

# Annual Report 2023



# SHIFTS IN KEYS





#### 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.

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## 1

## FOREWORD

In 2023, the UNDP in Seychelles concluded the extended 2017-2023 Country Programme with all the outcomes and indicators having been successfully met. The endorsement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) and the UNDP 2024-2028 Country Programme Document (CPD) by the Government of Seychelles sets us on a course for a new programme cycle focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation and socioeconomic development.

In 2023, Seychelles continued to record a stable economic growth rate of 4.3 percent despite ongoing global disruptions. Visitor arrivals increased by 5 percent over 2022, and the continuous demand for travel has aided in the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The debt-to-GDP ratio remained stable through sustained fiscal discipline and adherence to macro-economic, while inflation declined by 1.4 percent.



economic growth  
rate of

4.3%



**Amanda Serumaga**

Resident Representative,  
UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles

The Government of Seychelles maintains heightened ambitions in its six priority sectors, including its deliberate transition towards a digital economy. More recently, the Government launched SeyID, an integrated digital ID platform aimed at enhancing user-interface across services as part of efforts to improve public sector efficiency. Promoting private sector investments is a key priority for the Government. Notably, the launch of the SDG Investor Map, supported by UNDP, has spearheaded comprehensive reviews of the enabling environment and financing mechanisms to attract private capital in new and emerging opportunity areas such as renewable energy, food security, value chains, digital marketplace, and value-added services.

At COP 28, H.E. President Ramkalawan reiterated the position of Small Island Developing States emphasizing their high vulnerability to climate disasters. He underscored the critical importance for developed nations to include SIDS's access to financing within the negotiations.

The UNDP Country Office in Seychelles continues to support the Government's ambitions outlined in the National Development Strategy 2024-2029. Working closely with the Government and its development partners, the UNDP sustains interventions that support climate mitigation and adaptation, and sustainable livelihoods. These efforts aim to boost private sector engagement, enhance value chains, build food security, and integrate sectoral planning through data and digital solutions. Constrained by its high-income status, small size, and limited official development assistance (ODA), Seychelles remains highly vulnerable to external shocks, threatening the sustainability of its socio-economic and environmental progress.

Additional resources were mobilized to support national priorities in mainstreaming Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through the development of a long-term, low emission vision towards Net Zero by 2050 and establishing measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems to monitor the progress across sectors. The SDG Investor Map, which provides market intelligence for private sector investment, further gained visibility at COP28 with the UNDP's supporting Business Forum event. Development of financing tools and building the capacity of the Revenue Commission are critical upstream interventions that align with the ambitions of the country whilst leaving no one behind.



# 2

# KEY RESULTS AND FIGURES





Building resilience towards climatic shocks and events is a core function of UNDP's programme in SIDS such as Seychelles. Through the vertical funds portfolio, communities and stakeholders are engaged in the application of nature-based solutions, adapting to the effects of climate change including flooding, droughts in coastal and farming areas, promoting alternative livelihoods through coral restoration and strengthening the legal and regulatory framework for a safe storage of chemicals and hazardous waste. These interventions are timely, as Seychelles grapples with environmental and economic shocks from climate change and ongoing conflicts.

The UNDP-supported study tour to Turkey spearheaded Government action in transforming public sector efficiency and the economic agenda, by prioritizing the transition towards digital governance in many of its services and undertaking a review of the Procurement Act. The UNDP's project framework supports the inclusion of communities, women and

youth to participate and create co-ownership of natural ecosystems to ensure long term maintenance and protections of watersheds, coral reefs, mangroves and other designated sites from a grassroots level, ensuring ecosystem services benefit all. In mobilizing key resources, UNDP's comparative advantage lends stronger credence to supporting the ambitions of the Government and aligning the next Country Programme Document towards the country's development priorities.

Strategic innovation and development financing including the publication of the [Development Finance Assessment Report \(DFA\)](#); the [SDG Investor Map](#), and the [Country Engagement Plan \(CEP\)](#) were critical development enablers. The DFA report mapped the financing landscape and made key recommendations towards the adoption of a robust governance framework, the alignment of taxation with the SDGs and the rollout of a monitoring dashboard for financial flows. The CEP provided a roadmap for the adoption



of the Tax4SDGs policy to increase domestic resource mobilization efforts by tackling issues, leakages and flows. The [Tax Inspectors Without Borders \(TIWB\)](#) programme provided an in-depth scoping mission and training for the Seychelles Revenue Commission on Transfer Pricing.

