN system agencies’ funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the Cooperation Framework. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the workplans and project documents. By mutual consent between the Government and the UN development system entities, funds not earmarked by donors to UN development system agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.

**Business Operations Strategy:** As part of its operational strategy in support the UNSDCF, the UN Mauritius will implement the UN’s global Business Operations Strategy (BOS). The BOS focuses on common services, including administration, human resources, procurement and ICT, that can be implemented jointly or delivered by one UN entity on behalf of other UN entities. It is therefore

a critical instrument to reinforce the link between efficient business operations and more effective programmes. The BOS is thus intended to create efficiencies and productivity gains, as well as reduce transaction costs, in UN operations, particularly in the implementation of the UNSDCF. Oversight for implementation of the BOS is provided by the Operations Management Team (OMT).

**Joint Work Plans:** Joint workplans (JWPs), including Cooperation Framework outcomes,

outputs, resources, SDG Targets and indicators, as well as gender equality and human rights and other agreed system wide markers, will be prepared for each CF outcome area on an annual basis. All UNCT members, regardless of their physical presence, will be involved in the preparation of Joint Work Plans for the Outcomes to which they contribute. The JWP results will be monitored through a set of chosen output indicators, with at least 15 of which will be from the Global Output Indicator Framework.

## RESULTS GROUPS AND THEMATIC GROUPS

Under the leadership of the UNRC, results groups will be constituted for the purposes of progressing the implementation of the UNSDCF. Results Groups will be chaired by United Nations agencies and will comprise all relevant partners for progressing their outcome area and inter-agency outputs. Results groups will contribute to the Annual Work Plan (AWP) and undertake joint M&E and reporting to the UNCT and JSC.

Thematic groups will provide focussed support on key issues, ensuring a comprehensive and coherent approach on the part of the UNCT to the important cross-cutting dimensions of the UNSDCF. For example, the UNCT Gender Theme Group (GTG) and the Disability Inclusion Group will provide support to the UNRC and UNCT for ensuring human rights, gender equality and disability inclusion, as central principles to the UNSDCF are maintained throughout implementation. Similarly, the UNCT Data/M&E Group will pay particular attention to disaggregated data, which are vital for systematically capturing and reflecting the joint “Leave No One Behind” and inclusion agenda of the United Nations and Government of Seychelles. Joint monitoring and evaluation will ensure progress is tracked regularly to improve analysis, evidence-based integrated policymaking. The United Nations M&E Working Group will develop a methodological note to accompany UNSDCF monitoring and reporting, ensuring minimum and desired standards for the disaggregation of data including by gender, age, people with disabilities and migrants.



33 A “Theory of Change” for the UN Development System to Function “As a System” for Relevance, Strategic Positioning and Results Summary Paper Version 1.0 26 January 2016.

32 See also DCO Mandatory HACT text provided under the legal annex attached.

# MONITORING, EVALUATION, REPORTING AND LEARNING

The UNCT will prepare an annual implementation progress report for presentation and consultation with the JSC. The attainment of SDG targets depends significantly on results-based monitoring and evaluation. In this regard, the United Nations, working closely with the Government and key partners at all levels, will seek to foster a culture of learning and mutual accountability. Emerging new approaches and methodologies will be shared with development partners, contributing to strengthening the learning cycle through collaborative monitoring and evaluation.

Monitoring the implementation progress of the UNSDCF will be based principally on the attached results framework (Annex 1) and will be led by the UNCT in close collaboration with the relevant government agencies. Fully operationalized, the UN INFO online platform will be used for planning, monitoring, and reporting in support of the implementation of the Joint Work Plans and to track the UN Country Team's contribution to Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The results framework is based principally on nationally established SDG indicators, baselines and targets at outcome level, relying on official government data. A multi-year costed Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Plan will be prepared for the Cooperation Framework implementation period. Most baselines are sourced from the latest government reports and/or available data from selected national SDG indicators, in consultation with line ministries.

