

INVEST IN **SEYCHELLES**







PREFACE

The Invest in Seychelles guide was written to give the busy executive a quick overview of the investment climate in Seychelles. This book reflects information current as at December 2018.

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SEYCHELLES AT A GLANCE



Climate

All-year-round tropical weather, with an average temperature of 27°C and a range that rarely drops below 24°C or rises above 32°C.



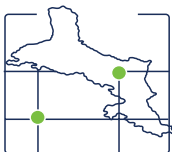
Languages

English, French, Creole



Population

96,762 (2018 est.)



Surface Area

Land Surface Area 455km²
Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
1.3million km²



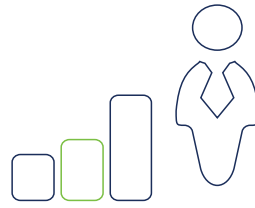
Currency

Seychelles Rupees (SCR)



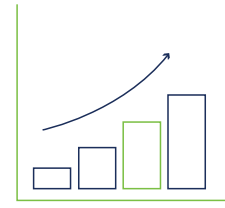
Tourism Arrivals

361,844
(2018)



GDP Per Capita

USD16,434
(2018 est.)



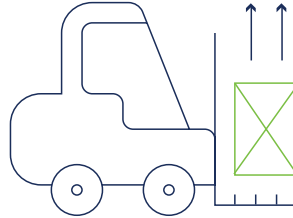
GDP Growth

7.85%
(2018 est.)



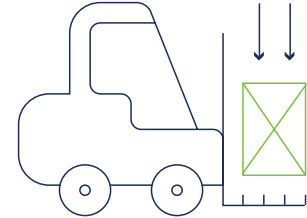
FDI

USD158.5 M
(2018)



Exports

USD325 M
(2018)



Imports

USD1,249 M
(2018)

REASONS TO INVEST

- Located in the heart of the Indian Ocean with excellent air connectivity to major hubs in the Middle East, Europe, Africa and Asia.
- The main population is situated outside the cyclonic belt.
- Favourable time zone of GMT+4.
- Temperature ranges from 25-32 degrees Celsius throughout the year.
- 96% literacy rate with increasingly educated and skilled workforce.
- Politically and economically stable environment.
- A growing economy with expanding opportunities in Fisheries, Agriculture, Real Estate, Adventure Tourism, ICT and Energy.
- Fiscal incentives for investments in the Tourism, Agriculture, Energy and Fisheries sectors.
- 2nd Highest GDP per Capita in Africa.
- Offers a world class financial centre with no foreign exchange restrictions.
- Ranked second for the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance.
- Ranked second in Africa on the corruption Perception Index (Transparency International).
- Ranked first in Africa on the Human Development Index.



Photo Credits: SCAA

CONNECTIVITY SEYCHELLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Seychelles International Airport (SIA) is the main gateway to the Seychelles islands. The airport serves both international and domestic routes. International routes to and from mainland Europe, Asia, Middle East and Africa are operated by major airlines such as Emirates, Turkish Airlines, British Airways, Air France, Condor, Ethiopian Airlines, Etihad Airways, Qatar Airways, Edelweiss Air and the national airline, Air Seychelles.

Domestic operations are also available to the inner and outer islands. With increased airline operators and growing passenger traffic, a total number of 750,000 passengers was recorded in 2017. 900,000 passengers have been forecasted for 2018. Considering this figure, major capital projects have been undertaken to expand the overall capacity of the airport in order to accommodate for the influx.

HUB - SEZ IMPORT & EXPORT FACILITIES

General Information:

Warehouse — 2,850 sq. metres
area import/ export:

Transit: — Allowed

Cold storage/ Freezer — 6m(L) x 3.6m(H)
(-0 to -18°C)



1,100

AVERAGE DAILY PASSENGERS
ARRIVALS



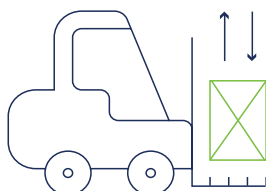
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AIRLINES
(AS AT OCT 2018)



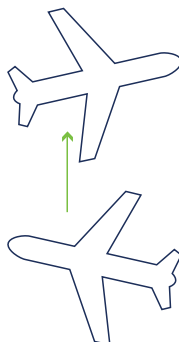
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DOMESTIC FLIGHTS
DAILY



7,518 TONS

CARGO CAPACITY IN AND OUT
(JAN-SEP 2018)



341,189

TRANSIT PASSENGERS
(JAN-SEP 2018)



CONNECTIVITY PORTS

The Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA) is mandated to govern and operate the ports of the country, principally the Port of Victoria. The aim of the government is to adopt a business-oriented approach towards the running and better management of all imports. The vision of the Ports Authority is to become the most vibrant and competitive port in the region. Its mission is to serve the citizens of Seychelles by responsibly developing and maintaining the facilities to encourage sustainable economic growth and return on investment, while providing modern port facilities that build upon the character and environmental resources of the country.

Port Victoria remains the most important industrial fishing, cruise ship & super yacht port in the southwest Indian Ocean, engaging the private sector in port-related developments and maintaining strong collaboration with other ports in the region.

INDUSTRIAL FISHING PORT

The industrial fishing port supports the tuna industry by providing adequate transshipment, landing and storage facilities in order to enhance Port Victoria's competitiveness and processing capabilities.

MAHE QUAY

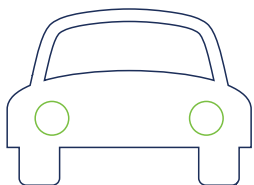
The port facilitates services for domestic and international trade and cruise tourism. The quay connects the locals and visitors with the main islands nearby including, Praslin and La Digue. These ferries facilitate the efficient transportation of passengers and goods between the island in order to support social and economic activities.

INTER- ISLAND QUAY

The objective of the quay is to separate cargo and passenger activities and improve efficiency, safety and security. It aims to develop a mini cruise ship terminal and improve the financial self-sustainability of the jetty.



LIVING IN SEYCHELLES



GETTING AROUND

The transport system on the main island of Mahe is well-developed, with two-lane highways, primary and secondary roads running around the coast as well as across the mountains, giving easy access around the island. Praslin, the second-most inhabited island in Seychelles is serviced by one main road around the island, and other secondary roads leading to housing communities, hotels etc.

The most popular mode of transport on the islands is the bus, because of its affordability and its service to most routes. The island of La Digue is only accessible by ferry and the main modes of transport there are the bicycle, ox-cart or electric buggy. One main ferry line provides several trips per day between these three islands. There is also the availability of car hires and taxis.

Due to the relatively short travelling distances between places of interest, there are currently no railways or sky trains. A large percentage of the population on the two main islands also travels by car. This has meant constant work to improve and develop road infrastructure; be it the widening of roads, adding extra lanes, or creating more roundabouts. Travelling between the main islands of Mahe and Praslin, as well as some outer islands, has been made easy through regular domestic flights, or through boat trips. Helicopter trips are also available to some islands.

EDUCATION

In Seychelles, education is compulsory up to the age of 16 years and free from pre-school through to secondary school until the age of 18 years. There are currently 39 state schools, 9 post-secondary schools, 4 private schools and 1 university; University of Seychelles.



The government ensures access to quality education to the population. Students who complete their secondary education can attend further training in their field of choice in education, business, humanities science, and hospitality. A growing economy with greater investment opportunities will require a significant increase in the country's skills capacity, allowing for locals to invest or be employed in more lucrative/higher paid specialized services. This will require educational institutions and special skills training centres to support the demand.

Similarly our large Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) makes Seychelles ideal for the opening of ecological and maritime based universities and research centres.



ENTRY FORMALITIES

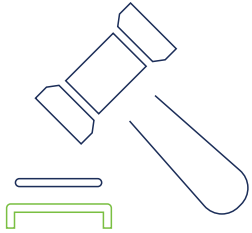
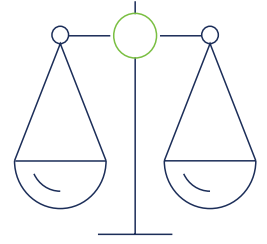
Valid passports and other travel documents are recognized by the Seychelles immigration into the country. The visitor's permit is issued for a stay of up to one month, but it can be extended for a further stay of up to three months from the date of issue. The passport must be valid for the period of intended stay until arrival back in holder's country of origin or residence.

A visa is not required for entry into the Republic of Seychelles regardless of the nationality of the passport holder, as long as they are not a prohibited immigrant.

GOVERNMENT/ POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

The Republic of Seychelles has a multi-party political system with an executive President as Head of State and government. The President heads a Cabinet of a total of up to 12 ministers.

The Republic of Seychelles is a member of the United Nations (UN), the African Union, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). It has embassies in Paris, New York, Brussels, Addis Ababa, Abu Dhabi, New Delhi, Beijing, Pretoria and London, as well as numerous honorary consulates worldwide.



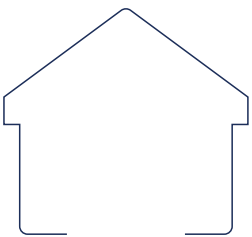
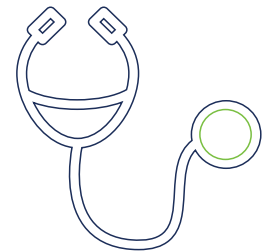
LEGAL SYSTEM

The Seychelles legal system is based on English Common Law, the Napoleonic Code and the amended 1993 Constitution. Civil Law is based on the French Napoleonic Code adapted to Seychelles and is known as the Civil Code of the Seychelles. Company Law is based on English Common Law. The highest court is the Court of Appeal.

The recently established Commercial Court has the mandate to resolve commercial disputes. The legislative branch is enacted through a National Assembly, which has a total of 34 seats, using a combination of the first-past-the-post system (25 seats) and proportional representation (9 seats).

HEALTH

The Government of Seychelles offers free healthcare to all citizens of the country. There are six hospitals in total between the three main islands, as well as seventeen health centre offering basic healthcare. The rapidly developing private health care sector is also offering more specialized services to the population, with clinics specializing in eye care, dentistry, gynecology to name a few.



ACCOMMODATION

Mahe, Praslin and La Digue are the main inhabited islands of the Seychelles, where land is divided into districts. A range of residential options are available, both for rent and for sale. Housing can range from luxury apartments and villas to more affordable studio apartments, semi-detached and detached houses.

The Ministry of Housing, Infrastructure, Land Use and Transport (MHILT) is responsible for facilitating adequate housing to the citizens of the country and has developed numerous housing communities on the islands. Its target is to build a total of 1,118 houses by 2020.

Private housing projects have also been on the rise over the years, with the likes of Eden Island, Eden View Village and Pangia Beach for example, offering a more high-end choice to locals and foreigners alike.

