

FRESHWATER COUNTRY PROFILE

SEYCHELLES

Decision-Making

Programmes and/or Projects

- A. Integrated Water Resources Development and Management
- B. Water Resources Assessment
- C. Protection of Water Resources
- D. Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation
- E. Water and Sustainable Urban Development
- F. Water for Sustainable Food Production and Rural Development
- G. Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources

Status

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising

Information

Research and Technologies

Financing

Cooperation

Decision-Making: The Cabinet of Ministers of the Seychelles Government at the highest level reviews and endorses all proposed policies, plans and even some categories of development projects to ensure they are compatible with national sustainable development principles, with a view to optimise economic return and conserve the environment. These principles are embedded in Seychelles Constitution and guided by the sustainable principles stated in the Environment Management Plan of Seychelles (EMPS 2000-2010). EMPS 2000-2010 is currently the most comprehensive national plan aimed at implementing Agenda 21. The overall goal of EMPS 2000-2010 is the promotion, coordination and integration of sustainable development programmes that cut across all sectors of society in the Seychelles in order to attain the above mission.

Ten thematic areas were selected through a multi-stakeholder consultation process to cover all major social and economic sectors as well as certain key subjects of relevance to environmental management such as environmental economics. Other cross-sectoral themes that would cut across the main thematic areas were also identified. The ten thematic areas are:

- Society, Population and Health (including Gender);
- Land Use, Coastal Zones and Urbanisation;
- Biodiversity, Forestry and Agriculture;
- Energy and Transport;
- Fisheries and Marine Resources/Processes;
- Water, Sanitation and Waste;
- Tourism and Aesthetics;
- Environmental Economics and Mainstreaming, and Sustainable Financing;
- Regulatory, Policy and Institutional Mechanisms; and
- Commerce, Industry and Production.

All of the Ministries within Seychelles Government are involved in the sustainable development process of the country. There are also a number of specialised authorities set-up to implement government policies. These include the Marine Parks Authority, mandated with the management of marine protected areas, the Seychelles Fishing Authority mandated to manage fisheries resources, the Public Utilities Corporation to provide access to water, electricity and Sewerage infrastructure, and the Solid Waste and Cleaning Agency, to provide and plan for waste management infrastructure. Government institutions aimed at implementing Agenda 21 have therefore been created and developed since 1992. The National Policy for Water Resources Management falls under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, whilst the Public Utilities Corporation (PUC) has mandate to plan, build and manage water abstraction and distribution infrastructure. PUC is also involved in the monitoring of river flow and management of water supply especially during the periods of drought. All three main inhabited islands have integrated into the plans of water supply, which are discussed at Cabinet and National Assembly level before execution. To address current problems of water availability, due to reduced rainfall during the dry season, Government has invested in 4 desalination plants to enhance the water reliability of the three main islands. The 1993 Constitution defines access to potable water as a basic right of all Seychellois. Government has formulated a policy on water, which aims at providing 95% of the population with potable water by the year 2010.

Programs and projects:

A. Integrated Water Resources Development and Management: Several programmes areas are elaborated in EMPS 2000-2010, as follows:

- Water Demand Management Programme;
- Installation of Reverse Osmosis Plant at Providence and Anse Boileau on Mahe island and one on Praslin and lastly on La Digue.
- Improvements of Safe Yields of Existing Water Sources Programme;
- Improvements to Transmission/Reticulation Systems Programme;
- Improvements to Water Treatment Works Programme;
- Water Management Institutional and Human Resources Capacity-building Programme; and
- Water Shed Management Programme.

