Seychelles’ Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT): Achieving conservation through innovative finance and creative collaborations

SeyCCAT was initially capitalised with proceeds from the Government of Seychelles US$21.6M debt conversion that was completed in 2015.

With the support of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), this deal enabled the Government of Seychelles to make a policy commitment to safeguard 30% of its exclusive economic zone in marine protected areas (MPAs).

SeyCCAT provides a sustainable flow of funds to support the long-term management and expansion of the Seychelles system of MPA’s, sustainable fisheries, and other activities that contribute substantially to the conservation, protection and maintenance of biodiversity and the adaptation to climate change.

The debt conversion created three cash flows in SeyCCAT:
1. To repay the impact investor,
2. To annually distribute US$281,000 via a Blue Grants Fund, and
3. To capitalise an endowment fund with $151,000 p/a, with an expected matured value of US$ 6.7 M.

SeyCCAT has attracted other capital flows from philanthropic organisations and individuals, and continues to seek and develop other innovative mechanisms to boost its assets.

Proceeds from the Seychelles Blue Bond further capitalise the SeyCCAT Blue Grants Fund to support sustainable-use marine protected areas and improved governance of priority fisheries.

SeyCCAT’s assets are projected to enable the distribution of at least US$ 750,000 per annum.

SeyCCAT is investigating the feasibility of a Blue Challenge Fund and a Blue Equity Fund.

To support Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14), SeyCCAT is committed to share our learning with other island and coastal states across the Western Indian Ocean (WIO).

SeyCCAT is independently registered, legally established under its own Act (2015) and represents best practice for environmental, social and governance (ESG) screening, accountability and transparency.
Vision:
SeyCCAT envisions for Seychelles’ oceans and islands to be stewarded by the people of Seychelles, generating sustainable benefits for future generations to share.

Mission:
SeyCCAT strategically invests in ocean stakeholders to generate new learning, bold action and sustainable blue prosperity in Seychelles.

Goal:
To competitively disperse at least US$ 750,000 per annum to support the stewardship of Seychelles’ ocean resources, island life and blue economy.

Objectives:
SeyCCAT is committed to developing strong and lasting creative collaborations to advance our mission. These partnerships will enable us to deliver our five objectives to:

1. Support new and existing marine and coastal protected areas and sustainable use zones;
2. Empower the fisheries sector with robust science and knowhow to improve governance, sustainability, value, and market options;
3. Promote the rehabilitation of marine and coastal habitats and ecosystems that have been degraded by local and global impacts;
4. Develop and implement risk reduction and social resilience plans to adapt to the effects of climate change;
5. Trial and nurture business models to secure the sustainable development of Seychelles’ blue economy.

Underpinning Themes:
SeyCCAT is more than a project donor. It is not just what we do that is important to us, it is how we do it that matters too. We understand that our ambitious Vision can only be delivered through the people and organisations that we invest in, and that our success depends on theirs. We will create the space for new ideas, help those ideas evolve, forge new creative collaborations, and boost individual and collective impact. We will empower the local and regional leaders of tomorrow and disseminate what we, and our partners, learn. We believe that by demonstrating our commitment to:

° Ideating and Incubating;
° People and Partnerships;
° Empowering and Investing; and,
° Learning and Sharing

… that together we will succeed in securing our Vision for:

Seychelles’ oceans and islands to be stewarded by the people of Seychelles, generating sustainable benefits for future generations to share.