

UNDP SEYCHELLES ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Content

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles acknowledges the Government of Seychelles, development partners, civil society, the private sector and implementing partners, who play a critical role in the transformational development.

The support and partnership received contribute towards the delivery of the UNDP programme and the results shared in this report.

WRITTEN AND EDITED BY

The UNDP Team Annual Report Project

TEAM LEAD

Stéphane Bellerose Jean-Yan Norbert Sharon Sunassee

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN

Ziyaad Pondor

PHOTOGRAPHY **UNDP** Communications Team MADcreation SEZ Lunanim Ltd

DISCLAIMER

This publication covers the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the possibility of errors or omissions cannot be excluded.

All rights reserved. Any use of information, in full or in part, should be accompanied by an acknowledgment of UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles as the source.

© UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles 2023

02

06

Foreword

Overview -**Republic of** Seychelles at a glance

11

15

Contributions to the Development Enablers

Contributions to the Moonshots

24

26

Supporting

Adaptation

Climate Change

Managing and Protecting Key **Biodiversity Areas**

32

36 **Partnerships**

UNDP-GEF **Small Grants** Programme in Seychelles



UNDP **Strategic Plan** 2022-2025



Programme **Actions and** Results



Contributions to the Directions of Change in Seychelles

22

Towards a **National Strategy** for Digital Transformation



Unlocking the Potential of **Renewable Energy** Technologies



Finance and Human Resource



Engaging Women and Youth in **Restoration Efforts**



The UNDP Seychelles Team

Foreword



Amanda K. Serumaga **Resident Representative UNDP** Mauritius and Seychelles

The UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 provides the roadmap of how we collaborate with our key partners to deliver transformative change. In 2022, the UNDP in Seychelles collaborated across the UN System and with key bilateral and multilateral partners to deliver on programmes aimed at boosting economic recovery, tackling climate action, and supporting the Government and people of the Seychelles embrace and embed sustainable actions on the ground.

Seychelles made significant strides towards economic recovery despite ongoing setbacks from COVID-19, the war in Ukraine and the recessionary trends making their way across the globe. Boosted by an increasing demand for travel and tourism, 2022 saw a 125% increase in visitor arrivals when compared to 2021, exceeding anticipated targets and generating revenues. This, accompanied by the Government's commitment to sustained macroeconomic reforms and fiscal discipline ensured that the debt to GDP ratio dropped steadily by 21% over two years while inflation started to decline at the end of the calendar year.

The Government of Seychelles invested on multiple fronts to enhance economic resilience. First, systems and processes were improved to increase efficiency and gradually transition towards public sector towards e-government and the roll out of digital tools and technologies. This included the approval of the National Digital Strategy and implementation of bio-metric passports and the digital ID card, and development of sectoral strategies for digital transformation. In supporting structural transformation, leaving no one behind and strengthening resilience, the UNDP initiated technical advisory support for digitalisation to enhance public sector transparency and efficiency. Through curated South-South exchange with the Government of Singapore and by providing the necessary hardware to enable business continuity and efficiency of key line Ministries, the UNDP was able to foster new partnerships.

Figure 1. UNDP's work is summarized bin the Strategic plan by this "3 x 6 x3" framework



Climate Change remains a critical concern for Seychelles with the President emphasizing the vulnerability of small islands at the UN General Assembly and at COP 27, echoing the need to take immediate climate action. Elaborating on our climate action initiatives, the UNDP has been instrumental in supporting national priorities by defining national priorities through the Climate Promise Initiative, and engaging communities and stakeholders to tackle climate mitigation and adaptation actions through nature based solutions and ecosystem driven approaches, that support conservation, alternative livelihoods and improved climate-smart practices in agriculture enhancing food security and harnessing opportunities within the blue economy.

The dichotomy of Seychelles' as a high income country limits its access to concessional development finance to sustain development gains made and tackle emerging issues that increase the vulnerability of the small island state. The UNDP Seychelles programme laid emphasis on key enablers to increase domestic resource mobilization through the the Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) initiative and establish the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), by assessing of the development landscape in the country. Building resilience through economic diversification, the UNDP developed the SDG Investor Map, enabling the private sector to identify investment opportunities in niche areas.