Watershed management approaches for fragile ecosystems.

| Title | Cost (SR.M) | Start | Indicative end |
|---|-------------|------------|----------------|
| Rehabilitation and Augmentation of Le-Niol Treatment Works | 8.7 | May 1999 | Nov 2001 |
| Augmentation of Hermitage Treatment Works | 4.4 | Jan 2000 | Mar 2005 |
| Augmentation of Anse Royale Treatment Works | - | - | - |
| Bougainville Water Supply Scheme | 2.2 | June 1998 | Dec 2000 |
| Baie Lazare Water Supply Scheme | 6.6 | Jan 1999 | Jan 2001 |
| Augmentation of Grand Anse Treatment Works | - | - | - |
| Transmission pipeline from Port Glaud to Anse Royale and Storage tank | 40 | April 2002 | Dec 2005 |
| Replacement of North West pipeline (Bel Ombre to Machabee) | 15.3 | March 2001 | June 2005 |
| Replacement of North East Pipeline (Union Vale to la Retraite) | 2.0 | May 2002 | May 2005 |
| Installation of Reverse Osmosis Plant at Providence | 160 * | Sept 2001 | May 2003 |
| Installation of Reverse Osmosis Plant at Anse Boileau | See above | Sept 2001 | Aug 2003 |
| Installation of Reverse Osmosis Plant at Praslin | See above | Sept 2001 | sept 2003 |
| Installation of Reverse Osmosis Plant at La Digue | See above | Sept 2001 | Sept 2003 |
| La Misere Water Supply Scheme | 2.4 | Oct 2001 | Dec 2005 |
| Pipeline Extension from Au Cap to Anse Royale | 2.1 | Oct 2001 | April 2002 |
| Transfer of Raw Water pipeline Mt Simpson to La Gogue Dam | 12.7 | - | - |
| Replacement of Le-Niol Upper Victoria Pipeline | 13.0 | - | - |
| Upgrading of Rochon Treatment Works | - | - | - |
| Greater Victoria Sewerage Project | 115.0 | Jan 1999 | June 2001 |
| Beau Vallon Sewerage Project | 85.0 | Oct 2000 | Sept 2003 |
| Praslin Sewerage Project | 107.0 | Jan 2002 | Dec 2006 |
| La Digue Sewerage Project | 12.7 | - | - |

B. Water Resources Assessment: No information available.

C. Protection of Water Resources, Water Quality and Aquatic Ecosystems: See under A.

D. Drinking-Water Supply and Sanitation: No information available.

E. Water and Sustainable Urban Development: No information available.

F. Water for Sustainable Food Protection and Rural Development: No information available.

G. Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources: No information available.

Status: There are currently several initiatives to influence consumption patterns, mainly aimed at reducing solid waste generation, greenhouse gas and ozone emissions and conservation of water. However, these are being implemented in varying degrees. Most of the activities described under Programmes and Projects are in progress. To date, about 10% of the population are still using untreated water often from local streams. The average per capita of the consumption of water in Mahe is 140 litres a day that adds up to a total net demand of 31,000 kilolitres a day.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: PUC employs a full-time training coordinator and has a training plan. PUC has intensified its public awareness programme on water conservation in recent years through using the combination of television and literature approaches.

Information: PUC employs a public relations officer charged with disseminating proper information to all stakeholders.

Research and Technologies: The adoption of desalination technology to meet water shortages during periods of drought was the main subject of several feasibility studies and socio-economic analyses. Current huge investment projects include four desalination plants, upgrading of the distribution network and repair of current treatment stations.

Financing: The 10 Year Implementation Programme's budget is estimated an overall cost of 144 million USD with funds required amounting to some 78 million USD or 54% of its total cost. Institutional contributions, which include government and other stakeholder contributions for programme implementation, accounts for 46% of the total cost. The Government has already committed 10 million USD in its budget per year, to implement this plan, aimed at implementing Agenda 21 in Seychelles.

Cooperation: The Seychelles cooperates with WMO, and UNESCO (Hydrological Programme) in addressing the challenges for providing access to potable water. Seychelles is signatory to a number of international conventions, however due to resource constraints only a few of them have consistently been implemented. This includes the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (signed 1992). The Ramsar Convention on the Protection of Wetlands was reviewed in March 2000, and it has been proposed that the country would seek to implement the convention to enhance the protection of coastal habitats. The role of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as an effective adaptation option to sea-level rise and climate change needs to be actively pursued within the UNFCCC framework and related mechanisms to be developed under the Kyoto Protocol.

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