The SDG Investor Map, which was launched by H.E. the President, is an instrumental tool in guiding investors in priority and emerging opportunity areas. The Cabinet endorsed 5 commitments under the Open Partnership for Government (OPG) Action Plan, where the UNDP programme can significantly contribute to the creation of an inclusive, transparent and participatory government through digitalization, enhancing value chains and improving public sector efficiency. These strategic enablers were crucial to the development of the [UNDP Country Programme Document \(CPD\) 2024-2028](#) and aligning it with the national priorities of Seychelles.

The UNDP's contributions to development financing and unlocking investment potential for Seychelles, particularly through its SDG Investor Map, align with Moonshot 4 - Promoting over \$1 trillion of public expenditure and private capital investment in the SDGs - by enhancing public-private expenditure. The efforts undertaken by the National Tax Coordinator will further bolster the country's long-term aspirations of modernizing the tax system, increasing domestic resource mobilization targets, and reinvesting these resources toward the long-term national vision and priorities.

In its 2024 budget, the Government has earmarked SRC 1.45 billion for capital projects. These initiatives are expected to benefit the overall population of Seychelles through strategic and targeted policy interventions aimed at improving the enabling environment for businesses and fostering social inclusion.



# UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles Multi-Country Office: Key Figures

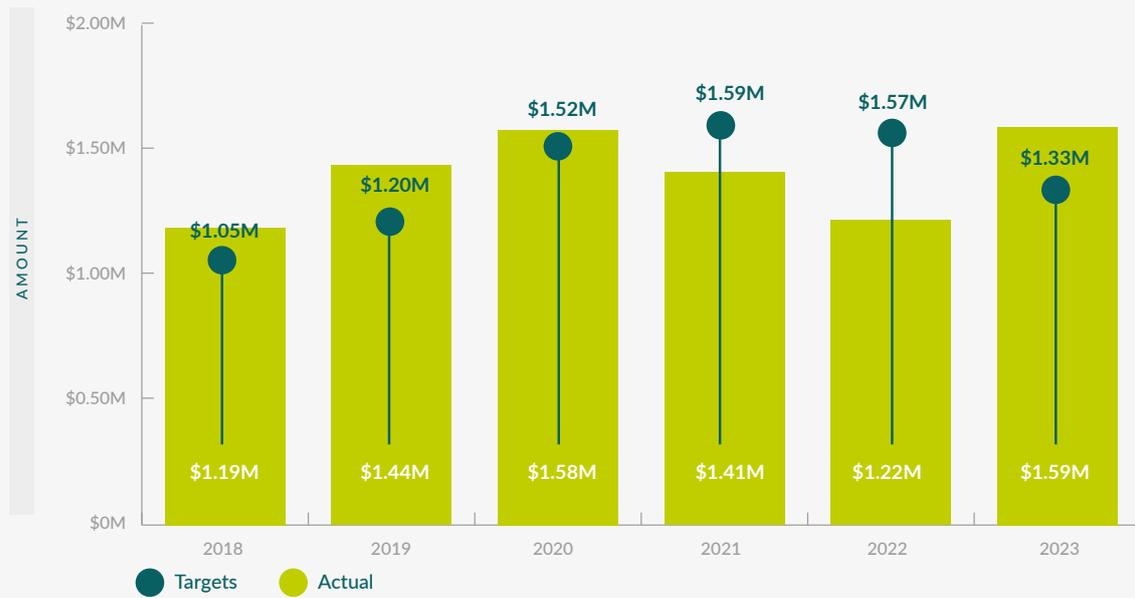
## Total Delivery vs Targets per Year



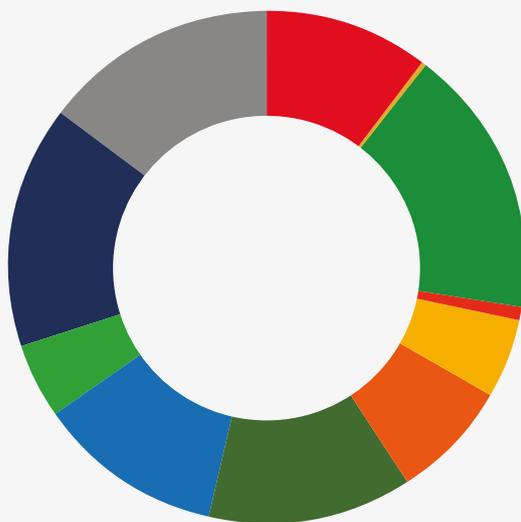
## Total Contributions vs Targets per Year



## Institutional Revenue-Actuals and targets



## SDGs (% of Budget)



- 1** 🧑🏿🧑🏻🧑🏼🧑🏽🧑🏾 10.3% No poverty

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- 2** 🍲 0.3% Zero hunger

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- 3** 🩺 17.1% Good health and well-being

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- 5** ♀ 0.7% Gender equality

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- 7** ☀️ 5.1% Affordable and clean energy

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- 9** 🏗️ 7.6% Industry, innovation and infrastructure

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- 13** 🌍 12.7% Climate action

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- 14** 🐟 11.7% Life below water

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- 15** 🌳 4.7% Life on Land

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- 17** 🤝 15.2% Partnerships for the goals

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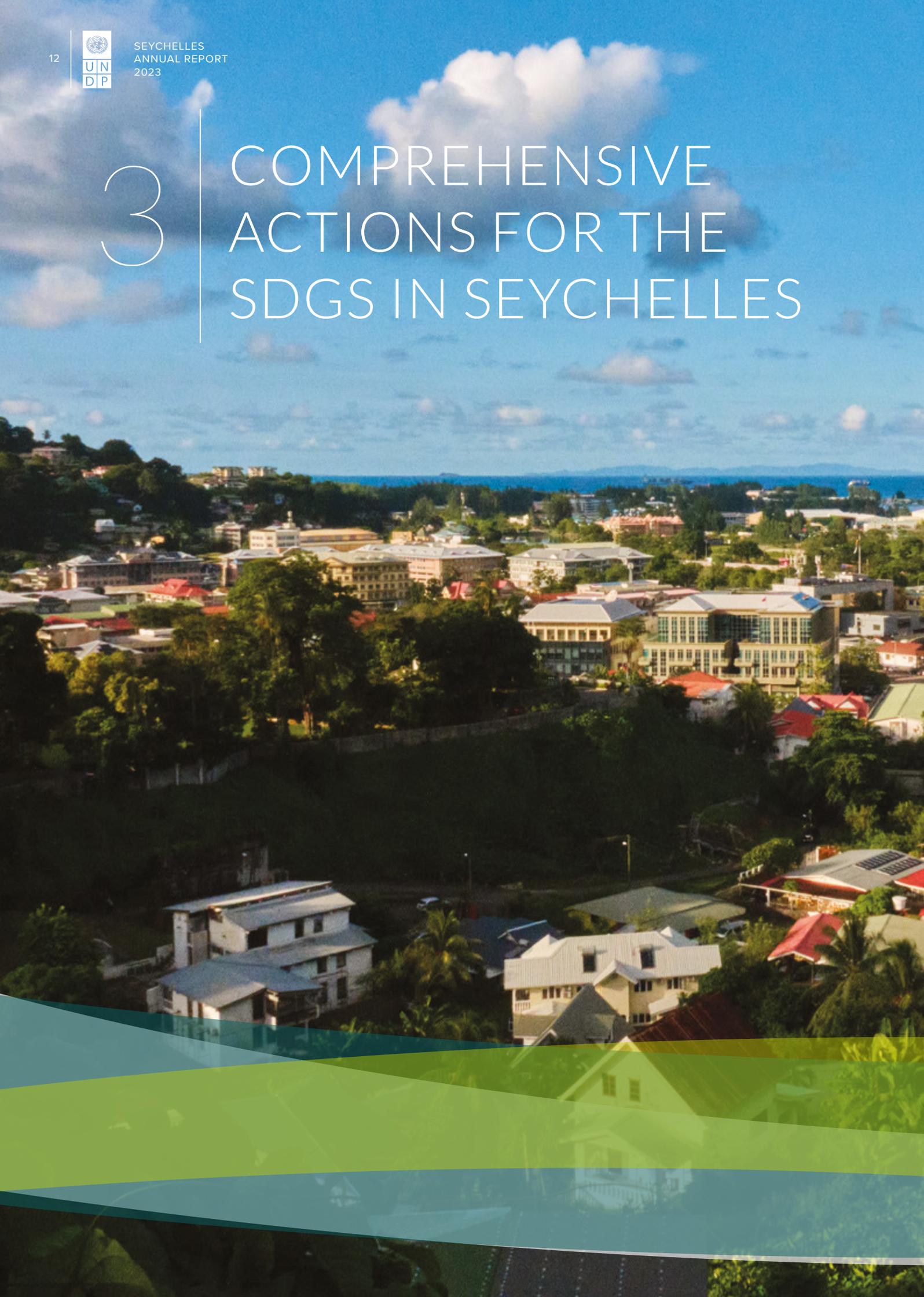
- 🌈 14.7% Others





