



**11th European Development Fund
National Indicative Programme
(2014-2020)**

For cooperation

between

the European Union

and

the Republic of Seychelles

GENERAL CLAUSES

The European Commission and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles hereby agree as follows:

- (1) The European Commission, represented by Mr Neven MIMICA, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles, represented by H.E. Mr Jean-Paul ADAM, Minister for Foreign Affairs, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, determined the general orientations for cooperation for the period 2014-2020. These orientations which are included in the National Indicative Programme, concern the European Union Aid in favour of the Republic of Seychelles and were drawn up in accordance with the provisions of Articles 2 and 4 of Annex IV to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, revised and signed in Luxemburg on 25 June 2005 and revised and signed in Ouagadougou on 22 June 2010.
The National Indicative Programme is annexed to the present document.
- (2) As regards the indicative programmable financial resources which the European Union envisages to make available to the Republic of Seychelles for the period 2014-2020, an amount of 745.2 million euro is foreseen for the allocation referred to in Article 3.2 (a) of Annex IV of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement (A-allocation). A B-allocation referred to in Article 3.2 (b) can be established to cover unforeseen needs. This allocation is at 0 euro until a need arises. These allocations are not entitlements and may be revised by the Commission, following the mid-term and end-of-term reviews, in accordance with Article 5.7 of annex IV of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement.
- (3) The A-allocation is destined to cover macroeconomic support, sectoral policies, programmes and projects. The National Indicative Programme concerns the resources of the A-allocation. It also takes into consideration financing from which the Republic of Seychelles benefits or could benefit under other European Union resources. It does not pre-empt financing decisions by the Commission.
- (4) The B-allocation is destined to cover unforeseen needs such as humanitarian, emergency and post emergency assistance, where such support cannot be financed from the EU budget, contributions to internationally agreed debt relief initiatives and support to mitigate exogenous shocks. The B-allocation shall be established according to specific mechanisms and procedures and does therefore not constitute a part of the programming.
- (5) Pending the entry into force of the Internal Agreement between the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Union, meeting with the Council on the financing of European Union Aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014 to 2020, financing decisions for projects and programmes can be taken by the Commission at the request of the Government of the Republic of Seychelles within the limits of the A- and B-allocations referred to in this document under the condition that sufficient financial resources are available in the transitional measures ("Bridging

Facility") composed of uncommitted balances from the previous EDFs and from funds decommitted from projects or programmes under those EDFs. The respective projects and programmes shall be implemented according to the rules and procedures of the 10th EDF until the entry into force of the 11th EDF implementing rules and financial regulation.

- (6) The European Investment Bank may contribute to the implementation of the present National Indicative Programme by operations financed from the Investment Facility and/or from its own resources, in accordance with Articles 2c and 3 of the 11th EDF multi-annual financial framework for the period 2014-2020.
- (7) In accordance with Article 5 of Annex IV to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement, the National Indicative Programme as well as the A-and B-allocations can be revised following the mid-term review and the end-of-term review or ad hoc reviews.

Done at Brussels, on 1 December 2014, in two original copies in the English language.

FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES**



Neven MIMICA
Commissioner for International
Cooperation and Development



Jean-Paul ADAM
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AfDB	African Development Bank
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
i-EPA	Interim Economic Partnership Agreement
EDF	European Development Fund
EIB	European Investment Bank
EU	European Union
FPAC	Finance and Public Accounts Committee
GCCA	Global Climate Change Alliance
IMF	International Monetary Fund
NAO	National Authorising Officer
NDS	National Development Strategy
NHRDS	National Human Resource Development Strategy
NIP	National Indicative Programme
NSA	Non State Actors
PPBB	Programme and Performance Based Budgeting
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SSDS	Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy
TCF	Technical Cooperation Facility
WB	World Bank

Summary

The overarching objective of European Union's (EU) relationship with the Seychelles under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) is to promote the development of a common strategic approach for the sustainable development and the gradual integration of Seychelles into the world economy.