Over the past year, the UNDP programme in Seychelles made progress across three directions of change contributing to structural transformation, leaving no one behind and building resilience. UNDP's programming remains focused on four UNDP signature solutions relating to clean energy, climate resilience, economic governance, poverty, and inequality, expanding programming interventions in strategic innovation, digitalisation, and development financing.

supporting countries towards three directions of changes: structural transformation, leaving no-one behind, building resilience

througth six signature solutions: poverty and inequality, governance, resilience, environment, energy, gender equality

enhanced by three enablers: strategic innovation, digitalization, development financing

This combination will help UNDP continue to deliver what it does best: integrated development solutions driven by country priorities

REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES AT A GLANCE



UNDP SEYCHELLES ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Overview of the **Republic of Seychelles**

MAIN ISLANDS

- → Mahé
- → Praslin
- → La Digue

→ 459 km²

TOTAL NUMBER **OF ISLANDS**

- → /115
 - EXCLUSIVE **ECONOMIC ZONE** (EEZ) → 1.3 M km²

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

→ Aldabra Atoll

TOTAL LAND AREA

→ Vallée de Mai

POPULATION

→ ≈ 100.000



Ibrahim Index of African Governance¹

→ 73.4%

OVERALL SCORE

RANKING



CATEGORY SCORES



Participation, rights and inclusion: 77.3%



Security and rule of law: 76.5%





opportunity: 61.8

Foundations for economic

Human Development Index (HDI)²



RANK → 72



LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (SDG 3)

→ 71.3 years

EXPECTED YEARS OF SCHOOLING (SDG 4.3)



MEAN YEARS OF SCHOOLING (SDG 4.4)

→ 10.3 years



→ SCR 25,831

GDP GROWTH

- → 2021: +6.1%
- → 2022: +5.8%

E-Government Development Index (EGDI)³





OVERALL SCORE 0.68

85

2 Source: Human Development Report 2021/2022 3 Source: publicadministration.un.org



HDI SCORE → 0.785

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA



GLOBAL RANK



REGIONAL RANK 3

UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2025

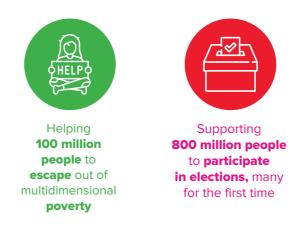
UNDP SEYCHELLES ANNUAL REPORT 2022



The UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 is summarized as a "3 x 6 x 3" framework supporting countries towards three Directions of Change, through six Signature Solutions, enhanced by three Enablers.

In a development context consisting of dynamic and interconnected challenges of multidimensional risk, the UNDP's Strategic Plan offers integrated development solutions driven by country priorities. By building on the UNDP's 50 years of global development experience and leveraging multilateral cooperation, this framework positions the UNDP as a strategic development partner, playing a catalytic role in aligning public and private sector resources with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Moonshots of the Strategic Plan



Strategic investments in 2022 built on engagements that the UNDP undertook since COVID-19, aimed at enabling the Seychelles to build back better, stronger and more sustainably.



Supporting 500 million people to gain access to clean energy



518346

Promoting over USD 1 trillion of public expenditure and private capital investment in the SDGs

Contribution to the Directions of Change

Building resilience against the impact of climate change through nature-based solutions have positively impacted farmers, rejuvenated endemic biodiversity and mitigated water scarcity through community based engagement. Focusing on those left behind, UNDP Seychelles through its vertically funded projects, actively encourages and involves women and youth participation within local communities in the management of watersheds, resulting in improved water resources, increased local food production and security augmented by the application of climate smart technologies. Restoration of the coral reefs provides alternative livelihoods and promote the use of new techniques, scientific and digital tools to monitor reefs in certain locations.

Seychelles continues its impressive track record for effectively managing its protected areas through the adoption and creation of the necessary legal and enabling frameworks. The application of an integrated Ridge to Reef approach for the effective use and management of ecosystem services builds environmental resilience to climate change, supports structural transformation, and reduces vulnerabilities. The multi-country office secured two vertically funded projects, namely the ISLANDS project and the GEF7 Blue Economy project, as part of resource mobilization initiatives. Continuing to align the strategic vision with emerging national priorities for a sustainable and resilient future will be a key focus for the new Seychelles country programme. Activities carried out under the Coral Reef Restoration Project have rejuvenated areas of the marine parks and play a critical role in ocean health.