## The UNSDCF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan will focus on four inter-related activities:

- Adaptive Programming
- Monitoring and Learning
- Reporting
- Evaluation of the Cooperation Framework

Given Seychelles' fluid operating environment, the UNSDCF MEL plan will employ an adaptive approach, based on continuous learning and evidence, to allow for programmatic flexibility and

operational nimbleness. UNSDCF reporting will be conducted on an annual basis, with a monitoring of milestones, allowing for learning and the improvement of implementation.

Disaggregated data, broken down by geography, gender, socio-economic status and LNOB groups, will be pursued and tracked regularly to improve analysis, evidence-based integrated policymaking, and programme implementation. The UN will operationalize a Joint Programme and Joint Work Plan with the National Statistics System aimed at fostering a collaborative approach towards strengthening the national SDGs monitoring system. Innovative methods of data collection will be explored to fill in gaps in the national monitoring system and provide alternative interpretations of the development progress by the non-state partners.

Through the Data/M&E Theme Group referred above, the United Nations will partner with the National Bureau of Statistics to strengthen the SDG data ecosystem and fill data gaps where necessary. The Theme Group will consist of the Data/M&E focal points of each United Nations agency, coordinated by the UNRC Office, and periodically by national data focal points. Data/M&E strengthens accountability and assists the conveners of the results groups to support coordination and compilation of reporting to the JSC on an annual basis.

Recognizing the centrality of the UNSDCF as a tool of the United Nations reform process in Seychelles, individual United Nations agencies will continue to graduate towards harmonized monitoring and reporting of their own individual programmes towards joint and collaborative reporting. United Nations agencies will strive for synergies in areas within which they are jointly invested, especially in each of the eight inter-agency output areas of the UNSDCF. Reviews will take place based on the UNSDCF MEL and generate shared knowledge and lessons learned throughout UNSDCF implementation.

The evaluation of the UNSDCF is an integral part of accountability to the people and Government



**Leaving no one behind.**

of Seychelles for its results and contributions. Therefore, a final independent evaluation of the UNSDCF will be conducted in 2027, the penultimate year of UNSDCF implementation. The evaluation will be commissioned by the UNCT, in close consultation with the Government, and will be independently conducted following United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) standards and norms. The evaluation process will ensure an

inclusive and participatory approach involving all stakeholders, with a strong emphasis on "leaving no one behind", and will include sectoral ministries and divisions, districts authorities, development partners, the private sector, civil society, academia, and other stakeholders. Finally, individual United Nations agencies' country programme/document evaluations will be assessed on their contribution to the UNSDCF outcomes and inter-agency outputs.

# ANNEXES



# ANNEX 1. UNSDCF RESULTS MATRIX

**Priority 1: PEOPLE.** Inclusive human development for an empowered, healthy and skilled population and a resilient social contract.

**OUTCOME 1:** By 2028, all people in Seychelles, especially youth (not in education, employment or training), women, people living with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups, are empowered and have access to improved and sustainable services, protection, and opportunities that meet their needs.

**National Development Priorities:** i) Build a prosperous people-centred nation, providing excellent public services characterised by wide stakeholder participation with fair opportunities for all; ii) Build a highly and appropriately skilled, healthy and productive population to support Vision 2033.