With the "Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) 2011-2020" the country has a strategic direction and guidance on its vision for medium term sustainable development also in a regional context.

The EU will be primarily focusing on the need to respond to capacity constraints and increased pressure on the existing local human resources in order to meet developmental needs. The intervention of the EU will be aligned with the SSDS and the regional integration agenda. It will also promote better donor complementarity to ensure the best allocation of resources.

The **11th EDF programming foresees an allocation of EUR 2.2 million**. Due to the limited amount, a Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF) has been identified as unique operation to support the Government of Seychelles in the implementation of the SSDS. **The overall objective** for this TCF is to respond to institutional capacity constraints in providing, on a demand-basis, funding for technical assistance, studies, training activities. It is envisaged that the TCF will support capacity building to develop appropriate expertise and coordination/monitoring mechanisms to ensure that the country's policy makers have sufficient information, technical resources and capacities to achieve the objectives of sustainable development.

The expected results include:

(a) Provide specific technical assistance, studies and analytical work to support preparation of projects and programmes with particular emphasis on innovative financing, coordinated with other EU funding and external partners providing assistance to Seychelles.

(b) Foster improved awareness among key actors in Seychelles of development and trade issues and of EU policies in these areas by means of training and seminars.

(c) Provide for the participation in specific regional and international conferences and seminars in relation to the EU cooperation portfolio for the benefit of public officials and the private sector and which contribute to the development of Seychelles, including interim Economic Partnership Agreement (iEPA) implementation.

Given the nature of this operation and the fact that activities will be carried out on a demand basis, performance indicators focus on output levels.

The activities in this NIP do not stand alone. Actions to be financed under the regional funds and various other EU budget lines such as Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) (EUR 3

million already allocated), will complement the activities of the current NIP and actions continuing to be implemented after 2013 will mutually reinforce each other.

Non State Actors (NSAs) will continue to be directly supported under the EU's dedicated thematic budget lines. Moreover NSAs will continue to play an essential role in the implementation of the current NIP, most notably in interventions at grassroots level through capacity building of vulnerable groups to stimulate local economic growth in an inclusive and sustainable manner.

Table 11th EDF Allocation

	11th EDF Initial amount (million Euro)	% of Envelope A
<u>A- Envelope</u>		
<u>- TCF</u>	2.2	100%

MULTIANNUAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME

1. THE OVERALL LINES OF EU RESPONSE

1.1 Strategic objectives of the EU's relationship with Seychelles

The overarching objective of European Union's (EU) relationship with the Seychelles under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) is to promote the development of a common strategic approach for the sustainable development and the gradual integration of Seychelles into the world economy. Following the support of the macroeconomic reform programme under the 10th EDF, the Government of Seychelles in collaboration with other development partners and other areas of EU intervention is pushing the cooperation agenda for the coming years further under the theme 'From Stabilisation to Sustained Growth' based on the challenges ahead in order to solidify sustained and inclusive growth. Gender equality being an important objective under the Seychelles development goals is supported in the implementation of this National Indicative Programme where feasible.

In this perspective, Seychelles has consistently been showing high political commitment at various international fora in seeking donor support for implementing a sustainable development strategy. The government adopted the "Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) 2011-20" which mainstreams sustainability in a wide range of thematic sectors, policies and other institutional frameworks of the Seychelles that provides strategic direction and guidance on the country development vision. As a framework document the SSDS is wide-ranging but comprehensive blueprint for Seychelles medium term sustainable development and is one that reflects Seychelles endeavour to mainstream sustainable development in its national development strategy which is currently under preparation. The SSDS is also coherent in mainstreaming the regional integration agenda of the island.

