



# SEYCHELLES' NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

**“Making Seychelles Climate Resilient”**



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## **FOREWORD**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, 2019, his Excellency, the President of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr. Danny Faure addressed the world from 124 meters below the ocean's surface. He clearly stated that human beings have created the problem of climate change and that we can solve it and we must solve it together. As such, tackling climate change will require strengthening the efforts of everyone at all levels of society, from individuals, educators, businesses and the government to achieve the aim of the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement aims to reduce the global temperature increase below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels with an even further decrease of 1.5 °C. Furthermore, it is vital to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts as indicated by Goal 13 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The Small Island Developing States such as the Seychelles are among the most vulnerable and greatly affected by the negative impacts of climate change. The 2018, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C states that all of the parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will need to strengthen their capacity to be able to respond effectively to the threats of climate change, Sustainable Development and to eradicate poverty. This will be vital in addressing the challenge of implementing adaptation and particularly mitigation strategies. Maintaining the global temperature increase well below 1.5 °C means that there will be fewer negative impacts on resources, the nation's security and tourism.

Seychelles must make a greater collective effort to reduce the risk of disasters, ensure sustainable natural resource management and invest in low-carbon development. This is critical, not just for the economic development of Seychelles but to ensure on the existence of the island nation. Seychelles is still marked by the massive coral bleaching events which took place in the years of 1998 and 2016 and an increase of the global temperature of 2 degrees Celsius will be catastrophic to the existing corals.

The Government of Seychelles has developed a new policy to provide guidance in addressing climate change. Seychelles has come a very long way since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and this policy recognizes the various achievements made to date in combating climate change. This policy is yet another important milestone for Seychelles as the nation aspires to become a world leader in fighting climate change. It is therefore my honour and great privilege to commend the first National Climate Change Policy to all stakeholders for its implementation.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CCD	Climate Change Division
CO <sup>2</sup>	Carbon Dioxide
COP	Conference of the Parties
CH <sub>4</sub>	Methane
BCMD	Biodiversity and Conservation Management Division
DE	Department of Environment
DECC	Department of Energy & Climate Change
DEP	Division of Economic Planning
DRDM	Disaster of Risk & Disaster Management
EbA	Ecosystem Based Adaptation
ECE	Estuarine and Coastal Ecosystems
ED	Environment Division
EES	Environment Engineering Section
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EMPS	Environment Management Plan of Seychelles
EPA	Environmental Protection Act
FMP	Forest Management Plan
GHGs	Green House Gases
GoS	Government of Seychelles
GW	Global Warming
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IWM	Integrated Water Management
LOS	Large Ocean State
LTD	Land Transport Division
MAMR	Ministry of Agriculture & Natural Resources
ME	Ministry of Education
MEECC	Ministry of Environment, Energy & Climate Change
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NCCC	National Climate Change Committee
NCCS	National Climate Change Strategy
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NO <sub>x</sub>	Nitrogen Oxide
N <sub>2</sub> O	Nitrous Oxide
NMS	National Meteorological Services
NMVOC	Non-Methane Volatile Organic Compounds
NRP	Natural Regeneration Programmes
PCU	Programme Coordination Unit
PSECC	Principal Secretary for Energy & Climate Change
PUC	Public Utilities Corporation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSDS	Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy
SEC	Seychelles Energy Commission
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SLR	Sea Level Rise
SMA	Seychelles Meteorological Authority
SSDS	Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Act
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment & Development
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

# **1. INTRODUCTION**

Seychelles needs a National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) to guide all stakeholder actions for Climate Change taking place on the islands. In the last few decades, the adverse impacts of Climate Change have not spared Seychelles. The NCCP will provide information to the citizens of Seychelles about the previous, current and future work undertaken by the GoS, NGOs and private entities in relation to Climate Change. The work is essential for combating Climate Change and its negative effects. With its firm rationale that will set the framework, principles, vision and objectives, the policy will provide guidance that will help strengthen the institutional mechanisms to increase climate action at the local, regional and international level. The target is to keep the earth's average temperature from rising more than 2° C and more importantly for the Seychelles for climate proofing.

In Seychelles, mitigation strategies have been promoted to reduce the emissions of Green House Gases (GHGs) and they have been combined with adaptation strategies that have better enabled Seychelles to cope with the negative impacts of Climate Change. Immediately after the Rio Earth Summit, Seychelles embarked on a major effort to combat Climate Change although Seychelles still needs to enhance its level of ambition for climate action.