INTER-AGENCY OUTPUTS CONTRIBUTING TO THE OUTCOME	KEY INDICATORS	BASELINE (YEAR)	TARGET (2028)	DATA SOURCE/METHOD OF VERIFICATION	UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES	KEY RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS
<p><b>Inter-agency Output 1.1</b> Health and social protection systems are increasingly inclusive and resilient.</p> <p><b>Inter-agency Output 1.2</b> The youth, especially young women and young persons living with disabilities, enjoy enhanced access to skills leading them to decent work opportunities corresponding to their aspirations and the labor market possibilities.</p> <p><b>Inter-agency Output 1.3</b> Improved access to justice, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized groups within a governance framework characterized by strong, efficient and accountable institutions.</p>	<p><b>Outcome Indicator 1.1:</b> The Human Development Index (HDI) (including the inequality adjusted (IHDI) and Gender Development Index (GDI)</p> <p><b>Outcome Indicator 1.2 (SDG Indicator 1.3.1):</b> Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/ systems, by sex: i. Unemployed ii. Workers in case of injury iii. Older persons iv. Persons with disability</p> <p><b>Outcome Indicator 1.3 (SDG Indicator 3.8.1):</b> UHC Index for Essential service coverage [disaggregated by: i. Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, ii. Infectious diseases, iii. Noncommunicable disease, iv. Service capacity and access</p> <p><b>Outcome Indicator 1.4:</b> Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income</p> <p>Prevalence of Obesity in adults age 25-64y</p> <p><b>Outcome Indicator 1.5 (SDG Indicator 8.6.1):</b> Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training, by sex</p> <p><b>Outcome Indicator 1.6 (SDG Indicator 16.a.1):</b> Existence of National Human Rights Institution in compliance with Paris Principles</p> <p><b>Outcome Indicator 1.7:</b> Fully functional National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up established.</p> <p><b>Outcome Indicator 1.8:</b> E-government development index</p> <p><b>Outcome Indicator 1.9:</b> Mo Ibrahim Overall Governance Index</p>	<p>HDI: 0.785 (2021) IHDI: 0.661 (2021)</p> <p>i. 18.0 % (2020) ii. 69.1 % (2020) iii. 100% (2020) iv. Xxx%</p> <p>70 (2019) i. 79 ii. &gt;80 iii. 45 iv. 80</p> <p>3.50% (2021)</p> <p>male 22% (2013) female 39% (2013)</p> <p>23.6% (2020) male 25.5% female 21.8%</p> <p>No (2023)</p> <p>No (2023)</p> <p>0.6793 (2022)</p> <p>73.4 (2021)</p>	<p>HDI: 0.791 IHDI: tbd</p> <p>i. tbd ii. tbd 100%</p> <p>78 i. &gt;80 ii. &gt;80 iii. 50 iv. &gt;80</p> <p>tbd</p> <p>tbd</p> <p>tbd</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>0.7</p> <p>77</p>	<p>Human Development Index (HDI) Report</p> <p>ILO, <a href="https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/WSPDB.action?id=13">https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/WSPDB.action?id=13</a></p> <p>Annual Health-Sector Performance Report [UHC Index (UN assessment of UHC for Seychelles is 70 in 2019)</p> <p>Annul Health-Sector Performance Report [Financial Hardship index (SDG 3.8.2)]</p> <p>National Survey of Noncommunicable Diseases in Seychelles 2013-2014 (Seychelles Heart Study IV): main findings (Age-standardized prevalence of overweight and obesity by sex and survey year, age 25-64)</p> <p>National Bureau of Statistics: Statistical Bulletin Quarterly Unemployment Statistics 2020-Q4</p> <p>UNDESA; <a href="https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/Data-Center">https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/Data-Center</a></p> <p>Mo Ibrahim Foundation; <a href="https://iiag.online/data.html?loc=SC&amp;view=overview&amp;meas=GOVERNANCE&amp;subview=absoluteTrends">https://iiag.online/data.html?loc=SC&amp;view=overview&amp;meas=GOVERNANCE&amp;subview=absoluteTrends</a></p>	<p>1.1: <b>WHO, FAO, ILO, IOM, ITU, UNFPA, UNODC</b></p> <p>1.2: <b>ILO, IOM, ITU, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNWomen, WHO</b></p> <p>1.3: <b>IOM, UNHCR, UNODC, UNOPS, WHO</b></p>	<p><b>KEY RISKS:</b> Climate Risk: Financing and fiscal space. Capacity challenges. Sufficiency of technology and digital transformation. Human, Social &amp; Political Risks: Inequalities and poverty Perpetuation of youth NEET and drug use, social isolation. Incomplete education reform. High prevalence of NCDs / unhealthy lifestyles / diets and sustenance misuse. Rising health costs and population dependency rate; Gender inequality and violence against women. Institutions remain weak and hamper access to justice and human rights for vulnerable groups; Lack a national asylum framework for refugees and asylum-seekers; Lack of specific law and procedures to address risks of statelessness.</p> <p><b>KEY ASSUMPTIONS:</b> Adoption of principles of inclusion, resilience and sustainability, based on a human rights approach at the centre of development. Responsiveness to the needs and aspirations of young people. Education and skills systems can be reformed to deliver successful human capital / technical skills and innovations for transformation. That the blue-green economy can generate significant opportunities. That cross-border issues can be successfully managed and international refugee law principles respected. That establishment and strengthening of institutions will have positive outcomes for human rights and access to justice.</p>