In this context, the EU will be primarily focusing on the need to respond to capacity constraints and increased pressure on the existing local human resources in order to meet developmental needs. The intervention of the EU will be aligned with the emerging areas of intervention within the framework of the SSDS and regional integration agenda. It will also promote better donor complementarity to ensure the best allocation of resources in order to do more with less and to unlock the potential under the principle of additionality. EU cooperation with Seychelles under the 10th EDF (2009 - 2014) is characterized by support to environment related fields, social sector, in particular education, and infrastructure such as water and sanitation, improvement in bandwidth connectivity and more recently climate change, which are the largest sectors in the SSDS, as key to secure inclusive and sustainable growth, which is a focus in EU's recent agenda for change.

Given that the future financial allocation for Seychelles under the National Indicative Programme (NIP) is EUR 2.2 million, the EU would concentrate on the provision of well-targeted, and small-scale interventions through technical assistance under a TCF (feasibility studies, etc); for instance to assist in the provision of grants for project preparation to facilitate access to innovative financing such as blending

operations to leverage infrastructure investments, Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) operations, or to facilitate other funding possibilities including the EDF regional funds.

In addition, the European Union will maintain the dynamic approach of mobilising a number of additional financial instruments, as done in the last few years, including environment and climate change and fisheries related budget lines; support to Non State Actors under the civil society organisations – local authorities (CSO-LA) thematic programme to address human rights and governance issues, further enhance synergies and coherence with the sizeable grants made available under the fisheries agreement and provision of mechanism to address high vulnerability to external shocks.

1.2 Choice of sectors

Within the overall policy context of the SSDS, a general provision for a Technical Cooperation Facility is envisaged.

Seychelles has come a long way since the 2008 economic crisis, but a number of weaknesses and challenges remain to be addressed. Seychelles faces a number of constraints similar to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and is highly vulnerable to external shocks. With a population of around 90,000 inhabitants, the country faces heavy pressure on its limited manpower. As a result, there is a mismatch between the demand and supply of human resources which creates constraints and bottlenecks in ensuring sustainable growth. In this context, the African Development Bank (AfDB) is assisting Seychelles in the formulation of a National Human Resource Development Strategy (NHRDS) in order to evaluate the human resource needs of Seychelles which is also one of the core areas of focus of the National Development Strategy (NDS) currently under preparation. Seychelles needs to enhance its human resource capabilities in order to respond effectively to the emerging challenges inherent to its small size.

The SSDS identifies issues relating to the environment and sustainability which are integrated into all the main sectors. This is being further developed under the concepts of Green and Blue Economies.

In view of the sensitive nature of the physical and natural environment of the Seychelles, there is enormous pressure placed on ecosystems due to increasing demands for natural resources (such as food, fish, construction materials, etc.), water and energy, growth in solid waste, and intense competition for land use. Water and energy consumption has significantly increased and will continue to do so over the next ten years. The fact that tourism is one of the main pillars of the economy, the demand for consumption of resources will place increasing strains on the environment. The challenge of preserving the environment and making prudent use of the natural resource base is therefore critical to Seychelles' sustainable development and future growth.

Seychelles is also confronted with limited regional and international connectivity in the field of digital communication and maritime links, which hampers generating welfare benefits for the population.

Emphasis on the implementation of the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (i-EPA) should also be taken into account, these are aimed at promoting trade between the EU and the ACP – and through trade development, sustainable growth and poverty reduction. The i-EPAs set out to help ACP countries integrate into the world economy and share in the opportunities offered by globalisation.

In accordance with the objective of the EU cooperation under the 11th EDF, the cooperation is identified on the basis of the following criteria:

- Consistency with the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy
- Consistency with the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for the Sustainable Development of SIDS
- The need to respond to capacity constraints and increased pressure on the existing local resources in order to meet developmental needs
- The need to take timely measures to reduce the economic and environmental vulnerability of the country
- Ensuring alignment between country needs and EU interventions and complementarities with other development partners.

Moreover, the issue of division of labour makes it advisable to take a back seat in sectors such as macroeconomic reform and public finance management already covered by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) in order to concentrate expertise and financial resources, which renders further flexibility a necessity. Based on the above criteria, and given the fact that the SSDS covers a wide range of sectors, the TCF would focus on a few key strategic areas of intervention that would add value and give a comparative advantage to EU cooperation.