The severe impacts of Climate Change are being felt across the world. As of 2017, human-induced activity is estimated to have caused a rise of approximately 1 degree Celsius of global warming above pre-industrial levels. The global annual average economic losses from climate-related disasters are in the hundreds of billions of dollars, not to mention the human impact of such disasters that have taken lives, separated families and affected livelihoods. Climate Change has become an existential threat not only to the lives of the people in the island states, but the whole world. Islanders live this stark reality every day. The effects are most immediately seen in the eroding coastlines and unpredictable weather. For Seychelles, an increase in the average global temperature of 2 degrees Celsius will be catastrophic given that given that over 90% of the critical infrastructures are located along the shoreline. Marine ecosystems will be greatly impacted by this projected rise in temperature that will compromise and truncate the Blue Economy – a key frontier for Seychelles' spread across an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ of approximate 1.4 million km<sup>2</sup>) as this will intensify all of the outcomes of Climate Change. Climate Change is a critical issue that affects all life on earth. The race is tackling Climate Change is on and Seychelles can win that race with its NCCP.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Seychelles and Climate Change**

#### **Geography of Seychelles**

The unique Seychelles islands are an archipelago made up of about 115 islands and a massive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of about 1.37 million square kilometres. With its crystal-clear

waters, white sandy beaches, lush green vegetation and various endemic species, the Seychelles has a total landmass area of 455 square kilometres. The islands lie in the heart of the Indian Ocean, off the Eastern coast of Africa between 4°S to 10°S. The inner granitic islands include the main island of Mahé, followed by Praslin and La Digue while the outer islands are both granitic and coralline (Xie et al, 2019). Despite the highest peak of the granitic islands Morne Seychellois being 903m, the coralline islands are low lying islands with very limited and no elevations that are especially threatened by climate change.

The main pillar of the economy is tourism that is the main foreign exchange earner and employment generator focusing mainly on sun, sand and sea. The country is also dependent on the fisheries sector and sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth job creation and livelihood improvement within the framework of the Blue Economy. The tourism industry accounts for about 25.6% of the total GDP (National Bureau of Statistics, 2017) while the fisheries sector accounts for about 7.7% of total GDP in Seychelles (Ministry of Home Affairs, Environment, Transport and Energy Government of Seychelles, 2011). Seychelles has an estimated population size of 96,762 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2018). About 90% of its total population is clustered in the shoreline of the inner islands of Mahé, Praslin and La Digue. Seychelles relies heavily on its coastal zone as a site for economic development and this means that a large share of its critical infrastructure and housing is located in the coastal zone as well (Republic of Seychelles, 2015). Seychelles is categorized as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) and a Large Ocean State (LOS) based on the similar characteristics of other SIDS and LOS in relation to their remoteness, small land area, limited capacity and lack of resources. With their own particular characteristics, this makes the islands vulnerable and susceptible to Climate Change.

### **The responsibility of Seychelles to Climate Change**

There is human interference with the climate system. Industrialization in the 1800s paved the way for the transition and the movement of various economies from reliance on primary industries to heavy manufacturing. This led to the development of new machines and the factory system. Moreover, this led to the burning of more fossil fuels which contributed heavily to the increase of GHGs especially carbon dioxide being released into the earth's atmosphere (Change, 2007). Human beings have interrupted the natural greenhouse effect that has enhanced global warming. Although Seychelles still remains an insignificant emitter of the GHGs, its level of susceptibility to the negative impacts of Climate Change will keep increasing over the years as the impacts of Climate Change become more severe. Seychelles emits less than 0.003% of global GHGs, an insignificant amount globally but an average of 5.38 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> is released per person, and this is growing annually. About 95% of these GHG emissions come from the energy sector from electricity generation and transport and they are mainly CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The remaining 5% is mainly methane coming from the wetlands and the landfills (Republic of Seychelles, 2015). Seychelles like other SIDS are least responsible for Climate Change, as such it should lead by example as incubators of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency technologies and adopting sustainable lifestyles to showcase possibilities and hopefully inspire developed countries to do the same.

## **Impacts of Climate Change in Seychelles**

Climate Change impacts both present and future generations of Seychelles. The Climate Change impacts are based on a cause-effect relationship. The changes caused are related to rising temperatures, Sea Level Rise (SLR) and changes in rainfall. They can be categorised as primary impacts leading to observed impacts such as SLR leading to coastal erosion and flooding. There might be tertiary impacts arising from species migration and loss of biodiversity (AR5 Climate Change, 2014a). For SIDS like Seychelles, extreme weather events and SLR are major concerns although other impacts such as changing precipitation, more frequent droughts, heat waves, coastal erosion, storm surges, tropical cyclones, ocean acidification and coral bleaching will become more common (Xie et al, 2019). The Estuarine and Coastal Ecosystems (ECE) which include marshes, wetlands, mangroves, coral reefs, sandy beaches and sea grasses are some of the most threatened natural ecosystems in Seychelles (Barbier et al, 2011). Climate Change poses a real threat to the people, the economy and the environment of Seychelles. The outer islands and the UNESCO World Heritage Sites like the Aldabra Atoll command significant global attention as they stand to lose proportionally more of their land areas and habitats.