Contribution to the Development Enablers

Digital transformation creates a paradigm shift from business-as-usual. The Government of Seychelles has a strategic vision to enhance public sector efficiency, accountability, and transparency. The feasibility and readiness assessment of e-procurement systems led by the UNDP, informed the revision of the Procurement Act of 2008, and laid the roadmap for including e-procurement as part of the digital transition of Government.

COVID-19 highlighted the necessity for digital transformation across government and societies. As part of enabling the Government of Seychelles implement and transition towards digitalization, the UNDP multi-country office facilitated a South-South mission to Singapore, to take lessons learned from Singapore's digital transformation journey and adapt them within the Seychelles national strategy and roadmap on transitioning towards a digital economy.

By building partnerships and networks with the Ministry of Finance Trade and National Planning, UNDP's Development Finance Assessment commenced as part of the continuous support to strengthening domestic resource mobilisation, improving tax efficiency in collaboration with the Tax Inspectors Without Borders Initiative.

Additionally, a dedicated programme to coordinate the design and implementation of the country engagement plan on domestic resource mobilization is also underway.

Following intensive high-level consultations with the Government and the private sector, the SDG Investor Map for Seychelles was completed and expected to be launched in the second quarter of 2023. The SDG Investor Map, serves as informational guide to unlock investments for sustainable development impact.



Contribution to the Moonshots

Promoting Public and Private Sector expenditure towards the SDGs remains one of UNDP's Moonshots. The current work of UNDP in Seychelles remains focused on unlocking the investment potential for Seychelles. Collaborations between various hubs and new partnerships have enabled the identification of niche opportunity areas that contribute directly towards achieving the SDGs and will boost capital spending either through the development of infrastructure and attracting private sector investments. In the recent budget speech the Government committed SCR 756 million (USD 58 M) in capital projects over the medium term.



PROGRAMME ACTIONS AND RESULTS

Will

(F)

UNDP SEYCHELLES ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Coral resoration activities have rejuvenated areas of the marine parks and play a critical role in ocean health.

The consolidation of past initiatives from UNDP in Seychelles resulted in the approval of various legal instruments such as the Marine Spatial Plans; the Nature Reserves and Conservancy Bill, the Forest Management Bill, and other Acts such as the Breadfruit and other trees Act. The restructuring of the Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority, a key partner for UNDP, and the introduction of an online ticketing platform ensured that the payments from ecosystem services are re-invested in the management of protected areas.

The implementation of a ridge-to-reef approach through communityled engagement continues to positively impact ecosystem restoration, watershed management, and improve food production and security. Coral restoration activities have rejuvenated areas of the marine parks and play a critical role in ocean health. The UNDP's vertically funded project on chemicals and waste is opportune for the Government to address the safe disposal and management of hazardous waste, given the frequent fires at the landfill.

The UNDP multi-country office continues to play a critical role in enhancing the institutional capacities of the Ministry of Agriculture Climate Change and Environment for managing and implementation of donor funded projects. The structural transition enabled the multi-country office to leverage additional funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for Blue Economy initiatives.

In 2022, the UNDP in Seychelles expanded its scope beyond environment towards emerging priorities to build economic resilience. The development of the SDG Investor Map for Seychelles aims to unlock public-private sector capital for sustainability.

The South-South mission facilitated by the UNDP to understand and learn from Singapore's digital transformation journey mobilized the launch of the digital ID and biometric passport, considered as a first step in Seychelles' digital journey. Other interventions by the UNDP resulted in the review and update of the Procurement Act to embed e-procurement to support Government transition towards digitalization. Efforts to enhance domestic resource mobilization and growth were launched through the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) Facility.



As the Government prepares the roll out of the National Development Strategy for an agile and efficient public sector, a readiness assessment for public e-procurement was undertaken. Following the findings and recommendations of the assessment, the Government has taken concrete measures in reviewing and updating the Procurement Act (2008), to create the necessary legal and enabling environment.