A number of programmes and policy changes require a multi-sectoral approach as well as institutional mechanisms that need to be geared for developing such coherence and coordination. A number of relevant sectors and stakeholders (such as policy makers, private sector and civil society in the country) would need to be involved and consulted in the process of implementing appropriate policy measures designed to move forward in a “pro-active” manner rather than a “reactive” mode of operation. Well-organised and policy coordination mechanisms are required at institutional level as there is a strong need to set up a proper donor coordination framework as well as intra-institutional coordination mechanisms for implementation of national and regional programmes.

The TCF will undertake capacity building to develop appropriate coordination and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that the country’s policy makers have sufficient information, technical resources and capacities to effectively take decisions and achieve the set objectives of achieving sustainable development. As a concrete example, small-scale technical support provided under the 10th EDF to the Office of the Auditor General and to the Finance and Public Accounts Committee of the

National Assembly has had a significant impact in the discharge of duties for external audit and legislative scrutiny and was widely recognised by the Government and development partners.

Given more pressing government budgetary priorities, the country is very often constrained in providing only limited resources for capacity building so as to provide more resources to other areas of governmental operations. Such budgetary prioritisation choices or constraints often result in a diminished technical capacity at the technical and institutional level. Moreover, there is relatively poor inter-agency coordination in policymaking. The existence of adequate technical support to relevant institutions, experienced and knowledgeable experts is essential to overcome those shortcomings and add to the preparedness of Seychelles to engage in the implementation of sustainable development priorities and policies. Technical assistance in the area of competition may also be included in that support.

Any intervention would need a strong support capacity building component in view of the limitations noted in Seychelles. In addition, in order to enable Seychelles access innovative financing schemes and develop public-private partnerships to unleash the emerging developmental potential, relevant studies would need to be undertaken and provision made for technical support back-up to implement sectoral reforms that would lead to a quantum leap in its development agenda.

Finally, taking into account the importance of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and their applications as proven drivers of inclusive and sustainable growth, innovation and entrepreneurship, in meeting the challenges facing Seychelles the Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF) will pay particular attention to the deployment of ICTs and the full exploitation of their potential in providing or facilitating sustainable solutions, considering especially the island's shortages or shortcomings in the field of digital communications, as indicated earlier

2. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The total allocation for the NIP 2014-20 is EUR 2.2 million. The increased emphasis on yielding higher economic and social returns makes it even more important to better anticipate the identification of actions and to concentrate resources on a manageable number of interventions. Interventions will have to build even more strictly than before on the EU's comparative advantage, particular expertise, or otherwise well-established track record if they are to make a meaningful contribution to the Cooperation Strategy with Seychelles. Actions to be financed under the EU-Seychelles Fisheries Partnership Agreement, in particularly through the current Protocol to the Agreement for the period of 2014 to 2019, which foresees a total budget of 15,2 M for the period, will be to address capacity building and fisheries governance in particular, to enhance the sustainability of fisheries in the Seychelles.

The activities in this NIP do not stand alone. Actions to be financed under the regional funds and various other EU budget lines such as Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA) (EUR 3.0 million already allocated) not covered by this NIP complement the activities of the current NIP, and actions continuing to be implemented after 2013 will mutually reinforce each other.

Table 11th EDF Allocation (indicative amount)

	11th EDF Initial amount (million EUR)	% of Envelope A
<u>A- Envelope</u>		
<u>- TCF</u>	2.2	100%

3. EU SUPPORT PER SECTOR

There will be no EU sector support but instead a Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF).