# 3

# COMPREHENSIVE ACTIONS FOR THE SDGS IN SEYCHELLES





## 3.1 Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action

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The UNDP's diversified environment portfolio has contributed to Seychelles' environmental sustainability and climate action agenda, yielding tangible sustainable development outcomes. By creating enabling mechanisms such as the Protected Area Policy for Landowners, and the Water Bill among others, the UNDP in Seychelles supported the establishment of legal and regulatory frameworks within which environmental sustainability thrives

across sectors. Development Partner support has been instrumental in translating these actions into impactful outcomes, with notable progress made in the areas of the blue economy, biodiversity conservation, and waste management. The application of Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) has been a key strategy in achieving broader objectives of environmental resilience, climate action, and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Through the UNDP's signature Climate Promise Initiative, resources were mobilized for the development of the Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) which will pave the way for a comprehensive roadmap consistent with Seychelles' net zero ambitions. The first step of the process will be to align the vision for the LT-LEDS with the National Development Strategy, identifying key sectors to sustain the ambitions outlined within the Paris Agreement.

A second stream of support is under discussion to facilitate the set-up of Monitoring Review and Verification (MRV) Systems through the Transparency Help Desk to capture and update data for the mitigation sector. These strategic resources were mobilized in 2023 and will be fully implemented in 2024, in partnership with national, regional and bilateral development partners. Additionally, the feasibility assessment for financing mechanisms for the uptake of Renewable Energy Systems under the Climate Investment Portal (CIP) was conducted. The study is timely as the Government of Seychelles is considering incentives for the private sector to undertake investments in renewable energy.



Resources mobilized for the development of the Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS)

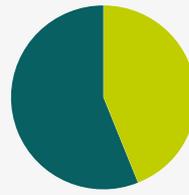


Feasibility assessment for financing mechanisms for the uptake of Renewable Energy Systems under the Climate Investment Portal (CIP) conducted



## 3.2 Inclusivity and Women's Empowerment for Climate Action

Communities are effectively engaged in the management of rehabilitated watersheds and play a critical role in their management. Increasing women's representation has been noted in fields such as small-scale agriculture, sustainable land management and forest fire fighting, which are traditionally considered as male-dominated. Women represent 44 percent of the established watershed committees in the various regions and are key decision makers. Under the Ridge to Reef project, 3 percent of the 337 beneficiaries reached are women. These initiatives reflect UNDP's commitment to advancing gender equality as a fundamental aspect of inclusive and sustainable development.



44%

Women representation  
in watershed committees  
and decision making



Under the Ridge to Reef project,  
3% of the 337 beneficiaries  
reached are women



### 3.3 Ecosystem-based practices and sustainable livelihoods

In the past year, more than 150 people have been trained in the maintenance, monitoring of land and sea-based coral restoration techniques. Under the Coral Reef Restoration programme, over 35,000 coral fragments have been cultivated for transplantation. Genetic testing for climate resilient coral is underway with several coral species identified. Technical exchanges between Mauritius and Seychelles provided opportunities for the demonstration of best practices.