The South-South mission to Singapore proved to be a significant learning experience as the delegates were able to draw concrete lessons from Singapore's digital transformation journey. The experience helped shape the preparation of a national roadmap and strategy for digital transformation and generated valued partnerships between the respective Governments and their private sector counterparts to support transformation in Seychelles.

The learning exchange touched upon Singapore's vision for a Digital society, education and research, banking and finance, innovation and entrepreneurship and strategic planning amongst other enlightening engagements paving the way for a forward-looking digital future.

To promote economic diversification, the UNDP supported the public sector cultivate and forge strategic partnerships with the private sector as part of efforts to bring the latter to the forefront of development efforts has been pivotal.

The national dialogues established during the preparation of the SDG Investor Map guided the Government in signaling strategic areas where the private sector can invest and make positive impact. Strides taken by the UNDP in development finance work are strategic investments that will strengthen capacity for resource mobilization. The Tax Inspectors Without Borders initiative enables the revenue commission to seal revenue leakages, while the Development Finance Assessment will provide key recommendations for resource mobilization opportunities and scale-up development finance for maximum impact. IT SKILLS ARE NOWADAYS INDISPENSABLE PROFESSIONAL TOOLS. THUS THERE IS A PRESSING NEED TO CREATE TARGETED SOLUTIONS TO MAKE INTERNET ACCESS MORE INCLUSIVE, ESPECIALLY FOR DISADVANTAGED WOMEN AND GIRLS.

77

Lisa Bastienne, Entrepreneur



Managing and Protecting Key Biodiversity Areas

Sustainable land management practices that focus on agro-forestry, watershed management and the restoration of ecosystems have enhanced the management and protection of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). 15 hectares of coastal and mangrove ecosystems, along with an additional 52 hectares of forest around watersheds, have been restored using nature-based approaches.

The approval of the Nature Reserves and Conservancy Act by Cabinet has enabled the identification of 5 Key biodiversity areas (KBAs) covering over 2000 ha and will be designated once the legislative and national consultative reviews are completed.

The Ridge-to-Reef project has enabled a whole island approach to biodiversity conservation and management boosting a wide cross section of society to be engaged with related activities.

Agro-forestry and improved farming techniques through climate smart agriculture are ongoing, and substantial reforestation efforts have reduced the overall emissions of greenhouse gases. From an upstream legal and policy perspective the following instruments have been revised and are in the process of being approved:

- → Forestry Bill
- → Breadfruit and other trees Act
- Regulations under the Nature Conservancy Bill, among other reviews, to integrate and synchronize existing legislation.

UNDP SEYCHELLES ANNUAL REPORT 2022 25

Supporting Climate Change Adaptation

Government's ambitions as outlined in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) have provided the basis for Seychelles to mainstream adaptation techniques into several sectors including environment, agriculture, blue economy, and other emerging ones where climate smart techniques are increasingly being deployed. The Government is committed to protecting 100% of its natural mangroves and sea grass beds by 2030 as part of their adaptation targets.

UNDP's support to these ambitions through the application of nature-based solutions has been an effective and instrumental strategy in supporting climate change adaptation, evidenced by the restoration of native ecosystems by communities especially in the agricultural districts.

Tree planting as a means of intensive reforestation with native and endemic species of plants has increased participation across districts and age groups. The 5 Watershed committees play a key role in the preservation and management of water catchments and women participation in these committees remains high.

Coral reef restoration activities provide access to alternative livelihoods and resulted in the rehabilitation of reefs, playing a key role in climate adaptation and coastal food security.

Restoration and maintenance of mangroves and watersheds greatly enhances nature-based economies and greatly reduces harmful impacts from climate change.

I HAVE FOUND MY PASSION AND PURPOSE IN ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSES. I SINCERELY WISH YOUNG PEOPLE AND ESPECIALLY YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS FIND THEIR DRIVE-IN LIFE AND WORK HARD, JUDICIOUSLY AND PROGRESSIVELY AT IT.