4. MEASURES IN FAVOUR OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Non State Actors (NSAs) will continue to be directly supported under the EU's dedicated thematic budget lines. Moreover NSAs will continue to play an essential role in the implementation of the current NIP, most notably in interventions at grassroots level through capacity building of vulnerable groups to stimulate local economic growth in an inclusive and sustainable manner. NSAs are called upon to play a key role in increasing the effectiveness of governance and the accountability of public services to citizens. In this respect, participation of NSAs in domestic policies is increasingly gaining momentum and there is a need to establish more collaborative multi-actor partnerships that would also enable transfer of knowledge and experiences. The EU will continue to encourage the Government and NSAs to work in close partnerships, especially in the areas of human rights and governance.

5. B-ALLOCATION

The B-allocation for unforeseen needs is set at EUR 0 until a need arises.

6. SUPPORT MEASURES

6.1 Measures to accompany the programming, preparation or implementation of actions

A Technical Cooperation Facility (indicative amount EUR 2.2 million) is proposed.

6.1.1 The following overall and specific objectives will be pursued:

Overall objective: To support the Government of Seychelles' development strategy through capacity building of national human resources.

Specific objective: To support the Government to enhance institutional capacities in the formulation and implementation of actions in complement with the EU-Seychelles cooperation agenda and portfolio.

6.1.2 For the specific objective the main expected results are:

The expected results are:

- (a) Provide timely availability of specific technical assistance, studies and analytical work to support preparation of projects and programmes under selected areas of intervention of the SSDS with particular emphasis on innovative financing. The provision of such technical assistance and studies will be coordinated with other EU funding and external partners providing assistance to Seychelles.
- (b) Foster improved awareness among key actors in Seychelles of development and trade issues and of EU policies in these areas by means of training and seminars.
- (c) Provide for the participation in specific regional and international conferences and seminars in relation to the EU cooperation portfolio for the benefit of public officials and the private sector and which contribute to the development of Seychelles, including iEPA implementation.

6.1.3 Main indicators

The main indicators for measuring the aforementioned results are contained in the sector intervention framework attached in Annex 3.

6.1.4 Donor coordination and policy dialogue

The TCF is in line with EU commitment to promote better aid effectiveness through the promotion of ownership and the development of national capacities. Donors' coordination is not formalised in Seychelles but some donors' conferences in view of developing joint efforts to support economic reform programme have been organised in 2009, 2011 and 2013. The EU has regular contacts with European Investment Bank, Agence Française de Développement and the Africa Development Bank which have enhanced their engagement with Seychelles on major capital investment projects and coordination will continue to be undertaken to address potential capacity shortages that may arise during implementation. Other donor programmes will be coordinated to take into account the capacity development activities being undertaken in various economic and social areas.

6.1.5 Government's financial and policy commitments

Seychelles has shown very good commitment in assessing its performance in the last few years when the development of the EU development co-operation has become much more significant and relevant to the country. The IMF country reviews since 2009 have consistently been highlighting the strong commitment shown by the Government in the implementation of the comprehensive economic reform programme. The Ministry of Finance through its Public Finance Management Action Plan and technical assistance from the World Bank is seeking to establish a more meaningful monitoring of public sector performance with the introduction of Programme and Performance Based Budgeting (PPBB). Mainstreaming of the SSDS under the PPBB would provide a more structured approach in terms of monitoring the implementation of the strategy and provide the relevant governance mechanism to ensure alignment of EU's intervention.

6.1.6 Environmental Assessment

When necessary and depending on the nature of the intervention, the TCF can finance Environmental Impact Assessment

6.1.7 Overall risk assessment of the intervention:

It is assumed that there will be policy stability based on the macroeconomic stabilisation policy that the Government has adhered to and that the development cooperation between the EU and Seychelles remains in the spirit of partnership and mutual respect. Indeed, Seychelles will seek to enhance this development cooperation across a number of sectors and in a broad range of areas moving forward.

Capacity building support may be undermined by the early departure of trained counterpart staff. This risk can be mitigated by involving as many officials as possible in the capacity building programme and by organising knowledge transfer that does not unduly rely on individuals but on systems. It is not envisaged to provide a specific support to the National Authorising Officer staff in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but they will be among the beneficiaries of the proposed TCF, in particular for technical assistance, trainings and participation to conferences.