Climate Change impacts various aspects of life. For agriculture, temperature rise will increase the risk invasive species pose to Seychelles' food systems and only highly resilient crops, resistant to high temperatures and rainfall and longer drought periods will be able to survive. Coastal erosion and massive flooding events from SLR will damage critical coastal infrastructure such as airports, ports, desalination and main roads, utility lines (for both electricity and water), houses, hotel and other buildings. For water security, SLR can cause salt water intrusion in the underground water storage systems affecting water quality and availability (The Seychelles National Climate Change Strategy, 2009).

Changing monsoons and rain patterns in Seychelles have had a massive impact on the persistence of epidemics like dengue fever as favourable temperature and humidity conditions during the rainy season increases the survival rate of the adult vector that allows the completion of the incubation period of the virus in mosquitoes (McGough et al, 2019). In addition, other infectious diseases such as leptospirosis and chikungunya may increase in frequency, affecting more people. Seychelles has recently dealt with a dengue epidemic lasting much longer than ever before and Climate Change has been partly responsible for this. The increase in the sea surface temperature leads to devastating affects coral reefs in wide-scale coral bleaching episodes and ocean acidification followed by a decline in fish growth encouraging the fish species to migrate to cooler waters (Martino et al, 2019). Tourists chooses to visit Seychelles because of the pristine nature of its coastal resources and its natural beauty in general. If SLR, temperature increases and rainfall affects the tourism attractions such as coral reefs and the natural habitats of various flora and fauna, leading to a decline in visitors, a fall in total GDP and employment (Xie et al, 2019).

## **Solutions to Climate Change in Seychelles**

There are various proposed solutions for Climate Change but every country including Seychelles, adopts the solutions that are relevant to its geographical context. Seychelles addresses the negative impacts of Climate Change through adaptation and reduces its carbon footprint through mitigation. However both can overlap and building synergies between

adaptation and mitigation is importance given the co-benefits that are often generated. Despite the adoption and implementation of several plans, policies and strategies more work is still needed (The Seychelles National Climate Change Strategy, 2009). Adaptation to Climate Change is at the individual, business and government level. Mitigation and adaptation are not outcomes but processes.

The adaptation options depend on the Climate Change impact being addressed. There is the integration of adaptation guidelines into development planning, proposed setback lines for coastal development, use of EbA alongside hard engineering structures for coastal protection and defense, strengthening of technical and institutional capacity in monitoring and research, changing crop and crop varieties to climate resistant ones. There is the need to improve water management using water storage systems and irrigation systems, improving the monitoring and forecasting systems for droughts and floods, further research to determine adequate adaptation to climate change on fisheries. Improvements in sanitation are needed to reduce mosquito propagation, promoting environmental health education and awareness, strengthening disaster preparedness and developing appropriate insurance for catastrophic risk (Xie et al, 2019). In addition, the resilience of species, critical natural habitats and ecosystems like coral reefs to Climate Change needs to be increased since these provide the foundation for life.

## **2.2 Institutional Developments**

### **National Climate Change Committee**

The NCCP builds on a very long and well established history in relation to Climate Change developments that happened in Seychelles. In June 1992, more than 170 countries including Seychelles gathered at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) also known as the Rio Earth Summit. The summit adopted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Consequently, right after the Rio Earth Summit, the Seychelles National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) was established in the same year 1992. The NCCC was formed under the joint aegis of the National Meteorological Services and the Division of Environment, which was then under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Planning and Environment. The stated purpose of the NCCC was to provide the overall coordination of the development and implementation of the national climate programme and to act as an interface between the national climate programme and the Government of Seychelles (GoS). At that time, the primary objective was to build capacity and to foresee significant natural and man-made climate variability and change that could affect national welfare.

Today the National Climate Change Committee has been merged with the GCCA+ Steering Committee. The members of the committee meets up and discuss the progress of the Climate Change related works that are undergoing in relation to their specific sectors. The National Climate Change Council will have a much higher mandate as it will become a new national mechanism established.

## **Seychelles Meteorological Authority**

The Seychelles Meteorological Authority (SMA) was established as an independent Authority in 2016. The mandate of the SMA is to provide early warning on weather and climate phenomena and tsunamis in Seychelles and to provide meteorological services for international air and sea navigation. The main functions of the Authority are: to record, update and maintain meteorological observations required for meteorological and related purposes in accordance with international standards; to ensure international standards in respect of aviation, maritime and general forecasts are observed by all relevant agencies. The Authority is also responsible for advising the Government and other agencies on meteorological matters and provide supportive roles and responsibilities to disaster management authorities in relation to disaster management, response and risk reduction.

## **Seychelles Energy Commission**

The Seychelles Energy Commission (SEC) was set up in 2009. The Seychelles Energy Act 2012, provides for the regulation, management, development and utilisation of energy resources in Seychelles. The SEC is the electricity regulator in Seychelles and the advisor to Government on electricity related matters. The Commission also implements energy policies and promotes the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies as well as energy conservation through behavioural changes. The Commission is under the portfolio responsibility of the MEECC.