**Priority 2: PROSPERITY.** Addressing structural vulnerabilities and diversifying the economy.

**OUTCOME 2:** By 2028, all people in Seychelles, especially youth not in education, employment or training, women, and other vulnerable groups, benefit from a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive economy enabled by a responsive public and private sector.

**National Development Priorities:** i) Build a modern, diversified and resilient economy; ii) Become a world leader in sustainable, responsible, ethical and sustainable tourism, closely integrated with the nation's high environmental protection standards, and socioeconomic goals; iii) Create a strong enabling environment for free enterprise and entrepreneurship, foreign direct investment and global partnerships; iv) Become a global Knowledge Hub for research and implementation of the "Blue Economy" in partnership with global institutions; v) Seek innovative and sustainable science & technology solutions to Seychelles' unique opportunities and challenges, including energy and food security.



INTER-AGENCY OUTPUTS CONTRIBUTING TO THE OUTCOME	KEY INDICATORS	BASELINE (YEAR)	TARGET (2028)	DATA SOURCE/ METHOD OF VERIFICATION	UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES	KEY RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS
<p><b>Inter-agency Output 2.1</b> Value chains in the blue economy are strengthened to generate decent employment and stable livelihoods, especially for MSMEs, youth, women, and other vulnerable groups.</p> <p><b>Inter-agency Output 2.2</b> The capacities of public and private sector and communities to engage in green and inclusive businesses for livelihood and job creation, are enhanced.</p> <p><b>Inter-agency Output 2.3</b> Food and energy security systems are enhanced.</p>	<p><b>Outcome Indicator 2.1 (SDG Indicator 8.5.1):</b> Average hourly earnings of female and male employees.</p>	15,090 rps (2023) No disag. By sex	Tbd	ILO, <a href="https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/country-profiles/">https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/country-profiles/</a>	2.1: <b>UNDP</b> , FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, ITU, UNEP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNODC, WHO	<p><b>KEY RISKS:</b> Climate Risk; Economic Risks: Food inflation based on import dependency. Over reliance on tourism; Brain drain and insufficient job creation, limited financing and fiscal space. Capacity challenges. Insufficient technology and digital transformation. Energy Crisis - dependency on energy imports; Perpetuation of youth NEET; Gender inequality and violence against women; Cross-Border Risks: Marine governance and illegal fishing; Un-managed migration.</p> <p><b>KEY ASSUMPTIONS:</b> The Government, private sector and communities can more fully adopt principles of inclusion, resilience and sustainability. Public and private institutions and systems can be sufficiently responsive to the needs and aspirations of young people. That education and skills systems can be reformed to deliver successful human capital / technical skills and innovations for transformation. That the blue-green economy can generate significant opportunities, especially for young people. That cross-border issues can be successfully managed.</p>
	<p><b>Outcome Indicator 2.2 (SDG Indicator 8.8.2):</b> Level of national compliance with labour rights based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by occupation, sex and migrant status.</p>	1.1 (2021)	0			
	<p><b>Outcome indicator 2.3 (SDG Indicator 2.4.1):</b> Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture.</p>	tbd	tbd			
	<p><b>Outcome Indicator 2.4 (SDG Indicator 7.2.1):</b> Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption.</p>	3% (2022)	Tbd	IRENA, Seychelles country profile <a href="https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Statistics/Statistical_Profiles/Africa/Seychelles_Africa_RE_SP.pdf">https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Statistics/Statistical_Profiles/Africa/Seychelles_Africa_RE_SP.pdf</a>	2.2: <b>ILO</b> , FAO, IFAD, ITC, ITU, UNDESA, UNDP, UNECA, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO	
	<p><b>Outcome indicator 2.5:</b> Number of public institutions that leverage digital technologies to improve people's lives.</p>	7 (2023)	15	World Bank Digital Assessments, Ministry of Finance	2.3: <b>FAO</b> , IFAD, ITC, UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNWomen, WHO	
<p><b>Outcome indicator 2.6:</b> Number of institutional initiatives adopted by public and private actors to align public and private finance.</p>	1 (2023)	5	Ministry of Finance			