77

Gilberte Gendron, Independent Marine Consultant & Beekeeper





Unlocking the Potential of **Renewable Energy Technologies**

UNDP's support to the Government of Seychelles in updating and reviewing the Nationally Determined Contributions laid out the country's ambitions to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 through both mitigation and adaptation actions. While Climate Action remains high on the Government's agenda, there are significant opportunities to explore in the upcoming programme cycle that could provide significant insight once the technical assistance is rendered. Through the Climate Investment Platform (CIP), Seychelles successfully bid on two projects that aim to undertake technical and feasibility studies for the expansion of solar PV and for treating ground water. Under the CIP, technical assistance is provided to fully mobilize investments to unlock the potential of renewable energy technologies in Seychelles through an in-depth understanding of the country context.

RESTORATION ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY IN ADDRESSING BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND THUS HELP IN MAINTAINING HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS



Ethan Boniface Active Member of Coral Restoration in the Curieuse Marine Park

UNDP SEYCHELLES ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Engaging Women and Youth in Restoration Efforts

UNDP project-led interventions have noted improvements in reporting on gender and youth markers. Three Watershed committees are comprised of more than 40 percent women and 20 percent youth, and 140 women are direct beneficiaries of restored ecosystem services, either participating in reforestation, farming and agriculture or agro-forestry initiatives. In Seychelles, the perception that women are well represented at the forefront of actions on the ground continues, which is evidenced through their participation and leadership in most environmental activities.

District level training and awareness of nature-based solutions is conducted through a strategic communications and awareness campaign to ensure community engagement and enhanced decisionmaking. Women and youth are trained in coral reef rehabilitation and are actively engaged in marine research and restoration activities.

WOMEN HAVE A PIVOTAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THE EMERGENCE OF A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY, AS THEY HAVE AN INNATE PASSION AND SENSITIVITY VIS-À-VIS NATURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION.



Dainise Quatre, Marine Officer

UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme in Seychelles

The UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Seychelles has made significant strides in promoting sustainable development through its various initiatives. In 2022, the Programme engaged in ten impactful projects, and it has already received approval for six new projects in early 2023.

The Youth and Climate Change project portfolio is a key focus area of the SGP in Seychelles. It seeks to support youth-led initiatives aimed at advancing energy system transformation and implementing concrete measures to address climate change. The portfolio has mobilized a wide range of stakeholders, including sports clubs, the Seychelles Institute of Agriculture, farmers' associations, primary schools, conservation groups, NGOs, the University of Seychelles, the Global Shapers Victoria Hub, and the Guy Morel Institute, among others.

The Beekeeper's Association has benefited from the Small Grants Programme and the Ridge-to-Reef projects, which provided long-term beekeeping training and basic equipment for local beekeepers. The association has since become a major focal point for aspiring beekeepers and has established an excellent rapport with various government ministries and agencies, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, and the Seychelles Bureau of Standards.

Another notable project supported by the SGP is the 'Pye Koray' (Coral Tree) initiative, which aims to replace plastic elements used in current restoration methods with bamboo and pandanus weaving techniques derived from creole traditional knowledge. The Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles (MCSS) is leading the initiative, which has already led to the creation of an innovative coral garden in the Ste Anne Marine National Park.

Lastly, the NGO Hill to Ocean Citizens (H2O-C) is collaborating with Sustainability for Seychelles (S4S) to expand the UNDP's Climate Promise Initiative. The project seeks to promote the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the private sector, civil society organizations, and the public on Mahé and Praslin islands. It also aims to demonstrate the vulnerability of the Seychelles economy to the impacts of climate change and its potential consequences on the population. The project has held workshops across various segments of decision-making instances and the population to foster support for the implementation of the NDCs.

Gender training on climate-smart agriculture and nature-based solutions will enable more women and youth to engage in alternative livelihood activities.

PARTNERSHIPS

BATCH:





Building on existing partnerships and forging new strategic partnerships with the Government, the private sector, public institutions, NGOs, and Civil Society enabled the UNDP multi-country office to deliver on its programmatic offer.