## **Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC)**

MEECC was formed in 2015 with two Departments: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department of Environment (DE). DECC is headed by the Principal Secretary (PS) who has the responsibility for energy, water and other Climate Change related issues. DECC coordinates Climate Change issues, implements the National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) of 2009, the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) of 2012-2010 and facilitates the international Climate Change cooperation and global negotiations. DECC is made up of the Climate Change Division (CCD) that consists of two sections: the Climate Adaptation Management Sections and the Climate Science and Data Management Section. The PS also oversees the functioning of the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU). The Department of Environment (DE) headed by a PS for Environment is composed of two divisions; Waste, Enforcement and Permit Division (WEPD) and the Biodiversity and Conservation Management Division (BCMD).

## **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Private Entities**

Over the past few years, Seychelles has seen the active involvement of various NGOs and the Private Sector in addressing Climate Change. NGOs often offer valuable resources to people, including research, hands-on internships and volunteer opportunities in Climate Change.

Technology, innovations and green entrepreneurs are increasingly part of the solution. The market acts as a channel for developing and disseminating technologies (a broad definition of which includes business processes and tacit knowledge) to combat Climate Change.

### **3. THE CROSS-CUTTING NATURE OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

Climate Change should not be seen as an isolated and stand-alone issue but one which is cross-cutting and interlinked to the economy, society and the environment. Issues of a cross-cutting nature requires a different policy approach to those normally applied to single sector policy issues. As such, this issue does not only become a concern for the government, but for everyone. Every sector contributes to Climate Change and every sector is affected by Climate Change. Everyone has a role to play in tackling Climate Change.

### **4. APPROACH**

For the purposes of this policy, the GoS will adopt the following definition of Climate Change based on the international accepted definition provided under the UNFCCC as follows:

*“A change of the climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.”*

*UNFCCC, 1992, Article 1.2, page 7*

Climate Change is a ‘cross-cutting’ issue. This means it has implications and is relevant to all sectors of the economy, society and the environment. Cross-cutting issues require a different policy approach to those normally applied to single sector policy issues, due to the fact that policy measures for a cross-cutting issues are linked and may have unforeseen and undesirable consequences for other sectors.

These undesirable consequences can include duplicating the provisions of a climate change policy with those of existing sector policies. An example of this would be a climate change policy provisions and targets that duplicate existing renewable energy policy targets.

A second consequence could result from extracting the climate change relevant elements of a sector policy and transferring responsibility to an exclusively climate change focused policy. This can result in situations where sector policy initiatives tend to ignore climate change issues due to a sense that climate change aspects are being addressed under a different policy. Both of these could result in negative consequences for ownership and the risk of creating initiatives with no champions and absence of clarity and direction on institutional roles.

In elaborating a climate change policy there is also a risk of developing sector policies in isolation or in contradiction. There are many examples of contradictory policies such as encouraging the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions while simultaneously promoting airport expansion and the attempt to explore and extract fossil fuels in the Seychelles EEZ.

In recognition of these consequences and in an attempt to address them, the NCCP adopts a Framework Approach. This policy development approach consciously avoids the duplication, extraction and contradictions described above. Instead it provides a framework that promotes and strengthens the climate change relevant aspects of individual sector policies and encourages better coordination and information sharing. The Policy must have regard to and work alongside other (sectoral and Climate Change related) policies.

In this century, Climate Change is not be seen as an isolated and stand-alone issue but one which is interlinked to all sectors of the economy. As a small island nation, and as part of the international community, we must realize that this issue is not only a concern for the government, but everyone in every sector has an important role to play. As such, the NCCP should be implemented based on the cross-cutting nature of the problem rather than focusing simply on Climate Change in general. With the growing population and increasing demand this means that GHG emissions are projected to grow in all the sectors. Additionally, it will be important for the sectors to cope with the effects of Climate Change. Mitigation and adaptation should be mainstreamed in the planning process and every day activities of all of the sectors of the economy. This policy will be implemented alongside the NCCS.

## **5. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE**

The NCCP applies to the jurisdiction of Seychelles. This implies everyday activities and Climate Change related works that are undertaken locally and internationally.

## **6. GUIDING CLIMATE PRINCIPLES including principles of Climate Justice<sup>1</sup>**

### **A Rights-Based Approach to Climate Change**

Human rights principles must guide development and provide a conceptual framework that has international human rights standards at its centre with the ultimate objective of fulfilling all human rights for all. The rights-based approach analyses obligations, inequalities and vulnerabilities, and seeks to redress discriminatory practices and unjust distributions of power. It anchors plans, policies and programmes in a system of rights, and corresponding obligations established by international law.