**Priority 3: PLANET.** Enhancing resilience of natural ecosystems in a context of climate change.

**OUTCOME 3:** By 2028, people and institutions are better prepared for disaster risks, and natural ecosystems are more resilient to climate change, biodiversity losses and pollution.

**National Development Priorities:** Build a nation in which our people and nature sustainably coexist and flourish, resilient to both natural and manmade threats.



INTER-AGENCY OUTPUTS CONTRIBUTING TO THE OUTCOME	KEY INDICATORS	BASELINE (YEAR)	TARGET (2028)	DATA SOURCE/METHOD OF VERIFICATION	UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES	KEY RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS	
<p><b>Inter-agency Output 3.1</b> Institutions and communities are better prepared and collaborating to adapt to climate change and manage risks.</p> <p><b>Inter-agency Output 3.2</b> Capacities of institutions and communities are strengthened to sustainably manage natural resources, ecosystems and waste.</p>	<p><b>Outcome Indicator 3.1:</b> Environmental Performance Index (EPI).</p>	55.6 (2021)	57.8	2022 Environmental Performance Index. New Haven, CT: Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy. <a href="http://epi.yale.edu">epi.yale.edu</a> <a href="https://global-reports.23degrees.eu/epi2022/root">https://global-reports.23degrees.eu/epi2022/root</a>	<p>3.1: <b>UNDP</b>, FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITU, UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHabitat, UNIDO, WHO</p> <p>3.2: <b>UNEP</b>, FAO, IFAD, ILO, ITU, UNDP, UNESCO, UNODC, WHO</p>	<p><b>KEY RISKS:</b> Climate Risk: increase in extreme weather events, rise in sea level, sea warming, ecological damage and coral bleaching, ecological impacts: Capacity challenges. Insufficient technology and digital transformation. Energy Crisis - dependency on energy imports, priced in US\$. Cross-Border Risks: Marine governance and illegal fishing; Un-managed migration.</p> <p><b>KEY ASSUMPTIONS:</b> The Government, private sector and communities can more fully adopt principles of inclusion, resilience and sustainability. That the blue-green economy can generate significant opportunities, especially for young people. That cross-border issues can be successfully managed.</p>	
	<p><b>Outcome Indicator 3.2 (SDG Indicator 13.1.2 &amp; 13.2.1)</b> Extent to which climate change measures and disaster risk management have been integrated into national policies, strategies, and planning.</p>	tbd	tbd	SDG Index: <a href="https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/seychelles">https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/seychelles</a> and Nairobi convention dashboard: <a href="https://nairobi-convention.org/clearinghouse/node/415">https://nairobi-convention.org/clearinghouse/node/415</a>			
	<p><b>Outcome Indicator 3.3:</b> Coverage of protected areas in relation to i) marine areas (SDG Indicator 14.5.1); ii) important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity (SDG Indicator 15.1.2).</p>	<p>i. 26.4% (2021)</p> <p>ii. 52.77% (2021)</p>	30%	Tbd			UNEP, Western Indian Ocean Marine Protected Areas Outlook <a href="https://www.unep.org/resources/report/marine-protected-areas-outlook">https://www.unep.org/resources/report/marine-protected-areas-outlook</a>
	<p><b>Outcome indicator 3.4:</b> Hectare of terrestrial and marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness.</p>	5900 (2023)	10000	MACCE			
	<p><b>Outcome indicator 3.5:</b> Waste disposal and management schemes implemented.</p>	1 (2023)	5	MACCE			