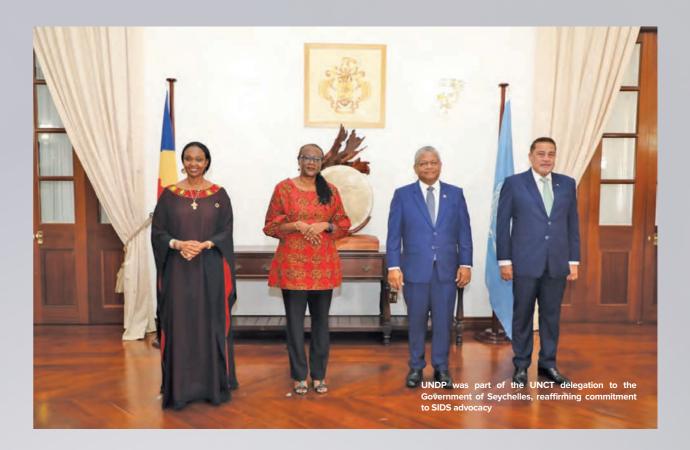
The relationship with the Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade has been strengthened with new ground on the enhancement of capacities for resource mobilization and digital transformation. The UNDP multicountry office mobilized resources from the UNDP Africa Sustainable Finance hub to:

- 1. initiate a Development Finance Assessment
- 2. and secure a position and additional resources to implement capacity support for domestic resource mobilization in 2024

More ground gained in South-South cooperation for digital transformation to inform the national digital strategy, led by the Ministry of Finance.

The UNDP team in Seychelles facilitated a diplomatic mission in May 2022 led by the Resident Representative of the Multi-country office. It was an opportunity to continue discussions with various Government departments regarding the development of the private sector and the blue economy, and the use of digital solutions as a means towards inclusive development and building economic resilience.

The Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry became a strategic partner for expanding UNDP's inroads into the private sector. The Ministry has played a significant role in the preparation of the SDG Investor Map by establishing and chairing an inter-agency advisory committee, chairing all sectoral committees to validate the Investment Opportunity Areas, and endorsing the map. Support to business incubation is also evolving through the collaboration with the Ministry of Investment. The private sector actors in Seychelles are increasingly building trust in the UNDP. Through umbrella organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the private sector has engaged in dialogue and significantly contributed to consultations to inform the SDG Investor Map.



List of Partners









UNDP Africa Sustainable Finance Hub Giobal Centre for Technology, Innovation and Sustainable Developm Singapore















Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development











During the May 2022 diplomatic mission, UNDP team implementing the E€OFISH project in Mauritius met with representatives of various fishers' associations across Mahé, Praslin and La Digue. Meetings were held with Seychelles authorities at the Seychelles Fishing Authority, the Ministry of Fisheries & Blue Economy, and the Seychelles Maritime Academy. A first of its kind Regional Octopus Fishery Workshop organized in collaboration with the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) with the aim of enhancing South-South cooperation between Seychelles, Mauritius & Rodrigues through the sharing of knowledge and best practices about octopus fishing.

The 9th Project Steering Committee for the GEF-funded SAPPHIRE Joint Management Area (JMA) Demonstration Project was organised in Seychelles during the mission. The event was co-chaired by H.E Mr. Jagdish Koonjul, Ambassador of Mauritius to the United Nations, and Ms. Amanda Serumaga, UNDP Resident Representative for Mauritius and Seychelles. The PSC was attended by other key stakeholders from both countries and included presentations by the project manager and other consultants involved in the project.

Partnerships were strengthened between the UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and UNWomen in support of national goals through the Joint SDG Fund Programme on Enhancing Food Resilience. The UNDP multi-country office lead the consultations under the programme which aims to build resilient food systems in both the Republics of Seychelles and Mauritius. The project will support both islands to develop increased self-reliance on local production through a strengthened sustainable supply and value chains. This collaboration has laid the foundation towards imparting climate smart agriculture techniques to farmers and delivering as one UN. The UNDP Operations team also provided logistics support for the high-level regional meeting held by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).







As part of the SDG Investor Map consultations, the UNDP team met with the Fishing Boat Owners Association to find ways to attract private sector capital in the country.

The Government of Seychelles partnered with the UNDP Global Centre for Technology, Innovation and Sustainable Development in Singapore to drive an enabling environment for digitalisation.