AVERAGE APARTMENT RATES/ MONTH

\$914

-

1 bedroom
in Town Centre

\$1,766

-

3 bedroom
in Town Centre

\$713

-

1 bedroom
outside Town

\$1,321

-

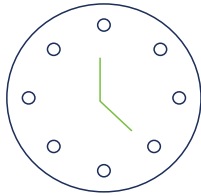
3 bedroom
outside Town



LABOUR ENVIRONMENT

SKILLS AVAILABILITY

Seychelles has a labor force of over 46,000 with a literacy rate of 96%. The training needs of the country are widely met by the university and colleges offering various courses in fields such as IT, office management, electronics, carpentry, masonry, hotel management and hospitality services, etc. Seychelles also enjoys a large, healthy pool of professionals in fields such as economics, business, law, finance, medicine, management and accounting.



WORKING HOURS

The maximum of working hours is 60 hours per week or 12 hours per day.

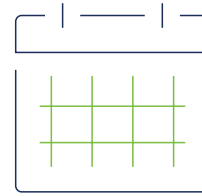
Overtime: The maximum overtime allowed is up to 60 additional hours per month or an aggregate of 15 additional hours per week.

Government Offices: Open five days a week from 08:00 am to 04:00 pm (Monday to Friday).

Private Companies: Varies, but, generally from 09:00 am to 05:00 pm (Monday to Friday) and from 09:00 am to 12:00 pm on Saturdays

Lunch break is from 12:00 pm to 01:00 pm.

Public Holidays: Public holidays falling on a Sunday will result in the following Monday becoming a public holiday.



LEAVE

Annual: A worker, other than a casual or part-time worker, is entitled to 21 days paid annual leave or, where the employment is for less than a year, to 1.75 days for each month of employment, the aggregate number of days being rounded up upon addition to the highest integer.

Sick Absences: An employee is entitled to a maximum of 30 days paid sick leave per annum or additional of 30 days if the employee is hospitalised or in convalescence at home before the exhaustion of the first 30 days leave.

Maternity: A female employee is entitled to a total of 16 weeks paid maternity leave of which not less than 12 weeks shall be taken after the date of confinement, and to 4 weeks unpaid maternity leave that can be taken either before or after paid maternity leave.

Paternity: A male worker, resident in Seychelles, under a contract of continuous employment or a fixed term or a part time male worker, is entitled to paid paternity leave of 10 consecutive working days.

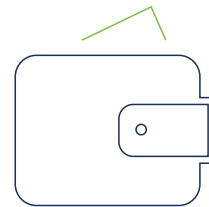


EMPLOYMENT AGE

The legal minimum age for employment in Seychelles is 15 years. There are certain limitations on the employment of young people under the age of 18 years. Therefore, an employer shall not employ a person under the age of 18 in hotels, guest houses, boarding houses and any place where tourists are accommodated, restaurants, bars, dance clubs, etc. A person below the age of 21 shall not be employed in casinos or gaming houses.

Employment of Non-Seychellois

An employer in Seychelles shall not employ a non-Seychellois unless the employer holds a Gainful Occupation Permit (GOP) certificate from the Ministry of Employment, Immigration and Civil Status.



MINIMUM WAGE

The minimum rates of pay are set by the Seychelles Government. The minimum wage is currently at the rate of SCR34.97 per hour for all workers other than casual workers. The minimum hourly rate for casual workers is SCR40.30 per hour.

13TH MONTH PAY

Every employer shall pay to his, her or its workers a thirteenth month pay in addition to their due salary, provided that the worker has taken up employment with the employer for a period of not less than twelve months inclusive of the probation period. The payment shall become due on 31st December of every year and it shall be made on or before 31st January of the following year. The amount of the thirteenth month pay is equivalent to the monthly salary of the worker excluding any allowance or other monetary benefits forming part of the salary. A non-Seychellois employee and whose basic monthly salary is above SCR45,450 shall not be eligible for a 13th month pay.



INVESTMENT CLIMATE



PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT

Government shall promote inclusive and responsible (including social) investment for sustainable growth that creates wealth, decent and quality jobs and improve the standards of living and well-being of the Seychellois people/residents of Seychelles.

INTEGRATION OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Government shall embrace and promote the use of science, technology and innovation.

FAIR AND EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF INVESTORS

In accordance with relevant legislations, government commits to fair and equitable treatment for all investors and businesses.

EFFECTIVE PROTECTION OF INVESTMENT

Government commits to the guarantee of protection of all investments and property from expropriation, or from measures taken that will have a similar effect subject to necessary due diligence. Exception to this guarantee may only be made for acquisition done in public interest purposes in accordance with and as provided for in the relevant legislation. Research and development as well as indigenous knowledge are important features of sustainable development. Hence the framework for protection of Intellectual Property will be strengthened.

PROMOTION OF FREE AND FAIR COMPETITION THROUGH FREE ENTRY IN BUSINESS

Promote an environment conducive for free and fair competition.

DIVERSIFICATION, EXPORT AND IMPORT SUBSTITUTION

Being a member of various trade configuration including the World Trade Organization (WTO) and especially the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), Seychelles should seek greater benefit from opportunities, raw materials and services as well as markets, these affiliations present. Government shall thus encourage domestic production and diversification for local production and export. Such increased local production and diversification may also in turn, reduce dependence on foreign imports.

OUTWARD INVESTMENT

Membership in the trading blocs also provides outward investment opportunities. Therefore, Government shall encourage expanding the scope of investment by local businesses within the larger regional and international market.

PERSONNEL AND SPECIALISTS REQUIREMENTS

When and where there is a shortage of skilled and non-skilled labour as well as professionals on the local market, Government commits to facilitating entry and participation of foreign labour.

RESPECT FOR THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIOCULTURAL COHESION

Economic development shall be done in an integrated manner allowing the sustainable and responsible use of natural resources whilst ensuring respect for and complementarity with the environment and sociocultural harmony.

PROMOTION AND FACILITATION ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

Government recognizes the ability of the private sector and social entrepreneurs to drive economic growth and improving the wellbeing of the Seychellois People. Therefore, Government shall embrace the role of facilitator to investment and business operation, giving space for the private initiative to prosper and create wealth and employment opportunities for the country through implementing efficient and effective procedures.

TRANSPARENCY AND BEST REGULATORY PRACTICES FOR A PRO-BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

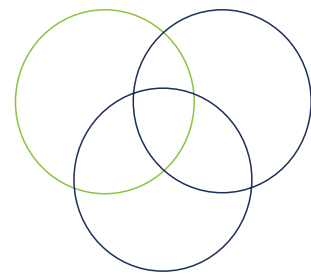
Government shall ensure that all laws, regulations, standards and policies pertaining to investments are formulated through an evidence based, participatory and coordinated manner, made readily accessible and applied consistently and transparently.

PURSUIT OF HIGH STANDARDS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

The Government commits to pursuing high standards of service delivery in the discharge of its functions in a professional, efficient and business friendly fashion.

DEVELOPMENT OF INVESTMENT CULTURE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

A planned and concerted approach shall be taken by the different stakeholders to develop the culture of investment and establish the continuous capacity building facilities and services required.





OBLIGATION OF INVESTORS

While every effort is made to ensure the rights of investors, the creation of a safe, stable and growing economy demands that investors in Seychelles are also aware of their obligations. Seychelles' investment authorities place great importance on ensuring that the country's investment regulations meet international standards, to ensure that businesses in the country can trade internationally and continue to maintain their international reputation for probity and accountability.

Investors operating in Seychelles are expected to abide by the following obligations:

- To comply with the provisions of the governing laws on investment procedures and to carry out investment activities correctly in accordance with the relevant approvals granted. This includes the responsibility of the investor for the accuracy and truthfulness of the contents of investment proposals and registration; and of the lawfulness of document on certification;
- To fully discharge financial obligations, including taxation, in accordance with the law;
- To carry out the provisions of the laws on accounting and auditing;
- To carry out the provisions of the laws on registration of companies and other legal entities;
- To carry out the provisions of the employment laws.



INVESTMENT GUARANTEES

The Government of Seychelles conducts regular assessments of its legislation pertaining to investment in the country, and implements measures designed to create an even more competitive, internationally compatible investment climate, to ensure that both new and established businesses are guaranteed success in their business activities.

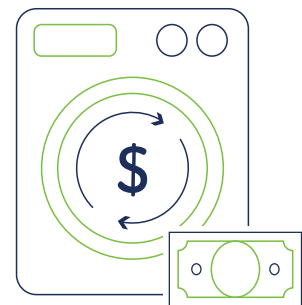
PROTECTION OF ASSETS

The Seychelles Investment Act, 2010 guarantees that any investment is protected against nationalisation or expropriation by the State. The one exception to this rule is in the case of national defence, in which unlikely circumstance; any effected investor would immediately be paid compensation at the market value in a freely convertible currency.

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING

The Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS) is the regulator and supervisor of banking institutions, non-bank credit granting institutions i.e. Credit Union, Housing Finance Company Ltd and Development Bank Seychelles, Bureau de Changes, Payment Service Providers, Payment, Clearing and Settlement System Operators and Financial Leasing Companies. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is the main regulator for non-banking institutions i.e. Fiduciary Services, Capital Markets, Collective Investment Schemes, Insurance, International Trade Zone and Gambling.

The financial sector, regulated by Financial Services Authority (FSA) in Seychelles has undergone considerable changes in the past decade. In particular, FSA seen the creation and promotion of Seychelles as an offshore jurisdiction. The sector can be described as one of the pillars of the Seychelles economy. This sector however, carries with it a high degree of risks, one of which being the risk affiliated with money laundering. Seychelles has since tried to safeguard the risks by introducing, implementing and re-enforcing the relevant legislations. This is vital in order to secure the international reputation of the Seychelles and to also ensure that businesses or companies operating under such domain operate in line with what is expected of them. Thus the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), an independent statutory body, is responsible for ensuring compliance with Anti-money Laundering Act/ Countering Financial Terrorism legislations.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

In Seychelles, environmental conservation and protection are at the core of our identity as a nation. The two main economic sectors which drive the economy – tourism and fisheries – depend significantly on their natural resources; that is, Seychelles' pristine natural beauty and rich fishing grounds within Seychelles' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The purpose is to not only attract investment but to also sustain their relative businesses. Environmental and economic impacts will remain at bay, only if the country's natural resources are managed responsibly and sustainably.

This brought forth conversations in regards to environmental sustainability when meeting with investors in these two sectors and effort is made to shift investments towards businesses that are better stewards of nature.