Under the integrated Ridge to Reef project, more than 60 hectares of ecologically sensitive sites have been rehabilitated on Praslin, Curieuse, and Mahé, with other existing sites effectively managed and monitored. Actions towards sustainable land

management through sustainable agriculture and agroforestry have also been implemented. The UNDP in Seychelles laid the groundwork for sustainable farming solutions by supporting the setup of a state-of-the-art Shade House at the Seychelles Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture (SIAH), serving as a demonstration site to enhance the knowledge and skills of students and small-scale farmers in climate-smart practices. Additionally, the UNDP facilitated a South-South exchange between Mauritius and Seychelles for stakeholders in agriculture, enabling peer-to-peer learning on various techniques used.



> 150   
people trained coral restoration techniques

Under the Coral Reef Restoration programme, over  
35,000   
coral fragments have been cultivated for transplantation.

## 3.4 Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for Environmental Conservation

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UNDP projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), such as the Ridge to Reef project, have been instrumental in facilitating the development of policies to complement the legal environment and provide regulatory frameworks for environmental conservation in Seychelles. The significance of the Nature Reserves and Conservancy Act and the Marine Spatial Planning of Protected Areas has enabled the management plans for marine parks to be developed. The designation of 'Seasonal Protected Areas' has also come into effect, enabling enhanced protection,

monitoring and surveillance in turtle nesting sites. Several policies including the Landowners Policy, Sustainable Forestry Policy and the Agroforestry policy have been successfully implemented. The success of the GEF-funded projects are often in creating the right enabling frameworks. The extensive legal and regulatory reviews under GEF will continue to strengthen the management of the marine protected areas and further expand towards the designated zones within the Marine Spatial Plan. Under the GEF 'ISLANDS' project, an inventory for hazardous waste was started in 2023.



Designation of 'Seasonal Protected Areas' was put into effect



Inventory for hazardous waste started in 2023 under the ISLANDS project



Policies including the Landowners Policy, Sustainable Forestry Policy and the Agroforestry policy successfully implemented

## 3.5 Resource Mobilization and Institutional Capacity Building

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Strategic tools deployed by UNDP have unlocked public and private sector capital, bolstering domestic resource mobilization efforts in Seychelles. Collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment have enhanced institutional capacity and ensured effective project implementation aligned with donor requirements

The Seychelles SDG Investor Map was fully endorsed by Cabinet and launched by H.E. President Wavel Ramkalawan on 13 July 2023. The launch of the Investor Map has been a positive step towards engagement with the private sector and in providing clear direction for investment opportunities in existing and emerging sectors. Following the successful launch, the Seychelles Investment Board (SIB) showcased the Map at the Abu Dhabi World Investment Forum. They also hosted a Seychelles Business Forum at COP 28 in collaboration with UNDP, which was attended by the UNDP Regional Director for Africa. The UNDP in Seychelles is working closely with SIB to further catalyze the capacity of the department to collaborate with other partners and realize private sector investments in the identified areas.

In 2023, the UNDP MCO also finalized the Development Finance Assessment (DFA) to provide key recommendations to the Government of Seychelles to enhance the financing landscape and achieve national priorities in a cohesive manner. The recruitment of a National Tax Coordinator, who was positioned within the Seychelles Revenue Commission, allowed two critical initiatives aimed at enhancing domestic resource mobilization. The Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) got a fresh start with several missions being organized to enhance the capacity of the staff of the revenue commission. The

Country Engagement Plan (CEP) for Seychelles under the Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF) was also completed. The CEP and the TIWB, under the guidance of the National Tax Coordinator, will continue to support and tighten policy and regulation to control revenue leakages and build institutional capacity through the UNDP Finance Hub, South-South exchanges, and emerging partnerships.