The first Regional Octopus Fishery Workshop organized to enhance South-South cooperation between Seychelles, Mauritius and Rodrigues in building resilient Blue Economies



UNDP SEYCHELLES ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Vertical donor funds contribute significantly to enabling the Government of Seychelles to tackle issues of climate change, biodiversity conservation, protected area management, chemicals and waste management, and the blue economy. To that extent Seychelles continues to pioneer and champion these issues on global platforms, cementing its environmental leadership position and in sustaining the environmental gains made over the last 4 decades.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), in partnership with UNDP, paves the way for embedding best practices and building on lessons learned in these interlinked sectors. In 2022, the Indian Ocean regional project on Chemicals and Waste with a total value of USD 12M of which the Seychelles project is valued at USD 2.5M began implementation. Additionally, USD 300,000 was mobilized for enabling action to support countries align their NBSAPs (National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans) to the Global Biodiversity Framework.

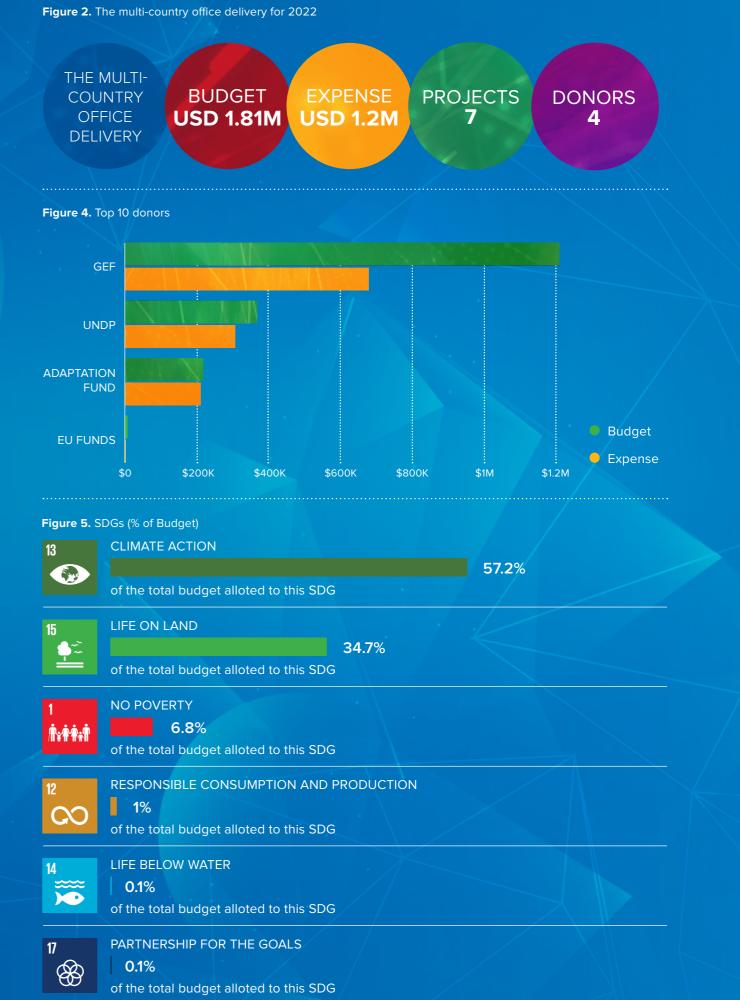
The GEF Secretariat also endorsed the "Prioritising Biodiversity Conservation and Nature-based Solutions as Pillars of Seychelles' Blue Economy," under its GEF7 cycle valued at USD 4.9M.

In the wake of COVID-19, the UNDP mobilized USD 500,000 towards accelerating economic recovery through Digital solutions and another USD 100,000 on the development of the SDG Investor Map as a critical tool in identifying Investment Opportunity Areas (IOAs) for SDG impact and unlocking potential public private sector partnership.

Within the framework of the Integrated National Financing Facility, the UNDP mobilized USD 300,000 to facilitate technical support to domestic resource mobilization and USD 80,000 to undertake a Development Finance Assessment. These engagements are envisaged to complement the implementation of the upcoming National Development Strategy 2024-2028.