# ANNEX 2. STATUS OF TREATY RATIFICATION FOR SEYCHELLES

## Human Rights Treaties

- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990);
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1992);
- Convention against Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment (1992);
- Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1994);
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2009);
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1992);
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1992);
- Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (2017);
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1978);
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1992);
- International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (1978);
- Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees 1951 and its 1967 Protocol (1980)
- OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (1980)
- Seychelles Human Rights Commission, Human Right Treaties, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

## Multilateral Environmental Agreements

- Basel Convention (2013)
- Cartagena Protocol (2004)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1977)
- Convention on Migratory Species (2005)
- International Treaty on Plant and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2006)
- Kyoto Protocol (2002)
- Montreal Protocol and 5 of its 9 amendments (1993)
- Nagoya Protocol (2012)
- Nairobi Convention (1990)
- Paris Agreement (2016)
- Ramsar Convention (2004)
- Stockholm Convention (2008)
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1991)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (1997)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)
- Vienna Convention (1993)

<sup>35</sup> www.seychelleshumanrights.com/index.php/human-rights/human-rights-treaties-and-treaty

# ANNEX 3. LEGAL ANNEX

1. Whereas the Government of Seychelles (the "Government") has entered into the agreements listed below with the United Nations, including its Funds, Programmes and other subsidiary organs, and other organizations of the United Nations system ("UN System Organizations"), which are applicable to their programme activities in Seychelles (the "UN Agreements") under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (the "Cooperation Framework");
2. Whereas the UN Agreements, together with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946 (the "General Convention") and/or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947 (the "Specialized Agencies Convention") as applicable, form the primary existing legal basis for the relationship between the Government and each UN System Organization for supporting the country to deliver on the Cooperation Framework, and are non-exhaustive and without prejudice to any other legal instruments the Government may enter into, including additional agreements with UN System Organizations for the purpose of their activities in the country:
  - a) With the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, a basic agreement to govern UNDP's assistance to the country, which was signed by the Government and [UNDP (the "Standard Basic Assistance Agreement" or "SBAA")] on 1 Dec 1997. This Cooperation Framework, together with a joint results group work plan specifying UNDP programme activities further to this Cooperation Framework (which shall form part of this Cooperation Framework and is incorporated herein by reference), constitute together a "project document" as referred to in the [SBAA]. The implementing partner and UNDP will sign a project agreement containing the specific arrangements for each project further to the relevant project document.
  - b) With the Office of the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**, the provisions of the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations apply to the personnel, activities, property and assets of UNHCR in Seychelles.
  - c) With the **World Food Programme (WFP)**, [the text to be used in this section depends on the specific legal framework in the country. Country Offices are requested to consult with WFP's Legal Office for the correct text to be used.]
  - d) With the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**, [the text to be used in this section depends on the specific legal framework in the country. A menu of options for the appropriate text is available in the UNFPA Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM) at the following link: [www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/adminresource/Legal%20basis%20of%20cooperation%20UNDAF.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/adminresource/Legal%20basis%20of%20cooperation%20UNDAF.pdf) UNFPA Country Offices are requested to consult with UNFPA's Legal Unit, OED, for the correct text to be used.]
  - e) With the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, the State became a member of the ILO 25 April 1977;
  - f) With the **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**, the provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the United Nations Development Programme and the Government, signed and entered into force on 18 November 1977, shall be applied, mutatis mutandis, to UNSDCF and all UNIDO projects and programmes in Seychelles.
  - g) With the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**, an Agreement for the establishment of the FAO Representation [subregional or regional office] in [country] concluded between the Government and FAO on 11 Feb 1998.

h) With the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, a Basic Agreement for the Provision of Technical Advisory Assistance signed by the Government and WHO on 7 Oct 1980.

i) With the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, the Republic of Seychelles became an IOM member state in December 2011. Through its office based in Mauritius, IOM is supporting the Government of Seychelles to address migration challenges and leverage migration for socio-economic development.