Human rights obligations apply to the goals and commitments of States in the area of climate change and require that climate actions should focus on protecting the rights of those most vulnerable to climate change. Only by integrating human rights in climate actions and policies and empowering people to participate in policy formulation can States promote sustainability and ensure the accountability of all duty-bearers for their actions. This, in turn, will promote

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mrfcj.org/principles-of-climate-justice/>

consistency, policy coherence and the enjoyment of all human rights including right to life, dignity and a healthy environment.

A human rights-based approach also calls for accountability and transparency. It is not only States that must be held accountable for their contributions to climate change but also businesses which have the responsibility to respect human rights and do no harm in the course of their activities. Because of the impacts of climate change on human rights, States must effectively address climate change in order to honour their commitment to respect, protect and fulfil human rights for all. Since climate change mitigation and adaptation measures can have human rights impacts; all climate change-related actions must also respect, protect, promote and fulfil human rights standards.<sup>2</sup>

### **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities**

The level of obligations to curb Climate Change differs due to inequalities between nations. All states have shared obligation to address the causes and impacts of Climate Change but recognises that the nature of such responsibilities differs between developed and developing states and in the light of their national circumstances.

### **Precautionary Principle**

Lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as an excuse for failing to act where there is a credible risk to the environment or to human health.

### **Integration and Interrelationship**

Full participation of all people in the community life is essential because everyone has a role to play in tackling Climate Change. Climate change will exacerbate food security, poverty, loss of species and environmental degradation. People will need to form relationships by working as a team to adequately and effectively address the issues that are associated with Climate Change.

### **Sustainable Development**

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.<sup>3</sup> Current and future developments needs to be Climate smart using the Triple Bottom Line approach to take into account the economic, socio-cultural and environment costs and benefits. The policy needs to consider Intra-generational and Inter-generational equity.

### **Equitable sharing of Obligations**

Since the benefits and burdens associated with Climate Change will impact generally, its resolution must be fairly allocated at all levels. There is an obligation on all to contribute to address the impacts of Climate Change.

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<sup>2</sup> OHCHR's submission, [Understanding Human Rights and Climate Change](#), to the 21st Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (27 November 2015)

<sup>3</sup> Brundtland Report

### **Participatory, transparent and accountable decision making**

The opportunity to participate in decision-making processes in the implementation of Climate actions and access to enough funding for the Climate Change actions which are fair, accountable, open and corruption-free essential to the growth of a culture of climate justice. The voices of the most vulnerable to climate change must be heard and acted upon. A basic of good international practice is the requirement for transparency in decision-making, and accountability for decisions that are made.

### **Education for climate stewardship**

To achieve climate stabilisation will necessitate radical changes in lifestyle and behaviour and education has the power to equip present and future generations with the skills and knowledge they will need to thrive and survive.

### **Effective partnerships to secure Climate Justice**

Climate Justice requires effective action on a local, regional and global scale which in turn requires a pooling of resources and a sharing of skills across the world. This must also involve local and global partnerships between governments, NGOs, Civil society and the private sector with those most affected by Climate Change and least able adequately to deal with it – the poor and under-resourced.

### **The need for Evidence-Based Policy**

Evidence-based Policy requires robust and reliable data collection with an obligation to share data. The policy envisages establishing a framework for data management and collection across all sectors.

## **7. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

Seychelles has certain Policies and Legislations that are pertinent to the CC governance.

### **7.1 NATIONAL CONTEXT**

#### **Legislation framing climate change governance in Seychelles:**

##### **The Constitution of Seychelles of 1993 (Article 38)**

The Constitution recognizes the right of every person to live in and enjoy a clean, healthy and ecologically balanced environment. Everyone should take measures to promote the protection, preservation and improvement of the environment, ensure a sustainable socio-economic development of Seychelles by a judicious use and management of the resources of Seychelles and

promote public awareness of the need to protect, preserve and improve the environment. It is equally the duty of every citizen of Seychelles to protect, preserve and improve the environment.

### **The Environment Protection Act of 1995 (Amended in 2016)**

This Act is the main piece of legislation setting objectives and guiding principles aimed at the protection, improvement and preservation of the environment, human health as well as the prevention, control and abatement of pollution.

### **Meteorology Act of 2015**

This law establishes the Seychelles Meteorological Authority, which is responsible for conducting meteorological research, advising the government, public awareness and education programs related to climate change, cooperate with other countries' meteorology agencies, and provide weather and climate change forecasts.

### **Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust of Seychelles Act of 2015**

This Act establishes the Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust of Seychelles for the purpose of regulating debt swap transactions.

The Trust shall:

- 1) Develop and administer the Endowment Fund, the Revolving Fund and the Additional Endowment Fund, and any other sources of funding;
- 2) Administer the assets of the Trust, intended to provide a sustainable flow of funds which supplements existing and future funds from any sources to enable the Trust to support the long-term management and expansion of the Seychelles system of protected areas and other activities which contribute substantially to the conservation, protection and maintenance of biodiversity and the adaptation to the climate change as identified through consultations with stakeholders, and;
- 3) Perform exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes.