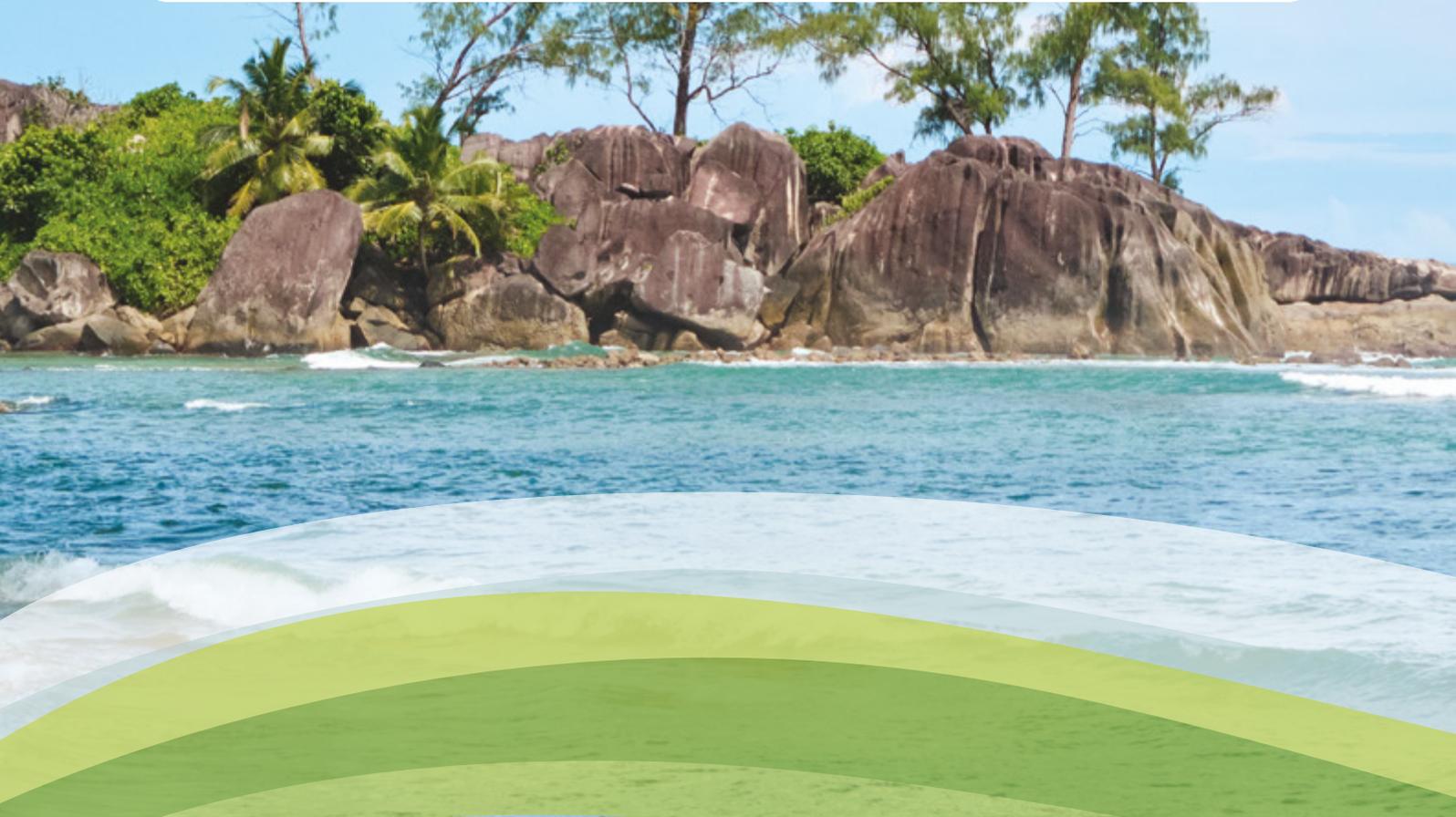
These interventions are aimed at enhancing socio-economic resilience for countries like Seychelles, which, despite being categorized as high-income, remain highly vulnerable to external and climatic shocks amidst the evolving landscape of Official Development Assistance (ODA).



# 4

# PARTNERSHIPS

## Development Partners



The relationship with the Ministry of Investment Entrepreneurship and Industry was strengthened through the development of the SDG Investor Map. A new partnership emerged with Seychelles Investment Board (SIB) as custodians of the map and its utilization. The close collaboration with the map's technical working group, comprising of private sector partners from the Seychelles Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture, Fisheries and others, were also deepened. Through the work undertaken on Development Finance Assessment, TIWB and the UNDP Finance Hub in Africa, greater strides in cementing the partnerships with the Ministry of Finance Trade and National Planning have been realized. In particular, the strategic engagements between the Minister of Finance, the UNDP Regional Director for Africa, the UNDP Director for Sustainable Finance Hub and the UNDP Director of Sustainable Energy Hub paved the way for the UNDP Country Programme Document 2024-2028 and the socio-economic programme to be embedded and aligned with the leading Ministry.