INVESTMENT FACILITATION

SEYCHELLES INVESTMENT BOARD (SIB)

Established in July 2004, SIB's role is to promote and facilitate local and foreign investments and contribute towards economic growth. The board's dedicated team of professionals can guide a potential investor through the process of establishing a business in Seychelles, from start to finish. The main activities of the board include;

- Promotion of Seychelles' investment opportunities, business climate and environment.
- Undertake investment, trade missions and road shows.
- Provide market intelligence, market opportunities and information on costs of doing business.
- Partner identification and business match making;
- Pre-investment counselling and guidance on existing policies and regulations.
- Organise concept presentation meetings.
- Coordinate visits and discussions between investors, public agencies and stakeholders.
- Provide assistance with obtaining clearances from relevant authorities, required work permits and licenses.
- Provision of advisory and post investment support services to facilitate the realisation of re-investments.

SEYCHELLES LICENSING AUTHORITY (SLA)

The Seychelles Licensing Authority was established in 1984 is mandated to process and grant licenses for most business activities. In 2010, a new Licenses Act came into force as part of the Government's endeavours to improve the business climate in Seychelles. The objectives of the new Licenses Act are to ensure the protection of public health and safety, environmental protection and national security.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

Internationally renowned for its leadership role in environmental conservation, Seychelles takes great pride in maintaining its many unique ecosystems. SIB assists in screening potential investment projects alongside staff from the Department of Environment, to ensure that any economic, social or industrial benefits will not compromise the country's environmental achievements.

DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE

The department prepares and periodically reviews land use, development plans and manages the existing land use. They appraise development proposals against adopted land use plans, adopted policies and guidelines. The department assists SIB with queries in regards to land use for investment.

SEYCHELLES BUREAU OF STANDARDS (SBS)

The Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS) is the National Standards Body (NSB) of Seychelles established under the SBS Act 1987 which was subsequently repealed and replaced with the SBS Act 2014. Its principal mission is to provide national and international capabilities in the areas of:

- Standardisation;
- Conformity Assessments (Inspection, Testing, Product and System Certification); and
- Metrology (Legal and Industrial)

The Bureau operates under an ISO 9001 – Requirement for Quality Management System which has been certified by the BM TRADA/EXOVA LTD (UK), an internationally recognised third party certification body while certain laboratories are accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 – general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories for 12 parameters related to the export of fish & fishery Products by SADCAS, the SADC Regional Accreditation Body.

As the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) for Seychelles, SBS plays an important role in ensuring quality and conformance to standards which will lead to competitiveness of local products and services at national and international levels.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATES AUTHORITY (IEA)

The Industrial Estates Authority (IEA) was established under the Industrial Estates Authority Act, 2013 with the aim of managing and monitoring development in all industrial estates in Seychelles whilst strictly observing and implementing government policies and strategies, and also protecting the environment to ensure high standards within Demarcated Zones.

The main mission of the IEA is to develop, manage and regulate well-planned Industrial Zones and Micro-Enterprise Sites which fall within its Demarcated Zones. The Authority is also responsible for providing professional advice and ensuring transparent decisions when handling requests for land applications, change of use applications, business license applications, land allocation recommendations, etc.

The Authority, in close collaboration with other Government agencies and the private sector, also monitors the performance and development of the Industrial Estates and Micro-Enterprise sites to further ensure the progressive rise in standards, in line with health and safety regulations.



LEASING AND PURCHASING OF LAND

The Seychelles Investment Board (SIB) assists investors with land availability for development. Investors can lease land from the government and/or buy land from the private sector. Investors wishing to lease land from the government have to submit a project concept to SIB. As such, it is advisable to identify a site before a project proposal is submitted.



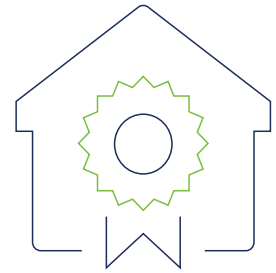
PURCHASE OF LAND OR PROPERTY FROM AN INDIVIDUAL

When the seller is a private individual, the investor should contact a notary or attorney who will manage the transfer of ownership of the plot which will then be registered at the Registration Division. The cost of registration is set at SCR100 per parcel and the duty payable is a 5% Stamp Duty plus a 1.5% Sanction processing fee and 11% Sanction Duty based on the value of the property in the case of residential properties only.

The Policy on alienation of land and management of State land, the Villas Policy and Guidelines for submission of an application for sanction under the Immovable Property (Transfer Restriction) Act can be downloaded from www.luh.gov.sc

LEASE OF STATE LAND

The government leases out tourism, commercial or industrial land for a term ranging from 60 to 99 years depending on the type and scale of the development. Commercial and industrial lands are leased at different rates, between SCR30 per m² to SCR300 per m² depending on the location and topography of the land. However, these rates can change depending on prevailing circumstances.



Upon signing the lease, an initial premium equivalent to one year's rent needs to be paid. After which, a grace period will come into effect for a period of 18 or 24 months depending on the scale of the development. Once the grace period has elapsed, the annual ground rent will be payable on a bi-annual basis to the Ministry of Habitat, Infrastructure and Land Transport (MHILT) accounts section. The rent will be reviewed upwards only every 5 years, at a rate of between 15% and 25% of the current rent and can also be reviewed on the open market rate. Upon transfer, the developer will be liable for Stamp Duty and Registration Fees. The development must be in accordance with plans submitted to and approved by the Seychelles Planning Authority.

PURCHASE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All non-Seychellois and foreign companies or Seychellois companies of which any shares are held by a non-Seychellois that wish to purchase immovable property in Seychelles require sanction from the Government. Applications for sanctions to purchase immovable property are available at the Land Division of the MHILT or can be downloaded from: www.luh.gov.sc.

Following approval, investors will register ownership of their property at the Registration Division. Registration costs include normal registration fees plus any duties that may be set up to a maximum of 1% of the purchase price. In the case of purchase of shares in a company owning an interest in immovable property, a processing fee of SCR 1, 000 per application is payable.

PROPERTY LEASING FOR INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS

It is preferable that the terms of the lease agreement be determined before submission of the project to SIB.

RENTAL FOR A PERIOD OF LESS THAN 2 YEARS

Any non-Seychellois who wishes to rent offices or commercial premises necessary for its business operations can do so without applying for a sanction from the Government under the Immovable Property (Transfer Action) Act.



RENTAL FOR A PERIOD OF OVER 2 YEARS

Any non-Seychellois who wishes to rent a plot or building owned privately or by the Government, for a period of 2 years or more, is required to apply for a sanction under the Immovable Property (Transfer Restriction) Act. Application forms are available at the Land Division of the MHILT or can be downloaded from www.luh.gov.sc. The processing fee is 1.5% of the annual rent.

SANCTION

If a foreigner wishes to purchase immovable property for a commercial project they will be subject to 5% stamp duty and 1.5% processing fee of the cost of the land.

In the case of purchase of immovable property for a holiday home or residential development for private use only, a sanction duty (currently 11%) of the market value of the property is payable to the Government of Seychelles over and above the applicable Stamp Duty (currently 5%) of the market value of the property.



REGISTRATION & LICENSING

COMPANY ENTITIES

Companies operating in Seychelles are governed by the Companies Act, 1972. Once a project has been given the approval from the Government, the investor has to register their company at the Registration Division. The Act stipulates that in order to engage in any business activity, a company shall be registered with the Registrar of Companies.

There are two legal forms under which an enterprise may establish a commercial presence in Seychelles:

- A propriety company, otherwise known as Pty. Ltd. This is the equivalent of a private company and may comprise between two and fifty members with limited liability;
- A limited company. This is the equivalent of a public limited company with an unlimited number of shareholders.

REGISTRATION OF A BUSINESS BY A FOREIGNER

Before a foreign company establishes a place of business or commerce in Seychelles, they are required to lodge the following with the Registration Division:

- A feedback letter of an approved project by government from SIB
- A certified copy of the certificate of its incorporation or registration in its place of incorporation or origin OR a document of similar effect;
- A certified copy of its charter, statutes, memorandum and articles of association OR other instrument constituting or defining its constitution;
- A list of its directors (if applicable) together with their particulars and details to be compiled in the register of directors, managers and secretaries of the company incorporation under the Act;
- A memorandum stating the powers of the local directors, where directors residing in Seychelles are members of the local board of directors;
- A power of attorney under the seal of the foreign company stating the names and addresses of two or more natural persons resident in Seychelles authorised to accept on its behalf the service of processing and any notices required to be served on the company;
- Notice of the situation of its registered office in Seychelles and the days and hours during which it is open and accessible to the public;
- A statutory declaration in the prescribed form made by the agents of the company.

BUSINESS ENTITIES

Businesses registered in Seychelles are governed by the Business Name Registration Act 1974. Once a project has been approved by the Government, the investor has to register their business at the Registration Division located on the first floor of the Independence House in Victoria.

REGISTRATION OF A BUSINESS BY A SEYCHELLOIS

- A statutory declaration made by a notary or an attorney-at-law engaged in the formation of the company stating that all of the requirements of the Act have been met;
- Memorandum of Association which entails the objectives of the company, the share capital and shareholders details/subscribers.
- Articles of Association which sets out all the regulations of the company.

FORMATION OF COMPANIES (INCORPORATION)

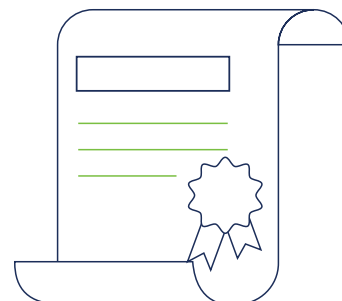
Two or more persons associated for any lawful purpose may form an incorporated company. A company may be:

- A company limited by shares;
- An unlimited company.

A company, association or partnership consisting of more than 20 persons, cannot be formed for the purpose of carrying a business that has for its object the acquisition of gain by the company, association or partnership, or the individual members, unless it is registered under the Act (Incorporated). This does not apply to an association or a partnership formed for the purpose of carrying on a profession or calling.

A company having a share capital may be incorporated as a propriety (private) company if its memorandum or articles of association:

- Restricts the right to transfer its shares;
- Limits to not more than 50 for the number of its members;
- Prohibits an invitation to the public to subscribe for any shares in or debentures of the company; and
- Prohibits an invitation to the public to deposit money with the company for fixed periods or payable at call, whether bearing or not bearing interest.



LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES

The Seychelles Licensing Act provides for a license to carry out certain activities. Licenses are granted by the Seychelles Licensing Authority (SLA), Financial Services Authority (FSA), Public Health Department and the Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS).

LICENSE TO OPERATE A BUSINESS

All establishments such as: hotels, restaurants, factories, motor vehicles, boat or motor vehicle rental, taxi operators and car hire operators are required to obtain a license to operate. A detailed list of licensable activities is available on the website: www.sla.sc or visit the office at the Seychelles Licensing Authority.