### **National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act of 1969**

This Act allows for setting aside of areas for the purpose of conservation of biodiversity ecosystems especially ecosystem services and species for long term sustainability.

It is the Primary Protected area legislation in the Seychelles and it regulates the establishment, management, use and development of the categories of protected areas.

### **Disaster Management Act of 2014**

This Act aims at implementing effective management of disaster risk through a comprehensive and integrated all-hazard approach. A Disaster Risk Division is created in Part II. The document defines the missions and organisation of this Division.

Part II, art. 4, mentions climate change effects as one of the factors to monitor.

Part III states that the General Director of the Division shall prepare a National Disaster Risk Management Strategy.

### **Energy Act of 2012**

This Act repeals and replaces the Seychelles Energy Commission Act 2010, and notably makes provisions for renewable energy and energy efficiency. The Commission is notably in charge of designing tariffs that are favourable to renewable energy sources, and foster public awareness about the importance of renewable energy in all sectors.

Part VI of the document is focused on the means of promotion of renewable energy. Energy efficiency is also promoted in all sectors, notably in Parts VII and VIII.

### **The Town and Country Planning Act of 1972**

This Act has been the legal instrument regulating land use planning and construction in the country since colonial times. A new Physical Planning Act is being developed that will address sustainable land-use planning and development and take into account environmental and climate issues.

### **Fisheries Act of 1987 (amended in 2014)**

This Act provides the legal framework for efficient and effective management and sustainable development of fisheries in accordance with international norms, standards and best practice with an ecosystem approach to fisheries and to provide for the licensing of fishing vessel.

### **Legislations under Development**

Renewable Energy and Protected Areas.

### **Policies, Strategies and Roadmaps**

#### **The Seychelles National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) of 2009**

The Strategy aims to support sustainable development through adaptation and mitigation efforts on Climate Change, with concerted and proactive involvement at all levels of the society. This strategy currently provides the framework and guidance for all climate related works and actions that are taking place domestically. The objectives of the NCCP were adopted from the NCCS and the NCCP is more ambitious compared to the NCCS.

1. To advance understanding of Climate Change, its impacts and appropriate responses;
2. To put in place measures to adapt, build resilience and minimise the country's vulnerability;
3. To achieve sustainable energy security and to reduce greenhouse gases;
4. To mainstream Climate Change considerations into national policies, strategies and plans;
5. To build capacity and social empowerment at all levels.

The Strategy is intended to be updated and revised on an on-going basis in response to new challenges and opportunities in relation to Climate Change.

### **The Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) of 2012-2020**

The Strategy is the national instrument that incorporates national priorities for SD with an implementation roadmap. The vision of the SSDS is to:

*“Contribute to the realisation of the nation’s economic, social and cultural potential through an innovative, knowledge-led approach, being mindful of the need to conserve the integrity of the Seychelles natural environment and heritage for present and future generations.”*

The Climate Change chapter in the SSDS describes 3 climate related goals: Goal 1 emphasizes the mainstreaming Climate Change adaptation challenges into national sustainable development agenda. Goal 2 highlights having enhanced actions on mitigation of Climate Change: while Goal 3 support enhanced actions on appropriate finance, technology transfer and capacity building to support action on mitigation and adaptation.

### **The Energy Policy of Seychelles of 2010-2030**

The Policy recommends increased energy efficiency and increasing contribution from renewable energy in the energy matrix. The targets for renewable energy contribution are 5% in 2020 and 15% in 2030 with the intention that the energy base will be diversified that total energy supply will be 100% based on renewable energy in the long term. The three dominating areas targeted for action are the consumption and production of electricity and land transport, which account for more than 80% of oil consumption in Seychelles. The policy addresses matters related to climate issues. The policy will lead the way for Seychelles to become a low-carbon economy by moving away from the use of fossil fuels, becoming more energy efficient and using alternative clean energy sources.

### **The Coastal Management Plan (CMP) of 2019-2023**

The mission of the Coastal Management Plan which brought together knowledge from existing and new studies on coastal erosion, coastal flooding and climate change impacts and outlines priorities management to increase resilience, aims to:

- Maintain and protect the high risk coastal zone,
- Reduce coastal risks for people and coastal properties,
- Support healthy coastal ecosystems and promote restoration, rehabilitation and recreation of the coastal areas
- Encourage sustainable coastal economic development by raising awareness and strengthen our capacity to deal with these challenges

## **The Wetlands Policy and Action Plan of 2018-2022**

The policy was published in 2004 (revised and updated in 2018) prioritise the scientific assessment of wetlands in the central Seychelles to allow effective identification and whereby the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of ecosystems can help people adapt to the impacts of Climate Change, where existing biodiversity cultural or landscape values shall not be negatively impacted by such intervention. The policy was developed to:

- Facilitate Research and Monitoring on Wetlands;
- Increase and Enhance Site Protection (Protected Areas);
- Promote Restoration, rehabilitation and recreation of wetlands;
- Strengthen and align wetland management to National Plans and Policies;
- Contribute to International Conventions and Agreements;
- Empowerment of Civil Society to influence the management of wetlands and water resources.