Resource mobilization efforts through Climate Promise 2.0 have led to enhanced engagements with the Department of Climate Change, the NDC Partnership and the Commonwealth advisor towards realizing Seychelles' ambitions as set out in the NDCs. The UNDP also mobilised USD 11.8 million for the Blue and Green Integrated Programme (BGI-IP) in Seychelles. Financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the BGI-IP provides a comprehensive strategy to achieve global environmental benefits, sustainable development, and climate resilience in SIDS.

The UNDP continues to play an integral role within the UN Country team, supporting the UN system as part of the Programme Management Team (PMT) and providing thought leadership and insight into national development priorities. Partnerships were strengthened with various UN Agencies through the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and their work in Seychelles on climate change, environment, and other areas of development.

The UNDP collaborated with FAO on the development of their Cooperation Framework and with UN Women to set up the demonstration site to build capacity of farmers in the application of climate smart techniques under the SDG Joint Programme on Resilient Food Systems. Regarding disaster response, the landslides and floods that affected Seychelles on 6 December also oversaw the coordination of multi-lateral and bilateral partners in support of immediate, medium, and long-term interventions towards damage, loss, and recovery.

The UNDP also collaborated with the World Health Organisation, World Bank and other embassies established in Seychelles. Its operations team provided logistics support for regional meetings conducted by UNECA and other sister agencies.





# 5

# FUTURE OUTLOOK



Seychelles has made significant strides towards sustainable development, despite facing numerous hurdles. The country has demonstrated resilience and determination in pursuing its development priorities and enhancing the well-being of its citizens.

Despite the impressive trajectory, building a resilient and sustainable economy will require further investment to address development challenges.

The economy, which is largely based on its natural capital, remains highly vulnerable to climate change. For instance, sea levels are projected to rise to 0.3 metres by 2050 and 0.6 metres by 2100, relative to 2010, accompanied by an increase in storm severity, creating coastal hazards and increasing coastal vulnerability. The economy's dependence on climate-sensitive sectors such as tourism, fisheries and agriculture, combined with the concentration of economic activity, livelihoods and critical infrastructure in low-lying and narrow coastal zones, exacerbates these vulnerabilities. Poverty studies reveal that 25 per cent of the population live below the national poverty line, 4.2 per cent are estimated to be living in extreme poverty and 11.9 per cent experience multidimensional poverty. About 37 per cent of the population live in single and female-headed households that account for 40.5 per cent of the poor population.

The Government of Seychelles has identified six priority areas in the next National Development Strategy, 2023-2027: a modern public service; the transformative economic agenda; a healthy nation; promotion of law and order; a modernized education system; and environmental sustainability and climate change resilience.

The UNDP's global offer on Rising Up for SIDS and the Integrated National Financing Frameworks enables the building of a strategic upstream partnership. The successful completion of the extended 2017-2023 Country Programme and the endorsement of the new CPD for 2024-2028 underscore the UNDP's commitment to supporting Seychelles' development agenda.

In the face of evolving global dynamics and ongoing conflicts, there is a pressing need for enhanced socio-economic safeguards, real-time data collection, and strategic planning. The UNDP recognizes these challenges and commits to being prepared to adapt and respond effectively to emerging needs, ensuring that Seychelles continues its path towards sustainable development and resilience.

The 2024-2028 country programme's aims to support enhancement of public sector agility through digital transformation; promote private sector participation and promote inclusion for underemployed and/or marginalized women and youth, in national production and regional value chains. In addition, the programme aims to support ecosystem services valuation for the blue and green economy and their inclusion in sectoral plans for financing investment in the Sustainable Development Goals to: (a) build resilience to climate change and natural disasters and adopt early warning systems; (b) sustainably manage natural resources; and (c) provide alternative livelihoods for women in fisher communities and at-risk and underemployed youth. The goal is to contribute to the Seychelles acceleration towards a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive economy.

6

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