Licenses will be granted only when the approvals for related procedures are complete.

These may include, but are not restricted to:

- Approvals of projects by relevant authorities, such as the Seychelles Planning Authority, Public Health Authority or the Department of Environment;
- Safety Certificate from the Seychelles Maritime Safety Administration.

COST OF A LICENSE

The cost of a license will vary depending on the type of activity and the duration of the license. Business license fees range from SCR50 to SCR1,000,000 depending on the nature of the business. For a list of the license fees for each licensable activity, visit SLA's website: www.sla.sc or visit the office at the Orion Mall Building in Victoria.

RENEWAL OF A LICENSE

All licenses must be renewed at the office of the SLA before its expiry date. A license is valid for various terms, varying from 1 year to 5 years.

Seychelles is a visa-free country meaning that there are no visa requirements for any person wishing to travel to this country. However, there are a number of different permits issued in Seychelles that may be required by foreign investors. These permits are issued by the Department of Immigration and Civil Status in the Ministry for Employment, Immigration and Civil Status.



ENTRY PERMITS

VISITOR'S PERMIT

A Visitor's Permit is issued upon arrival in Seychelles to a person who comes for the purpose of holiday, business, to visit friends or family and who:

- is not a prohibited immigrant;
- is not the holder of a valid permit which entitles the holder to reside in Seychelles;
- holds a valid return or onward ticket for the duration of the visit;
- has confirmed accommodation;
- Or has sufficient funds for the duration of the stay.

This permit is initially valid for a period of up to one month. It can be extended for a period of three months from the date of issue and is capable of further extensions for successive periods not exceeding three months at a time, to a maximum period of twelve months, provided that the person still meets the above mentioned criteria. It is free of charge for the first three months after which, a fee of SCR5,000 is applicable for extensions covering each period of three months or any part thereof.

GAINFUL OCCUPATION PERMIT (GOP)

A GOP allows the holder to be gainfully occupied in the Seychelles and this could be as an employee or self-employed person. An approval certificate for the prospective non-Seychellois employee should first be sought from the Ministry of Employment, Immigration and Civil Status. Upon obtaining the relevant approval from the Ministry, an Application for GOP should be submitted to the Department of Immigration at least one week before the person is due to start work. These same procedures should be followed for extension of validity of the GOP or change of post titles or duties.

The prospective employee must not enter the country for the purpose of taking up employment before obtaining the permit. The application form must be completed by the prospective employer and in the case of a self-employed, by the person seeking the permit. There is a processing fee of SCR1,000 and the fee for the whole duration of the permit being sought is set at SCR500 per month or part thereof, payable when submitting the application.

SHORT TERM GAINFUL OCCUPATION PERMIT

A person can also apply for a short term GOP is a permit for a period of one day to one month. A short term permit is issued to non-Seychellois service providers and professionals such as installers, commission agents, auditors. An applicant is required to pay a fee of SCR1,500 and it is not renewable. The same procedure should be followed, as per the conditions for normal GOP application including approval from the Department of Employment and medical clearance.

RESIDENCE PERMIT

A Residence Permit may be granted to a person who is not a prohibited immigrant, who has a family or domestic connection with Seychelles or who has made or will make special contributions to the economic, social or cultural life of Seychelles. This permit does not allow the holder to be gainfully occupied in Seychelles.

The applicant will be required to produce documentary evidence of his/her financial status (including banker's confirmation). Conditions of the permit can be found on the website of the Department of Immigration and Civil Status: www.ics.gov.sc.

There is a fee of SCR1,000 for processing the application. The permit fee for the main applicant is SCR150,000 and SCR75,000 for the spouse if applied at the same time. Endorsement of each child on a permit is SCR25,000.

A Gainful Occupation Permit (GOP) is required for a residence permit holder who wishes to set up a business. In this case, a project memorandum should be submitted to the Seychelles Investment Board (SIB) detailing the business proposal.

STUDENT PERMIT

This permit is issued to a person who wishes to pursue his/her studies in Seychelles and who can show proof of acceptance and enrolment as a student in an approved educational institution and has sufficient funds to meet the expenses incurred while studying in Seychelles. A child who is a dependent of his/her parent in Seychelles or has attained the age of 18 years may also apply to continue to follow his/her course of study. The application process can be found on the website of the Department of Immigration and Civil Status: www.ics.gov.sc.

Upon approval of the application, the permit fee of SCR1,500 is payable for one year or part thereof.

DEPENDENTS PERMIT

A Seychelles citizen may apply for a dependents permit for his/her spouse and minor who are not citizens of Seychelles and who reside with the applicant in Seychelles. The application form and list of documents required can be found on the website of the Department of Immigration and Civil Status: www.ics.gov.sc.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ZONE PERMIT

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) regulates and supervises all International Trade Zone (ITZ) licensed companies in Seychelles as mandated by the International Trade Zone Act, 1995 and the FSA Act, 2013. The ITZ licensed companies are export oriented companies which operate within designated zones demarcated to be considered as ex-territorial of Seychelles, as such some laws do not apply. The types of activities that are permissible are numerous, as long as the main focus of business operation is exporting. The following are the types of licenses issued:

- Redistribution license
- Light-Assembly license
- Manufacturing license
- Processing license
- Management Export Services license

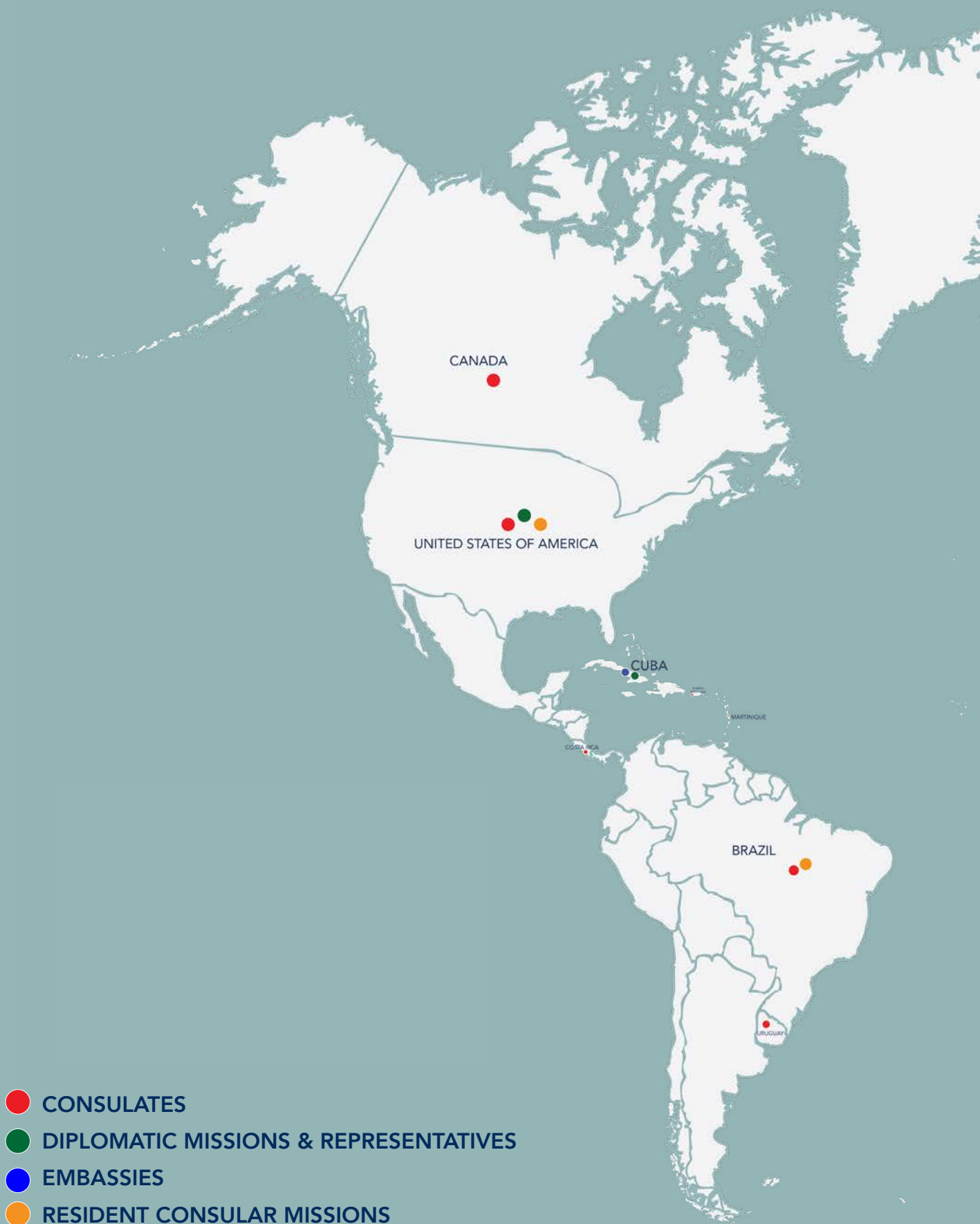
The ITZ is specifically designed to cater for the needs of redistributors, and exporters and re-exporters of goods and services. Seychelles is strategically located in the Indian Ocean to serve the region and elsewhere. The ITZ license application allows the Authority to evaluate projects submitted by investors in order to assess their relative merits and qualifications as potential ITZ operators.



The incentives provided are numerous and they include:

- 0% tax on business profits and dividends;
- 0% import duty and VAT for capital equipment*, raw materials, office furniture and equipment;
- 0% VAT on intermediate and final products;
- Exemption from the payment of ITZ work permit;
- 100% foreign ownership permissible;
- 0% withholding tax;
- Ability to import foreign workers for skills absent in Seychelles;
- Exemption from stamp duty except for instrument for freehold properties
- Exemption from immovable property tax.

However, the company is also allowed to sell a percentage to the local market, upon an application to the Ministry of Finance, Trade, Investment and Economic Planning, through the FSA. The usual maximum percentage of total output that is permissible to be sold to the domestic market will be subject to consideration by the Ministry.







TAXATION

The Seychelles Revenue Commission (SRC) is an authority established through the enactment of the Seychelles Revenue Commission Act 2009 as the body responsible for the administration of Revenue laws. The Act also mandates SRC to operate as an independent authority with responsibility to conduct its affairs in a transparent and efficient manner.