## **The Water Policy of 2017**

The Seychelles National Water Policy and National Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) Plan were approved by Cabinet in July 2017. The policy was developed to:

- Develop, protect and manage the country's water resources for the economic, social and environmental benefit of all, on an equitable and sustainable basis;
- Ensure the availability of good quality water to all sectors of the economy;
- Promote and facilitate wise, more efficient consumption of water;
- Maintain high levels of financial and technical performance of water supply services by applying modern management practices;
- Develop an appropriate legal, regulatory and institutional framework for the optimal, integrated management of the country's water resources.

## **The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for 2015-2020**

The NBSAP as the national means for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) represents a key component of the Seychelles' pursuit of SD. It therefore adopts the same Vision as the SSDS. The strategy and action plan was developed to:

- Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across Government and society;
- Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use;
- Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic Diversity;
- Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

### **The Blue Economy Strategic Policy Framework and Roadmap of 2018-2030**

The Framework and Roadmap provides an approach to Ocean-Based Sustainable Development which brings the economy, the environment and society together which is consistent with the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement.

The roadmap is guided by the principles of economic efficiency; healthy oceans and sustainable use; social equity; food security and healthy lifestyles; transparency; inclusiveness and accountability; resilience; innovation and national, regional and international cooperation. It seeks to establish broad directions for future investment and development of a sustainable ocean-based economy in Seychelles. The Government's ultimate goals in developing the national Blue Economy Roadmap include:

- Creating Sustainable wealth through economic diversification and resilience to reduce economic vulnerability and reliance on a small number of sectors and to increase the percentage of GDP derived from the marine sector.
- Sharing prosperity through food security and well-being; education, skills development and employment and the creation of the business environment for the private sectors.
- Securing healthy, resilient and productive oceans through the valuation of the coastal and marine ecosystems; oceans, climate resilience and adaptation.
- Implementation by strengthening the enabling environment and integrating land-use and marine spatial planning.

This roadmap establishes the resilience principle which will provide the ability to anticipate, prevent and adapt to changing circumstances in ways that will allow for recovery and generate new and innovative practices, which will reduce vulnerability over time. The resilience principle is well established in aspects of CC adaptation measures, disaster risk management, emergency planning and risk transfer mechanisms.

## **The Nationally Determined Contributions [NDC]**

The NDC has the following outcomes:

- Developing the Energy Sector (including transport sector) to fully meet the NDC commitment
- Development of an NDC monitoring plan and process for better data collection, analysis and allocation of resources and needs.
- Strengthen the capacity of government officials, civil society and the private sector to better integrate adapting to CC in current and future programmes.
- Build resilience by identifying priorities into development plan to minimize vulnerability.
- Enhancing access to finance for the NDC.

The NDC Partnership Plan is expected to be implemented by the year 2020.

## **Vision 2033 and the National Development Strategy [NDS] of 2019-2023**

*“A resilient, responsible and prosperous nation of healthy, educated and empowered Seychellois living together in harmony with nature and engaged with the wider world.”*

Vision 2033 will be achieved through the implementation of a series of three, five-year National Development Strategies, the first of which is 2019-2023. The strategies are based on six pillars including good governance, people at the centre of development, social cohesion, innovative economy, economic transformation, and environmental sustainability and resilience. The latter makes reference to climate change. The successful implementation of Vision 2033 will also contribute towards the realisation of Seychelles’ global and regional commitments as enshrined in the United Nations’ Agenda 2030 and the African Union’s Agenda 2063.

## **7.2 INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS**

### **The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

The UNFCCC was adopted on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 1992 and opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro from the 3<sup>rd</sup> until the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 1992. It came into force on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1994. Seychelles became the second country to ratify to the Convention on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 1992. Mitigation together with adaptation contributes to the overall objective of the UNFCCC. Reporting is done through National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Update Reports (BURs). In addition to providing information to assess the progress of efforts to address climate change, national reports are useful documents in the national planning and development process as well as for policy-makers. The ultimate objective of the Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention:

*“Stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved*

*within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.”*

UNFCCC, 1992, Article 2, Objective, page 9

### **The Kyoto Protocol (KP)**

The KP supplements and strengthens the UNFCCC. The KP was adopted on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1997 and entered into force on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2005. The Protocol shares the ultimate objective and principles of the Convention but the biggest distinction is that it sets out legally binding targets for Annex I Parties to limit or reduce their GHG emissions in a given commitment period. The Kyoto Protocol also provides support towards mitigation and adaptation in developing countries and economies in transition. Seychelles ratified the KP on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2002.