Through the Joint SDG Fund on Enhancing Food Resilience in both Mauritius and Seychelles, UNDP's allocation of USD 70,000 for Seychelles was earmarked to set up a Hi-TECH Shade House at the Seychelles Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture and facilitate South-South cooperation between the two countries. This project was a joint initiative with other United Nations Agencies including Food and Agriculture Organisation and UNWomen.

In 2022, the resources mobilized were a consolidation of various ongoing discussions and concretely delivered on the pipeline projects committed to the Government of Seychelles.

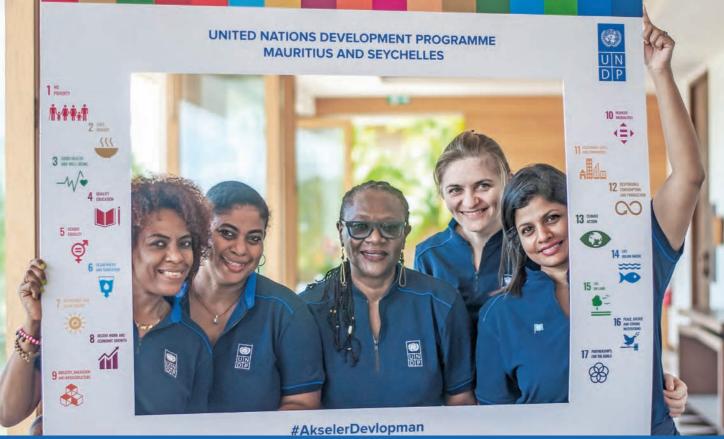


Operations

The UNDP Seychelles Country Office provided a range of administrative, operational and project services to the Government partners and UN sister agencies. These include strengthening of programme delivery through National Implementation Modality (NIM) to improve organizational efficiency. The Country Office also continued to pursue efficiency and acceleration of programme delivery using global and regional Long-Term Agreements (LTAs) to procure goods and services. This shortened procurement timelines and enabled the UNDP to meet the various deadlines for the projects. The UNDP also provided essential services including Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) financial audits and spot checks.

The UNDP commenced preparations in 2022 for the next country programme for Seychelles, spanning from 2024 to 2028. The process, which is expected to conclude in 2023, involved multiple strategic engagements, including high-level dialogues with the private sector. Through these dialogues, the UNDP identified crucial areas of impact for the upcoming programme cycle.

Additionally, the strategic direction for the programme was shaped by a national strategic partnership dialogue, held jointly by the UN Country Team and the Seychelles Cabinet. This dialogue provided insights into the areas of focus for the country's next National Development Strategy.



Marille Benoit (Programme Assistant), Lyndy Bastienne (National Coordinator - GEF/SGP), Amanda Serumaga (Resident Representative), Oksana Vovk (Programme and Operations Specialist), Preethi Sushil Nair (National Project Coordinator)





Martine Chung How (Human Resource Assistant)



Veronique Nibourette (Project Manager - Joint Management Area)



3 6000 HEALI

-4/

Ø

4 DUALITY

Sameer Khudaroo (Head of Finance), Tony Muhumuza (Senior Economist)



Nishi Sewsurn (Executive Associate)



Rudhi Kinnoo (Administrative Clerk)

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES



Fatuma Sainab Hassan Musa (International Operations Manager), Patricia Li Yuk Fung (Finance Assistant), Deepa Seeburn (Procurement Assistant)

#BOUZAN ACCELERATOR LAB TEAM Ayooshee Dookhee (Head of Solutions Mapping), Avinash Meetoo (Head of Experimentation), Melany Poorun-Soobrayen (Head of Exploration)

> UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES

#AkselerDevlopman

COMMUNICATION TEAM Jean-Yan Norbert (Communication Assistant), Sharon Sunassee (Communication Assistant), **Stephane Bellerose** (Communications Specialist)

UNDP SEYCHELLES ANNUAL REPORT 2022

47



UNDP Mauritius Country Office 6th Floor, Anglo Mauritius House Intendance Street P.O Box 253, Port Louis Mauritius www.mu.undp.org