BUSINESS TAX



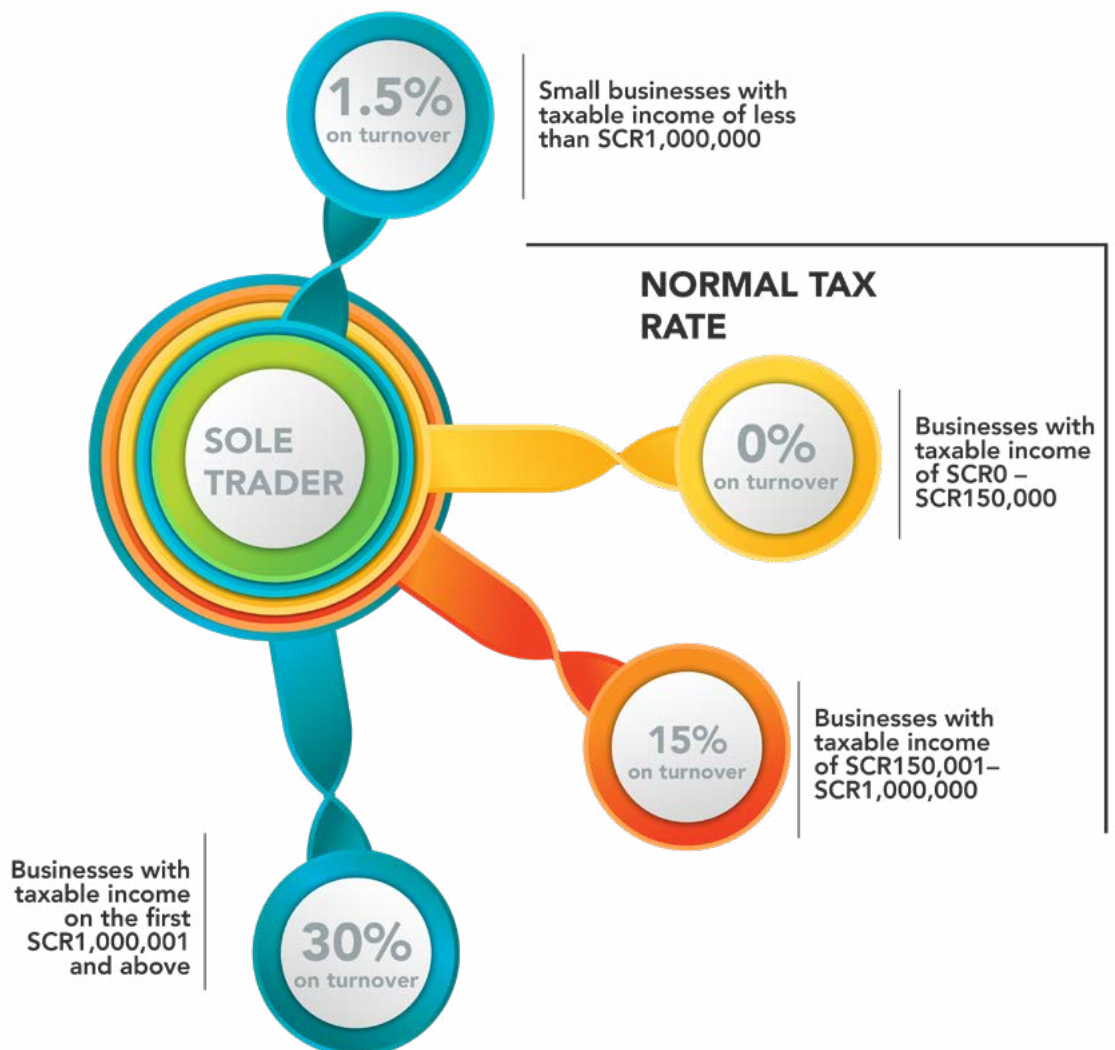
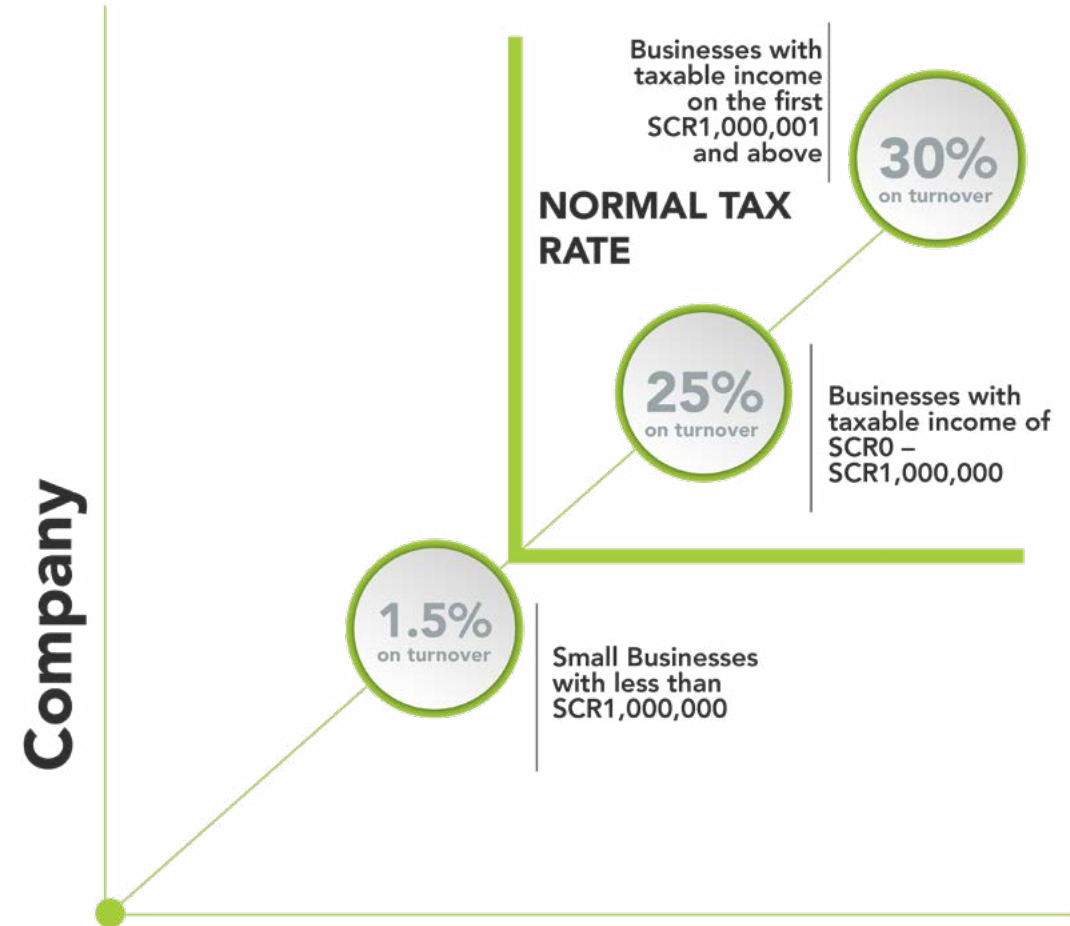
BUSINESS TAX REGISTRATION

All businesses are required to register with SRC within 14 days after the commencement date of the business. Once registered for business tax purposes, a unique Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) is given, that must be used in all business taxation dealings with the SRC.

As a sole trader or partnership business, having a taxable income above SCR150,000 entails an obligation to monthly Pay As You Go (PAYG) instalments. In the same way, if a business is an entity and the forecasted revenue for the first year of business indicates a taxable income, this business is also liable to monthly PAYG instalments.

Emphasis is placed on keeping the SRC informed of changes to a business, such as business closure or changes in contact details, business location, business name, shareholders, directors, etc. In addition, businesses are required to provide SRC with an email address for ease of communication.

More information on the business tax registration process and the various business tax rates can be found on SRC website: www.src.gov.sc.





ANNUAL SUBMISSION OF BUSINESS TAX AND/OR PRESUMPTIVE TAX RETURNS

A business tax year is a period of 12 months beginning 1st of January and ending on 31st December each year. By the 31st March of each year, a taxpayer will be required to file his/her annual tax return, choosing from the two types of returns:

Presumptive Tax Return

This consists of a one-page return if the income earned is less than SCR1 million or even in the case where the business has been in operation for less than a year.

Business tax return

This consists of a five-page return required to be completed by all businesses with an income earned of over SCR1 million. A set of accounts is not required to be submitted with the tax return unless requested by SRC. A taxpayer must lodge a nil return if the business is dormant or not operational. As in the case of a presumptive tax return, a taxpayer is required to lodge a Business Tax Return even when the business has been operational for less than one year.

SRC has a Help Desk Officer in place to assist taxpayers requiring advice when completing their yearly return.

BUSINESS TAX PAYMENTS

Each year a business is required to lodge a business tax return and this must be accompanied by the payment determined through a self-assessment system subject to review by the taxation office.

All monthly payments must be accompanied by a Business Activity Statement (BAS) form which is a summary of the different taxes that are being paid and the grand total of all these payments. Where a paperclip is displayed on the form, an attachment must be included with the payment. A BAS form must be lodged on or before the 21st day of the month; after the tax liability assessment is due (e.g. the BAS form for the month of January should be submitted on or before the 21st February).

Payments by cash or cheque are to be made at SRC's Main Office, at the third Floor, Maison Collet, Victoria.

Payments can also be made through bank transfers.

SRC E-SERVICES

Taxpayers who hold an account with Barclays Bank Seychelles can make use of SRC's e-payment platform. In addition, the platform also allows for filling of Business Activity Statements (BAS), business tax returns, presumptive tax returns, VAT returns and monthly payrolls. All that is required is registration with SRC to obtain an e-ID and password.

The Government also introduced the Seychelles Electronic Fund Transfer [SEFT] whereby taxpayers can pay their taxes through SEFT via their account with commercial bank in Seychelles.

PENALTIES

There is a 10% flat penalty for late payment of taxes after the due date of the 21st day of the month. An interest rate plus 3% is applied based on the lending rate of the Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS). The late lodgement penalty applies for late filings of returns such as BAS, VAT returns, Business Tax returns and Presumptive Tax returns.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

A business paying their voluntary contribution is allowed to claim VAT Input Tax as credits used in the business operation and offset against VAT collected from customers and remit the difference to the Seychelles Revenue Commission.

Criteria required to be met for Voluntary Registration

- Taxpayers are required to meet certain criteria in order to qualify for voluntary registration.
- The person must be making taxable supplies;
- The person must demonstrate that he/she has a fixed place from which business is conducted;
- If the business has already commenced, the person must demonstrate that proper records are being kept;
- If the business has already commenced, the person must demonstrate that he/she has been compliant with all tax obligations under all revenue laws;
- There must be reasonable grounds to believe that the person will keep proper records and submit regular and reliable returns. In the case of voluntary registration, returns are required to be submitted on a quarterly basis, on or before the 21st day of the following months after the tax liability is due.