7 ANNEXES

1. Country at a glance
2. Donor Matrix
3. Sector intervention framework and performance indicators
4. Indicative timetable for commitments

7.1 Annex 1. Country at a glance

General Information

2011

Population, mid-year (<i>millions</i>)	0.09
GDP per capita (<i>US\$</i>)	11,070
Age distribution (% , 000)	
0-14 years	22.7
15-63 years	68.8
> 64 years	8.4
Government type	Parliamentary Republic

KEY ECONOMIC RATIOS and LONG-TERM TRENDS

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
			(Proj)	(Proj)	(Proj)
(Proj)					
GDP (US\$ million)	1,032	1,267	1,348	1,420	1,504
GDP growth rate	2.9	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.6
CPI (annual average)	7.1	4.5	4.2	3.5	3.0
CPI (end-of-period)	5.8	4.5	4.3	3.0	3.0
Total revenue, excluding grants (% of GDP)	37.6	36.3	34.6	34.8	35.0
Expenditure and net lending (% of GDP)	40.2	38.1	36.0	35.1	34.8
Primary balance (% of GDP)	6.2	5.2	4.4	4.4	4.4
Total public debt (% of GDP)	84.8	71.6	69.0	64.4	59.4
Domestic	35.2	28.6	26.7	24.2	22.1
External	49.6	43.0	42.4	40.3	37.3
Gross official reserves (millions of US \$)	307	400	436	436	436
Months of imports, c.i.f.	3.0	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.6

Source: IMF Staff Report January 2014

7.2 Annex 2. Donor matrix

Note: BADEA = Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa; OFID = OPEC Fund for International Development; EU = European Union, DOI US Department of Interior, EIB- European Investment Bank.

	AfDB	BADEA	EU	IMF	OFID	China	UNDP	WB	DOI	AFD / French Coop	EIB	UK
Competitiveness and Employment Pillar												
Environment			X				X		X	X		
Tourism		X								X	X	
Water and sanitation	X	X									X	
ICT	X											
Transport infrastructure	X	X			X	X				X	X	
Private sector/financial sectors	X			X				X		X		
Health Quality					X		X			X		
Education		X	X		X					X		
Energy					X	X	X	X				
Fisheries			X									
Vulnerability and Resilience Pillar												
Climate change and disaster management			X				X	X		X		
Piracy			X				X	X		X		X
Social protection							X	X				
Health system infrastructure and management		X			X			X				
Governance and Public Sector Capacity Foundation												
Public sector capacity building & M&E	X	X		X			X	X				
Public sector governance	X		X				X	X				
Judicial and legal reform	X						X					
Statistics	X						X	X				
Macroeconomic framework	X			X				X				

7.3

Annex 3. Sector intervention framework and performance indicators

Sector 1: Technical Cooperation Facility		
Specific Objective 1: To support government to enhance institutional capacities in the identification and implementation of actions in complement with the EU-Seychelles cooperation agenda and portfolio.		
Expected Results	Indicators	Means of Verification
a) Technical and analytical support is provided to Government institutions and departments	a 1) Number of studies or analytical work requested by the Government that were financed through the TCF a 2) Existence/ implementation status of the Coordination, evaluation and monitoring framework	Experts' reports and Government's approval of reports Expert report and Government's approval of report.
b) Training	b1) Number and overall quality of seminars/workshops and training activities organised	Training evaluation sheets
c) Participation to international conferences and seminars	c1) Number of persons and institutions provided with financial support to attend international conferences and seminars	Minutes/reports of seminars/conferences

The results, indicators and means of verification specified in the present annex may need to evolve to take into account changes intervening during the programming period.

7.4 Annex 4. Indicative timetable for commitment of funds

	INDICATIVE ALLOCATION (Million Euro)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
B- Envelope	EUR 0							
Support measures: Technical Cooperation Facility	2.2		2.2					