



Seychelles' Blue Economy

Strategic Policy Framework and Roadmap:
Charting the Future (2018-2030)



The Commonwealth



Blue
Economy

Introduction

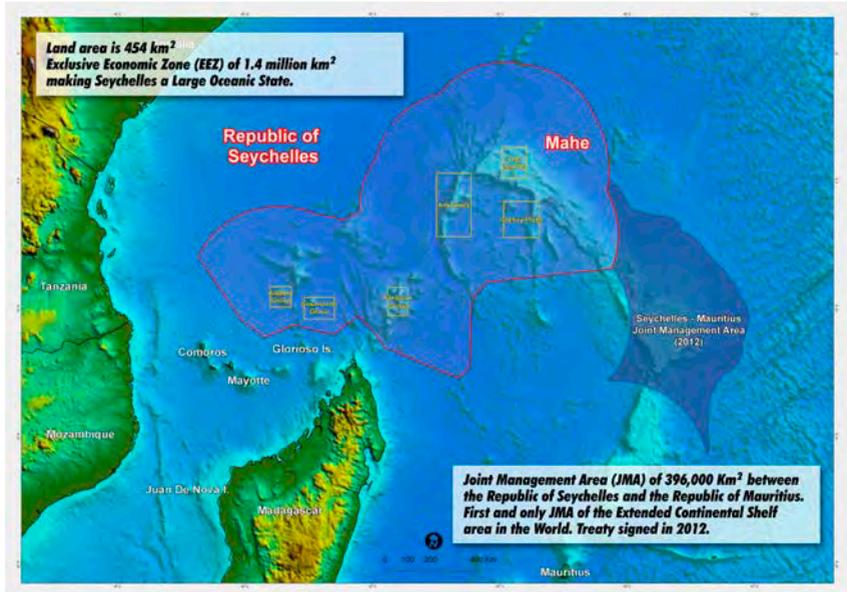
With an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 1.37 million km² and a land area of just 455 km², and population of only 94,000 mainly concentrated on 3 islands, Mahe, Praslin and La Digue, Seychelles' current and future prosperity is uniquely linked to its marine and coastal assets, with fisheries and tourism the two main pillars of its economy, gross domestic product (GDP) and employment.

In 2015, Seychelles achieved high income country status, thanks to the rapid development of its tourism and sound macroeconomic reform following the 2008 economic crisis. Seychelles enjoys comprehensive social services, including free health and education, housing support, water and waste management services and consistently ranks highest in Africa on global human development indicators.

What is Seychelles Blue Economy Strategic Policy framework and Roadmap about?

Seychelles Blue Economy Strategic Framework and Roadmap (the Blue Economy Roadmap), approved by the Government of Seychelles on 31st January 2018, is an integrated approach to ocean based sustainable development which brings together economy, environment and society, consistent with the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 (SDG's), Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015)..

It articulates Seychelles "Blue Economy Brand" as a unique comparative advantage based on sustainability credentials, builds on Seychelles national and international legal and policy frameworks, successful flagship initiatives such as marine spatial planning and innovative finance and puts forward a prioritized agenda for action & investment to 2030.



Vision, goals and principles

The Blue Economy vision is “To develop a blue economy as a means of realizing the nation’s development potential through innovation, knowledge-led approach, being mindful of the need to conserve the integrity of the Seychelles marine environment and heritage for present and future generations”

It is implemented around 4 key pillars:

- **Economic diversification & resilience** - to reduce economic vulnerability and reliance on a small number of sectors and to increase the % GDP derived from marine sectors.
- **Shared prosperity** – Creation of high value jobs and local investment opportunities;
- **Food security** and well-being;
- **Integrity of habitats and ecosystem services**, sustainable use, and climate resilience.

The Blue Economy Vision is based on the following blue economy principles of:

- **Economic efficiency** – strengthening the role of government as regulator and encouraging private sector engagement.
- **Sustainability** – Ensuring sustainable use of marine and coastal resources; ecosystem service accounting and protection of high value marine and coastal assets and ecosystem services.
- **Social equity** – Bridging the inequality gap through access to high quality education, jobs and local investment opportunities.
- **Good governance** – Transparent inclusive and accountable decision making.
- **Resilience** – Reducing vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks & resilience planning.
- **Research and innovation** –towards a knowledge of the marine space for management and technology based economy, creative business solutions; and high value products.
- **Partnerships** – Government, private sector & civil society; regional and international partnerships and advocacy.