3. With respect to all UN System Organizations: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions, decisions, rules and procedures of each UN System Organization.

4. Without prejudice to the above, the Government shall: (i) apply to each UN System Organization and its property, funds, assets, officials and experts on mission the provisions of the General Convention and/or the Specialized Agencies Convention; and (ii) accord to each UN System Organization, its officials and other persons performing services on behalf of that UN System Organization, the privileges, immunities and facilities set out in the UN Agreement applicable to such UN System Organization.

5. **United Nations Volunteers** performing services on behalf of a UN System Organization shall be entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to officials of such UN System Organization.

6. Any privileges, immunities and facilities granted to a UN System Organization under the Cooperation Framework shall be no less favourable than those granted by the Government to any other UN System Organization signatory of the Cooperation Framework.

7. Without prejudice to the UN Agreements, the Government shall be responsible for dealing with any claims which may be brought by third parties against any of the UN System Organizations and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf, and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the Cooperation Framework, except where it is mutually agreed by the Government and the relevant UN System Organization(s) that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that UN System Organization, or its officials, or persons performing services.

8. Nothing in or relating to this Cooperation Framework shall be deemed: (i) a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities of any UN System Organization; or (ii) the acceptance by any UN System Organization of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising from this Cooperation Framework, whether under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention, the UN Agreements, or otherwise, and no provisions of this Cooperation Framework shall be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, that is inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

DCO Mandatory HACT text: All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the Work Plans (WPs) agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies. Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred directly to the Implementing Partner: a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement);
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner;
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

[In countries where it has been agreed that cash will be transferred to institutions other than the Implementing Partner (e.g., the Treasury) please replace with the following text:]

Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred to the [national institution] for forwarding to the Implementing Partner: a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement).
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner.
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners. Where cash transfers are made to the [national institution], the [national institution] shall transfer such cash promptly to the Implementing Partner. Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme

implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized amounts. Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies. Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN Implementing Partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate. The Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant. Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner in [here insert the number of days as per UN system agency schedule]. In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within [here insert the number of days as agreed by the UN system agencies].

The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements

concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third party vendor. Where the UN system agencies and other UN system agency provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies. A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan (WP), will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that [UN organization] will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner. Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the work plans (WPs) only. Cash received by the Government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to [UN organization] within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