OTHER TAXES

VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT)

The Seychelles Government introduced Value Added Tax (VAT) on the 1st January 2013, replacing the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The applied VAT rates are:

- 15% (standard rate) on most supplies of goods and services
- 0% (zero-rate) on specific transactions, principally concerning exports

Compulsory or mandatory registration is required of all businesses where taxable supplies or the annual turnover is above the VAT registration threshold of SCR2 million. For these businesses, VAT Returns must be submitted on a monthly basis, on or before the 21st day of the month after the tax liability is due.

Businesses where taxable supplies or the annual turnover is less than the VAT registration threshold of SCR2 million can register on a voluntary basis. In this case, VAT returns must be submitted on a quarterly basis (every 3 months), by the 21st day of the last month of each quarter.

BRACKET	GROSS MONTHLY INCOME (SCR)		RATES (%)	
	From	To	Citizen	Non- Citizen
Bracket 1	0	8,555.50	0	15% on the amount up to SCR10,000
Bracket 2	8,555.51	10,000	15 % on amounts over SCR8,555.50	
Bracket 3	10,000.01	83,333	SCR216.68 + 20% on amounts over SCR10,000	SCR1,500 + 20% on amounts over SCR10,000
Bracket 4	>83,333		SCR14,883.28 + 30 % on amounts over SCR83,333	SCR16,166.60 + 30% on amounts over SCR83,333

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TAX (CSRT)

A CSRT is imposed on a person whose annual turnover is equal to or exceeds the CSRT liability threshold of SCR1 million. This threshold is based on the annual turnover of a person for the tax year before the year in which the taxpayer is liable to pay CSRT.

The applicable tax rate is 0.5% of the monthly gross turnover. Of this percentage, 0.25% of the CSRT amount may be paid to SRC and the other 0.25% by way of donations, sponsorship or project funding to non-governmental organisations, associations or entities as approved by the Minister for Finance, Trade and Economic Planning.

CSRT is payable on the Business Activity Statement (BAS) every month. It is payable on or before the 21st day of the month, following the month in which the CSRT is due. In addition, a copy of the receipt received from such payments must be attached with the BAS form at the time of payment of the CSRT.

INCOME TAX

What is the progressive income tax?

The progressive income tax is a tax system whereby the tax rate increases as the taxable income increases. The progressive income tax system is based on a person's monthly income from each source of employment. This form of taxation is regarded as more equitable as an employed person earning a high income will have a higher effective tax rate when compared with a person earning a lower income. In other words, the more you earn the more you pay. This tax system came into force on 1st June 2018.

The progressive tax rates of a citizen of Seychelles differs from a non-citizen of Seychelles.

How do you calculate the monthly income tax?

To calculate the tax liability, one has to add all the taxes incurred in the different brackets.

What are the new tools provided by SRC?

To facilitate the process of calculating the Tax liabilities, SRC has made available a tax calculator on the website (www.src.gov.sc), and tax tables for employees who are paid on a daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly basis.

SCENARIO 1 A CITIZEN OF SEYCHELLES EARNING SCR12,000	
Calculations	Tax Payable per Bracket
The first SCR8,555.50 has a tax rate of 0% = SCR0	SCR0
From 8,555.50 to SCR 10,000 the tax rate is 15% $SCR10,000 - SCR8,555.50 = SCR1,444.50$ $SCR1,444.50 \times 15\% = SCR216.68$	SCR216.68
From SCR10,000 to SCR12,000 the tax rate is 20% $SCR12,000 - SCR10,000 = SCR 2,000$ $SCR2,000 \times 20\% = SCR400$	SCR400.00
Total Tax Payable SCR0 (From bracket 1) + SCR216.68 (From bracket 2) + SCR400 (From bracket 3)	SCR616.68

What are the new forms that employers need to submit to SRC?

A new payroll has been designed and the monthly Business Activity Statement (BAS) form has been updated. The two forms must be lodged within 21 days following the end of the applicable month. The payroll has been developed to also assist employers with the calculation of their monthly income tax with-holding obligations. There is also an employee status report that is required to be lodged to SRC. The first lodgment is on the 21st July along with the payroll. After which the employee status report needs to be updated and submitted by the 21st January every year. For employers with 9 or less employees, the payroll statement can be lodged either manually or electronically including using SRC E-Service facility. For employers with 10 or more employees, the payroll statement must be lodged electronically including using SRC's E-Service facility.

What are the obligations/ responsibilities of the employers and employees in the new tax system?

Employer Obligations :

- Withhold tax at the applicable rate from the employee's total emoluments.
- Submit a monthly Business Activity Statement (BAS) to SRC indicating the total amount of gross salary paid for all employees and the income tax withheld. INMBT is payable by the 21st day after the month the withholding occurred.
- Remit income tax withheld to SRC.
- Provide SRC with a monthly payroll.
- Provide employees with their monthly pay slips.
- Update and submit employee status using the 'Employee Status Form'.

Employee Responsibilities

- Verify amounts from the monthly pay slip(s) with that obtained from SRC calculator or tax tables.

SCENARIO 2 A NON-CITIZEN OF SEYCHELLES EARNING SCR12,000	
Calculations	Tax Payable per Bracket
From 0 to SCR10,000 the tax rate is 15% $SCR 10,000 \times 15\% = SR 1,500$	SCR1,500.00
From SCR10,000 to SCR12,000 the tax rate is 20% $SCR12,000 - SCR10,000 = SCR 2,000$ $SCR2,000 \times 20\% = SCR400$	SCR400.00
Total Tax Payable SCR1,500 (From bracket 1) + SCR400 (From bracket 2)	SCR1,900.00

TOURISM MARKETING TAX (TMT)

The Tourism Marketing Tax (TMT) is payable by tourism operators listed under the Eighth Schedule of the Business Tax Act, 2009, with an annual turnover of SCR1 million or more. The list also includes all banks, insurance companies (excluding brokers), telecommunication service providers, building contractors in Class 1 and casino operators. The threshold for taxpayers liable to TMT is based on the annual turnover of the year prior to the tax year in which the person is liable to pay TMT.

The rate of TMT is 0.5% per month on the monthly turnover of a person during the current year of payment and this payment must be remitted to SRC on or before the 21st day of the month, following the month in which it is due.

CUSTOMS DUTY

Customs duties are levied on imported goods. All goods imported into the Seychelles either by sea, air or post are subject to security and control at customs. This includes goods carried by passengers and crew of vessels and aircrafts. Customs duties are calculated on the CIF (cost + insurance + freight) value of the goods. The rate varies depending on the good.

For a list of customs duties rates, please visit SRC's website: www.src.gov.sc.

EXPORT PERMIT

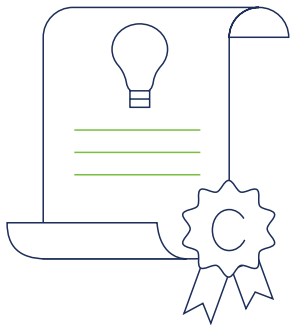
This permit is needed for both commercial and personal use. An export license is not required for businesses trading across borders. The export permit is needed for statistical purposes as well as customs purposes and to administer things like the Cites Convention. Export permit is issued by the Ministry of Finance, Trade, Investment and Economic Planning.

IMPORT PERMIT

Seychelles' trade policy allows for goods to be imported from any customs territory around the world, as long as they are not prohibited under Seychelles' law. There is only one import licensing system in Seychelles, which applies to restricted items. An importer intending to import restricted goods is required to apply for an import license through the Import and Export Division of the Ministry of Finance, Trade, Investment and economic planning which acts as a one-stop shop for processing these applications and a facilitator in the whole process of obtaining the license. However, the decision to grant or reject an application lies with the relevant Ministries and Departments or Government Agencies.



MARKET ACCESS & SPECIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

One good idea can change the world, but only if that idea can be properly developed and protected. In Seychelles, the notion of Intellectual Property (IP) rights is taken seriously, which is why the country is a signatory to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the World Trade Organisation’s (WTO) agreement on trade related aspects of intellectual property rights. Seychelles has put in place a comprehensive intellectual property regime under the Industrial Property Act, 2014 and the Copyright Act 2014. It is also working closely with WIPO to ensure that its IP legal framework remains relevant to its industrial development.

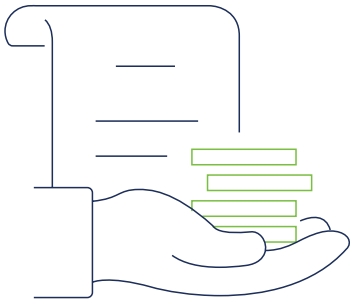
Local industries continue to be sensitised and encouraged to make use of their intellectual property rights when commercialising their new ideas, which may include trademarks, copyrights, patents, industrial designs, layout designs and Geographical Indications (GI).

DOUBLE TAXATION AVOIDANCE AGREEMENT (DTAA)

In recent years, Seychelles has aggressively pursued a number of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAA), gaining preferential tax terms for local businesses and businesses registered in Seychelles doing business overseas.

To date, 28 Double Taxation Agreements (DTAs) have been signed with other jurisdictions and are currently in force. These are:

Bahrain	Ethiopia	Malaysia	South Africa
Barbados	Indonesia	Mauritius	Sri Lanka
Belgium	Isle of Man	Monaco	Swaziland
Bermuda	Jersey	Oman	Thailand
Botswana	Kenya	Qatar	UAE
China	Lesotho	San Marino	Vietnam
Cyprus	Luxembourg	Singapore	Zambia



Seychelles’ geographical location, time zone and the linguistic capabilities of the Seychellois people make Seychelles an ideal financial bridge between Europe and China.

The country’s DTAs, as well as the other bilateral trade agreements the Seychelles has entered into, are continually reviewed. This is to ensure that their provisions encourage international trade and investments, and provide investors with increased certainty over their tax treatment, reduce the scope for double taxation of income and capital, improve profits and reduce risks.



REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Seychelles is also a member of various regional and international organizations such as the African Union, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the United Nations (UN) and the Commonwealth, to name a few.

The country’s network of overseas embassies, from which trade and business can be promoted directly, albeit few, are strategically located in all corners of the globe to facilitate any potential investment opportunities.



FINANCIAL SECTOR

BANKING

Seychelles has a well-established and financially sound banking environment that offers a diverse range of products and services. There are eight operational commercial banks which are regulated and supervised by the Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS). All major international credit cards are widely accepted throughout the country and may be used at the ATMs.

The following commercial banks are established and operating in Seychelles:

- Barclays Bank (Seychelles) Ltd. (Part of ABSA)
- Mauritius Commercial Bank (Seychelles) Ltd.
- Bank of Baroda
- Seychelles International Mercantile Banking Corporation (SIMBC) trading under the name "Nouvobanq"
- Seychelles Commercial Bank
- Al Salam Bank Seychelles Limited
- Bank of Ceylon
- State Bank of Mauritius (SBM)

Seychelles has two other non-banking financial institutions which are the Seychelles Credit Union (SCU) and the Development Bank of Seychelles (DBS). They aim to promote growth in the economy by providing flexible financing for businesses and projects.