Photo credit: Fishing Boat Owners Association (FBOA)



Photo credit: Fishing Boat Owners Association (FBOA).

Results sought include:

- Increased investment in diversification of existing ocean-based economic sectors (particularly fisheries, tourism and ports) to realise greater value and efficiency from the existing resource base;
- Exploration and feasibility of new and emerging maritime sectors (for example marine-based aquaculture, renewable energy, offshore petroleum and marine biotechnology);
- Reduced vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks and dependency on energy and food imports;
- Effective protection of Seychelles ocean space and resources through better coordination across different sectors, application of protective measures and greater use of surveillance and enforcement tools;
- New research, innovation and generation of knowledge about Seychelles' ocean space, resources and management needs;
- Capacity for effective ocean management and for taking advantage of the opportunities the Blue Economy offers today and in the future;
- Improved prevention of ocean/blue economy risks including illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, marine pollution and climate change through integrated approaches to effective regional cooperation on maritime security.

Strategic priorities for action and investment

Put simply the blue economy casts a **blue lens** on Seychelles national development. It focuses on **four key strategic priorities for action and investment**, and proposes 2030 objectives and strategic actions to inform sector based planning and development, noting that Seychelles has already started on a path of transformation which informs the strategic priorities below.

Strategic Priority 1: Creating sustainable wealth

- Diversification of existing ocean based sectors (fisheries, tourism, ports) focusing on value adding, value chains, quality not quantity; sustainability credentials and good practice;
- Exploring new and emerging sectors (mariculture, renewable energy, biotechnology, digital connectivity, trade) focusing on establishing the policy setting, feasibility and pilot projects.



Strategic priority 2: Sharing prosperity

- Ensuring food security and wellbeing focusing on improving local production systems and markets), reducing dependency on imports and promoting healthy lifestyles;
- Ensuring access to high quality education and professional training, new jobs and employment opportunities;
- Improving the business environment, encouraging local and international investment, innovation, small and medium enterprises (SME's) and a culture of entrepreneurship.



Strategic Priority 3: Securing healthy and productive oceans

- Ensuring ecosystem service accounting is built into economic measures such as GDP;
- Protecting marine & coastal assets, e.g. through marine protected areas (MPAs) and addressing ocean risks (e.g. marine pollution, climate and ocean acidification);
- Implementing blue economy/ocean climate resilience through mitigation (i.e. blue carbon, renewable energy) and adaptation strategies consistent with obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Strategic Priority 4: strengthening the enabling environment

This includes cross cutting actions without which the economic, social and environmental benefits of the blue economy would not be realised such as:

- Finalisation of the Marine Spatial Plan of Seychelles' EEZ by 2020, which will help set the rules to apply for ocean based development across maritime sectors;
- Developing research & development and innovation capability to inform responsible management of marine and coastal resources and to transform knowledge into development opportunities and productive activities (e.g. biotechnology);
- As a high income country, financing the blue economy through diversification of funding opportunities, taking advantage of international private sector investors' appetite for investment in sustainability; and ensuring greater efficiency of revenue raising mechanisms;
- Incorporating blue economy/ocean risks in national marine security strategies and regional cooperation to address the impacts of illegal activities, resource degradation and improved capacity for monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS);
- Strengthening national partnerships between government, industry, civil society and regional partnerships to address issues of common interest;
- International advocacy and partnerships to attract technical and financial resources and keep island issues at the forefront of the global development and climate change agendas.



Implementation modalities

- Establishment of Blue Economy/Ocean governance arrangements to ensure an integrated strategic and cross-sectoral oversight of ocean based development and protection of ocean environment, and transparency, inclusiveness and accountability;
- Development a monitoring and evaluation framework which takes advantage of global indicators and the SDG indicators including a mid-term review as an adaptive policy measure.



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