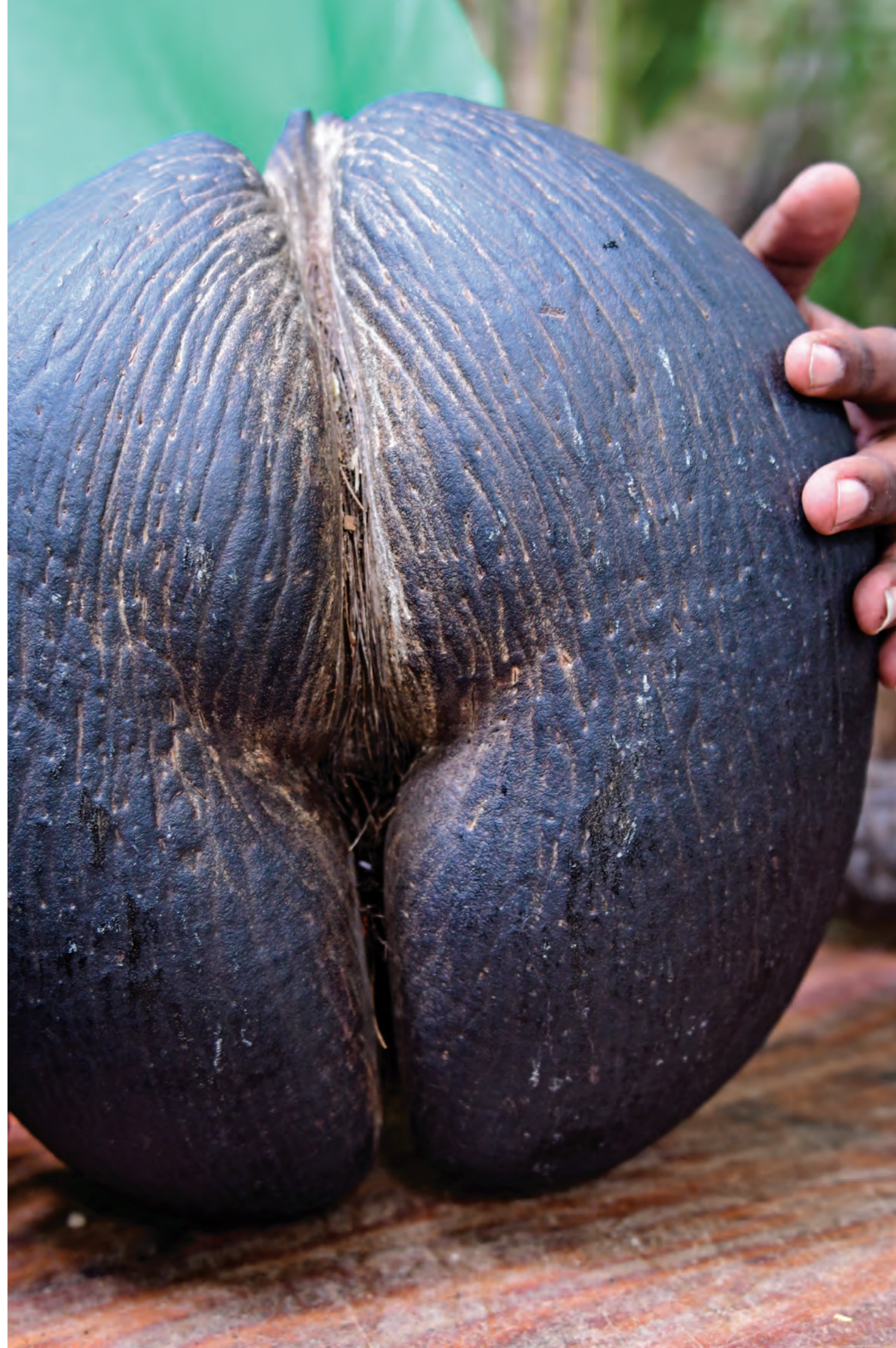
In the case of international NGO/CSO and IGO Implementing Partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to [UN organization] within six months after receipt of the funds.

To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from [UN

organization] will provide UN system agency or its representative with timely access to: all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by [UN system agency], together with relevant documentation; all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed. The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and [UN organization]. Each Implementing Partner will furthermore: Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors; Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the [UN organization] that provided cash (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI) so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to [UN organization]; Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations. Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN system agencies (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI), on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).

Option 1: [Where an assessment of the Public Financial Management system has confirmed that the capacity of the Supreme Audit Institution is high and willing and able to conduct scheduled and special audits]: The Supreme Audit Institution may undertake the audits of Government Implementing Partners. If the SAI chooses not to undertake the audits of specific Implementing Partners to the frequency and scope required by the UN system agencies, the UN system agencies will commission the audits to be undertaken by private sector audit services.

Option 2: [Where no assessment of the Public Financial Management Capacity has been conducted, or such an assessment identified weaknesses in the capacity of the Supreme Audit Institution]: The audits will be commissioned by the UN system agencies and undertaken by private audit services.






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Mauritius and Seychelles



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