SEYCHELLES CREDIT UNION (SCU)

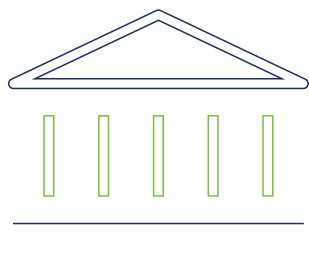
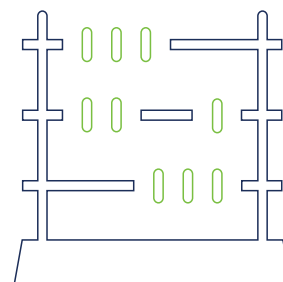
As the only community-based savings and credit cooperative society in Seychelles, the Seychelles Credit Union (SCU) has the mission of promoting thrift amongst its members to enable it to provide quality and fairly priced financial services to its community. This is done by putting people before profits and by delivering financial services that not only meet, but surpass its members' expectations.

The SCU also offers a wide variety of popular loan products and services for personal, business, medical, educational and festive purposes.

For more information on the SCU's services, please visit the website or Facebook page:

www.scu.sc

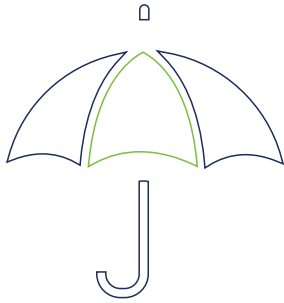
www.facebook.com/seychellescreditunion



DEVELOPMENT BANK OF SEYCHELLES (DBS)

DBS offers long term lending facilities at concessionary rates for productive projects. DBS mission is to provide financial assistance to SMEs, especially to the risky sectors of the Seychelles economy ensuring that finance is channelled where most needed, hence bridging the gap between commercial investment and economic development. The bank's vision is to remain a friendly and customer focused financial institution in meeting customers' requirements in productive sectors of the economy.

For more information on the DBS financing opportunities and other services, please visit the website: www.dbs.sc



INSURANCE

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is the Insurance regulatory Authority empowered to regulate insurance activities in or from Seychelles. There are a number of domestic insurance companies and non-domestic insurance companies providing a range of insurance products and services in or from Seychelles.

In addition, there are a number of insurance agents and domestic and non-domestic insurance brokers who provide advice and arrange insurance covers on behalf of their clients. For more information on the licensing requirements under the Insurance Act and contact details of the various insurance companies and agents, please visit the FSA website:

www.fsaseychelles.sc.

CAPITAL MARKETS AND MUTUAL FUNDS IN SEYCHELLES

Mandated to authorize, regulate and supervise the capital markets and collective investment schemes related business in the Seychelles. The Mutual Fund and Hedge Fund Act, 2008 provides for the regulation of collective investment schemes related business in or from the Seychelles, including the licensing of private, professional and public funds.

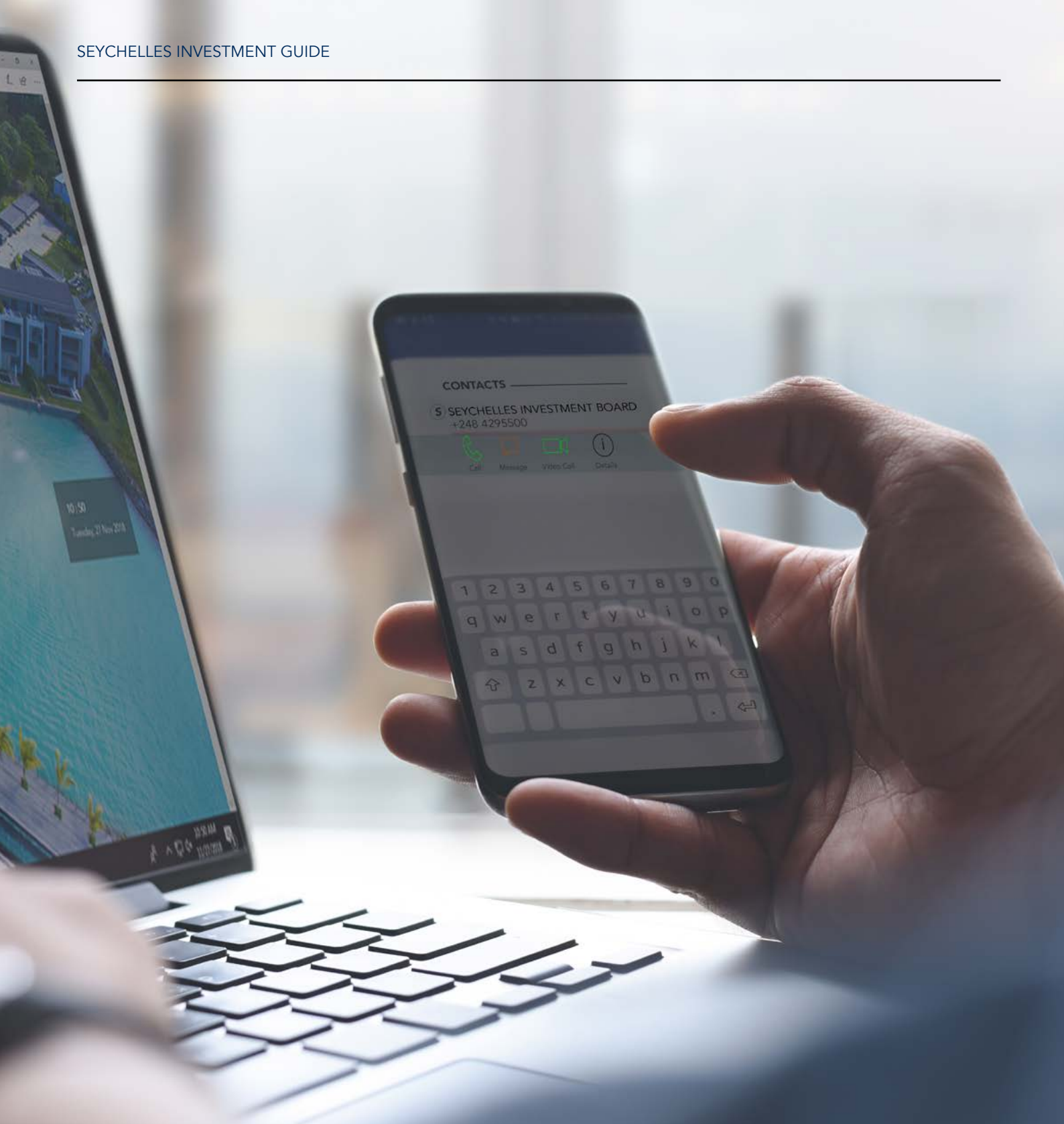
The Securities Act, 2007 provides for the regulation of securities business in or from Seychelles including licenses for securities dealing and investment advisory. Licensed securities dealers may become members of the Seychelles Securities Exchange or deal internationally in Over The Counter (OTC) markets.



MERJ EXCHANGE

The national securities exchange, "MERJ exchange" was launched in 2012. The exchange and group companies operate and regulate the financial markets including the listing, trading, clearing, settlement, registry and depository for listed securities and derivative instruments. The exchange operates markets for global equities, debt instruments and derivatives. Transactions are settled in real time on a real time gross settlement basis. There are options for foreign brokers to be direct members of the exchange. There is no stamp duty, capital gains tax and usually no withholding taxes for listed issuers.

MERJ further plans to launch support for digital securities (i.e. "tokenized" securities) and other digital assets which are issued and maintained on block chain platforms during the course of 2019.



BUSINESS CONTACTS

REFERRAL AGENCIES

SEYCHELLES INVESTMENT BOARD (SIB)

PO Box 1167
2nd Floor, Independence House Annex,
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4295 500
Fax: +248 4225 121
Email: investinseychelles@sib.gov.sc
Website: www.investinseychelles.com

CENTRAL BANK OF SEYCHELLES (CBS)

PO Box 701
Independence Avenue
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4282 000
Fax: +248 4226 104
Email: enquiries@cbs.sc
Website: www.cbs.sc

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT

4-5th Floor
Independence House Annex,
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4297 200
Email: contact@employment.gov.sc
Website: www.employment.gov.sc

IMMIGRATION AND CIVIL STATUS

INDEPENDENCE HOUSE

P.O Box 340
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Tel: +248 4293 600
Fax: +248 4225 035
Email: info@immigration.gov.sc
Website: www.ics.gov.sc

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

PO Box 445
Botanical Garden
Mont Fleuri, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4670 500
Email: info@env.gov.sc
Website: www.meecc.gov.sc

SEYCHELLES PLANNING AUTHORITY

1st Floor, Independence House Annex
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4674 444
Fax: +248 4610 148
Email: planningauthority@gov.sc
Website: www.spa.gov.sc

MINISTRY OF HABITAT, INFRASTRUCTURE & LAND TRANSPORT - LANDS & SURVEY DIVISION

PO Box 1097
Independence House, Victoria,
Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4674 444
Website: www.luh.gov.sc

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PO Box 656
Maison Quéau de Quincy
Mont Fleuri, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4283 500
Fax: +248 4224 845
Email: ps@mfa.gov.sc
Website: www.mfa.gov.sc

FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (FSA)

PO Box 991
Bois de Rose Avenue, Roche Caiman
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4380 800
Fax: +248 4380 888
Email: enquiries@fsaseychelles.sc
Website: www.fsaseychelles.sc

PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY

Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4388 000
Fax: +248 4223 151
Website: www.health.gov.sc

SEYCHELLES CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (SCAA)

PO Box 181
Seychelles International Airport
Pointe Larue, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4384 000
Fax: +248 4384 009
Email: secretariat@scaa.sc
Website: www.scaa.sc

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

PO Box 1049
Ground Floor, Botanical House
Mont Fleuri, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4286 500
Fax: +248 4324 240
Website: www.tourism.gov.sc

SEYCHELLES TOURISM BOARD (STB)

PO Box 1262
Botanical House
Mont Fleuri, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4 671 300
Email: info@seychelles.travel
Website: www.seychellestourismboard.travel

SEYCHELLES PORTS AUTHORITY (SPA)

PO Box 47
Mahe Quay,
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4294 700
Fax: +248 4325 479
Email: enquiries@seyport.sc
Website: www.seyport.sc

INDUSTRIAL ESTATES AUTHORITY (IEA)

Providence Industrial Estate
Providence, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4374 424
Fax: +248 4374 104
Email: l.athanasius@iea.gov.sc

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION (NISTI)**

P.O Box 1668
Bel Ombre
Victoria , Mahe Seychelles
Phone: +248 4325 702
Fax: +248 4325 703
Email: estico.xavier@gmail.com

REGISTRATION DIVISION

PO Box 142
1st Floor, Independence House
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4280 900
Fax: +248 4225 764
Email: regdiv@registry.gov.sc

SEYCHELLES BUREAU OF STANDARDS (SBS)

PO Box 953
Providence Industrial Estate
Providence, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4380 400
Fax: +248 4373 826
Email: sbsorg@seychelles.net
Website: www.sbs.sc

NATIONAL TENDER BOARD

Maison de Mahe
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +2484382038
Fax: +2484224291
Email: enquiry@pou.gov.sc
Website: www.ntb.sc

BANKS

SEYCHELLES CREDIT UNION (SCU)

PO Box 342
Co-operative House, Huteau Lane
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4 290 190
Email: scu@seychelles.sc
Website: www.scu.sc

DEVELOPMENT BANK OF SEYCHELLES (DBS)

PO Box 217,
Independence Avenue
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4294 400
Fax: +248 4224 274
Email: devbank@dbb.sc
Website: www.dbs.sc

BARCLAYS BANK (SEYCHELLES) LTD. (PART OF ABSA FAMILY)

PO Box 167
Independence Avenue
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4383 939
Email: sez.customerservices@barclays.com
Website: www.sc.barclaysafrica.com

MAURITIUS COMMERCIAL BANK (SEYCHELLES) LTD.

PO Box 122
Caravelle House
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4284 555
Fax: +248 4322 676
Email: contact@mcbseychelles.com
Website: www.mcbseychelles.com

BANK OF BARODA

PO Box 124
Trinity House, Albert Street
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4618 000
Fax: +248 4324 057
Email: baroda@seychelles.net

NOUVOBANQ (S.I.M.B.C)

PO Box 241
Nouvobanq House, Francis Rachel Street
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4293 000
Fax: +248 4224 670
Email: nvb@nouvobanq.sc
Website: www.nouvobanq.sc

SEYCHELLES COMMERCIAL BANK (SCB)

PO Box 531
Kings Gate House, Independence Avenue Victoria,
Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4294 000
Email: info@scb.sc
Website: www.scb.sc

AL SALAM BANK SEYCHELLES LIMITED

PO Box 672
Maison Esplanade
Francis Rachel Street,
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4385 600
Fax: +248 4385 631
Email: enquiries@alsalamseychelles.com
Website: www.alsalamseychelles.com

BANK OF CEYLON

PO Box 1599
Oliaji Trade Centre
Francis Rachel Street,
Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles
Phone: +248 4 611 880
Email: dmseychelles@boc.lk
Website: www.boc.lk

FAQs

Why should I invest in Seychelles?

- Located in the heart of the Indian Ocean with excellent air connectivity to major hubs in the Middle East, Europe, Africa and Asia.
- The main population is situated outside the cyclonic belt.
- Favourable time zone of GMT+4.
- Temperature ranges from 25-32 degrees Celsius throughout the year.
- 96% literacy rate with increasingly educated and skilled workforce.
- Politically and economically stable environment.
- A growing economy with expanding opportunities in Blue Economy, Agriculture, Real Estate, Adventure Tourism, ICT and Energy.
- Fiscal incentives for investment in the Tourism, Agriculture, Energy and Fisheries sector.
- Second highest GDP per Capita in Africa.
- Offers a world class financial centre with no foreign exchange restrictions.
- Ranked second for the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance.
- Ranked second in Africa on the Corruption Perception Index (Transparency International).
- Ranked first in Africa on the Human Development Index.

What are the priority sectors to invest in?

- Financial Services
- Technology
- Agriculture
- Blue Economy
- Tourism

What investment opportunities does Seychelles offer?

- Adventure Tourism
- Fisheries
- Education
- Health
- Financial Services
- Infrastructure
- Agriculture
- Energy

Where is Seychelles Investment Board (SIB) located?

Seychelles Investment Board is located on the 2nd floor, Independence House Annex.

Why do I have to go through Seychelles Investment Board (SIB)?

For a new investor, it can be overwhelming to start the process. We act as the main point of contact, offering guidance and advice to investors on business plans, processes and relevant policies. All non-Seychellois are required to go through SIB to ensure adherence to policies and for data capturing of all FDI entering the country.

What are the objectives of Seychelles Investment Board?

Our main objectives are as follows:

- Promote Seychelles investment opportunities locally and internationally.
- Pursue areas of cooperation with local and international partners and participate at international trade and investment events.
- Meet with potential investors, advising and facilitating their investment applications, assisting with their business plans and coordinating meetings with referral agencies.
- Assist in the formulation of investment promotion policies and marketing strategies to attract local and foreign investments.
- Contribute to governing strategies related to the enhancement of the business context and formulate proposition to government.
- Stimulate development, expansion and growth of the economy by promoting Seychelles as an investment destination.
- Act as an intermediary between the public and the private sectors in order to formulate proposal to the government for the improvement of the business environment.

Is there a set minimum capital investment to start up a business in Seychelles?

There is no minimum investment capital set, to start a business.

What happens once you submit an investment project to Seychelles Investment Board (SIB)?

Upon submitting a project proposal to SIB, your project will be circulated to referral agencies within the government who will vet the application and provide their comments and recommendations. Same will be communicated to the promoter within the feedback letter from SIB.

What are the procedures for setting up a business in Seychelles?

Submit your project proposal to Seychelles Investment Board (SIB) for Government's consideration. Upon endorsement of the project proposal, the investor will be able to proceed as follows:

- Register your business at the Registrar General;
- Register with the Seychelles Revenue Commission (SRC) Tax Identification Number (TIN);
- Apply for a license at the Seychelles Licensing Authority (SLA);
- Apply for Gainful Occupational Permit (GOP).

How long does the process take to set up a business?

If all relevant documents are available, it takes:

- 48 hours to register a company and 24 hours to register a sole proprietorship and/or partnership at the Registrar General's office.
- 24 hours to register at the Seychelles Revenue Commission.
- License application 14 working days at the Licensing Authority.

What are the costs of setting up a business in Seychelles?

- Seychelles Investment Board – no charge
- Registration of Business:
 1. Sole trader or partnership SCR100 – SCR200
 2. Company varies from SCR2,500
- Registering for Tax Identification Number (TIN) – no charge
- Fees for applying a license varies on the type of business activity: www.sla.gov.sc

What incentives are being offered to investors?

1. Income Tax: Progressively with SCR 8,555.50 as the tax free threshold for Seychellois employees only.
2. Existing Exemptions are as follows:
 - 25%, 30% and 33% and presumptive at 1.5% for businesses with SCR1 million turnover.
3. VAT exemption available for all renewable energy technologies through an interim process whereby importers provide proof to compliance to the standards requested.
4. For solar photovoltaic systems, there is rebate available for commercial and residential sectors for all systems commissioned.

Can a non-Seychellois acquire land?

Non-Seychellois can only acquire privately owned properties based on an approved development project. The following fees are applicable:

- A statutory processing fee equivalent to 1.5% of the market value of the property. Sanction duty of 11% (actual) market value of the immovable property for holiday home or residential development outside the Villas Policy.
- Stamp Duty, 5% (Actual) of the market value of the property.

What are the permits to apply for in order to work in Seychelles? What are the costs?

Upon government approval of a project proposal, the promoter(s) will be required to apply for Gainful Occupation Permit (GOP) which will allow the investor to live and work in the Seychelles. The cost for application is SCR1,000 processing fee, and SCR500 monthly permit fee.

What are the procedures for employing non-Seychellois workers?

Non-Seychellois workers can be employed if the necessary skills and labour are unable to be sourced locally. In order to apply for a foreign worker post, an application will have to be made at the Department of Employment. The employer will have to prove that attempts were made to advertise locally for vacancies through newspaper advertisements etc. with no success. A strict quota for foreign labour is provided by the Ministry of Employment for different businesses.

For more details please contact:

MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT, IMMIGRATION & CIVIL STATUS

Independence House Annex (4th Floor),
P.O. Box 1097, Victoria, Mahe
Republic of Seychelles
Telephone: +248 42 972 00
Fax: +248 4325421

Do you have a Residency/Citizenship “by investment program”?

Investors with an investment of 1,000,000 US Dollars or more in a business and have resided for 1 year aggregate in Seychelles, during which period have demonstrated means to support themselves can apply for Permanent Resident (PR) or the citizenship of Seychelles.

There are no foreign exchange controls and funds can move freely in and out of the country.

What are the products available in the offshore sector?

- International Business Companies (IBCs)
- Companies Special Licence (CSL)
- Foundations
- International Trusts
- Limited Partnerships
- Collective Investment Schemes
- Protected Cell Companies
- Non-Domestic Insurance
- Securities
- International trade Zone
- Ship/Yacht Registration

What are the benefits of investing in Seychelles International Business Companies?

- Seychelles International Business Companies have no tax liabilities.
- There is no minimum share capital requirement.
- No nationality restrictions on Directors or Shareholders and 100% foreign ownership is permitted.
- Only one Director and one Shareholder is required and these can be the same person.
- Minimal reporting requirements; no audit or tax returns are required.
- Cost effective on-going maintenance.
- No requirement for a company Secretary.
- No requirement for annual meeting to be held in the Seychelles, can be held anywhere in the world.
- Information on shareholders, beneficial owners and directors are not publicly accessible.

What is the cost of Electricity & Water?

DOMESTIC		COMMERCIAL	
Power demand charge SR/ kVA	9.85	Energy consumption exceeding 200 KWh	
Energy charge SR/ KWh	SCR/ kWh	Power demand charge SR/ kVA	16.65
0 to 200 kWh	1.32	Energy charge	SR/ kWh
201 to 300 kWh	1.61	0 to 500 kWh	3.5
301 to 400 kWh	3.25	501 to 1000 kWh	3.86
401 to 600 kWh	3.65	Exceeding 1000 kWh	4.43
Exceeding 600 kWh	4.3		

What are the business tax rates in Seychelles?

SOLE TRADER		COMPANY	
Small Businesses with taxable income of less than SCR1,000,000	1.5% on turnover	Small Businesses with less than SCR1,000,000	1.5% on turnover
NORMAL TAX RATE		NORMAL TAX RATE	
Businesses with taxable income of SCR0 – SCR150,000	0% on turnover	Businesses with taxable income of SCR0 – SCR1,000,000	25% on turnover
Businesses with taxable income of SCR150,001– SCR1,000,000	15% on turnover	Businesses with taxable income on the first SCR1,000,001 and above	30% on turnover
Businesses with taxable income on the first SCR1,000,001 and above	30% on turnover		