### **The Paris Agreement (PA)**

The PA was adopted on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2015 and it came into force in 2016. Seychelles ratified the PA on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2016. The PA requires each party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) that embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of Climate Change. The NDCs are at the heart of the PA and the achievement of its goal. Based on Article 2, this agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of Climate Change, in the context of SD and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by:

- Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of Climate Change;
- Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impact of Climate Change and foster climate resilience and low GHG emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and
- Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low GHG emission and climate-resilient development

### **The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (a protocol to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer adopted in 1985)**

The Protocol was designed to reduce the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances in order to reduce their abundance in the atmosphere, and thereby protect the earth's fragile ozone Layer. The protocol was adopted on September 16<sup>th</sup> in 1987 and entered into force on January 1<sup>st</sup> in 1989. The 12th amendment to the Protocol i.e. the Kigali Amendment was made at their 28th Meeting of the Parties on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda and came to force on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. The Amendment seeks to reduce the manufacture and use of Hydrofluorocarbons by 80-85% from their respective baselines until 2045. Consequently, if this

is implemented this is expected to prevent the global average temperature rise up to 0.5°C by 2100. Seychelles ratified the Kigali amendment in 2019 and is expected to amend the Environment Protection (Ozone) Regulations 2010 accordingly which manages the use and import of accordingly.

## **The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development**

The Agenda was adopted in the United Nations International Conference on Sustainable Development in 2015. The Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity that also seeks to strengthen universal peace. It recognizes the challenge of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, which is indispensable for sustainable development. All countries acting in collaborative partnerships are expected to implement this Plan through bold and transformative steps. The 17 Goals and Targets will stimulate action in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet for the next 15 years.

Of particular relevance to the NCCP is **SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat Climate Change and its impacts.** Goal 13 calls on countries to incorporate climate protection measures in their national policies and assist each other in responding to the challenges at hand. It acknowledges that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. Supplementing this dialogue, Goal 13 advocates strengthening resilience to climate-related natural disasters and reaffirms the commitment undertaken by developed countries to mobilise each year USD 100 billion jointly from all sources by 2020 to help developing countries adapt to Climate Change.

Goal 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

Goal 13.2: Integrate Climate Change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

Goal 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Goal 13.a: Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

Goal 13.b: Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and SIDS, including focusing on children, women, youth, elderly and local and marginalized communities.”

**SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development.** Goal 14 calls on World leaders to work to protect marine species and support the people who depend on oceans, whether it be for employment, resources, or leisure. Oceans face the threats of marine and nutrient pollution, resource depletion and climate change, all of which are caused primarily by human actions. These threats place further pressure on

environmental systems, like biodiversity and natural infrastructure, while creating global socio-economic problems, including health, safety and financial risks. In order to combat these issues and promote ocean sustainability, innovative solutions that prevent and mitigate detrimental impacts to marine environments are essential. The Ocean plays a key role in regulating the earth's climate. Healthy marine resources can better withstand Climate impacts and sustain lives and livelihoods. The protection of Blue Carbon such as mangroves and seagrasses are vital because they can store huge amounts of carbon that is beneficial for Climate Change mitigation.

**SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.** Preserving diverse forms of life on land requires targeted efforts to protect, restore and promote the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and other ecosystems. Goal 15 focuses specifically on managing forests sustainably, halting and reversing land and natural habitat degradation, successfully combating desertification and stopping biodiversity loss. All these efforts combined aim to ensure that the benefits of land-based ecosystems, including sustainable livelihoods, will be enjoyed for generations to come. Forests have four major roles in Climate Change: they currently contribute about one-sixth of global carbon emissions when cleared, overused or degraded; they react sensitively to a changing climate; when managed sustainably, they produce wood fuels as a benign alternative to fossil fuels; and finally, they have the potential to absorb about one-tenth of global carbon emissions projected for the first half of this century into their biomass, soils and products and store them - in principle in perpetuity.

## 8. POLICY VISION

The following Vision guides the NCCP:

**A sustainable, climate resilient and low-carbon Seychelles**

## 9. POLICY OBJECTIVES

**Overall Objective:** To facilitate a coordinated, coherent, proactive and effective response to the local, regional and global challenges and opportunities presented by Climate Change.

**Overall Commitment of the GoS:** It is fully recognised by the GoS that the ambitious set of objectives and commitments will require time, additional resources and human capacity. The GoS fully recognises the long-term socio-economic and environmental benefits that outweighs the costs. As such, every effort is required for the successful implementation of this policy.

## **Specific objectives:**

### **1. To advance understanding of Climate Change and its impacts on Seychelles.**

To achieve objective one, the GoS is **committed** to:

- Facilitate the long-term research and monitoring of Climate science and Climate Change impacts on the World Heritage Sites, the granitic and coralline islands and the contributions of the various sectors to Climate Change;
- Encourage and engage the media in educating and creating awareness on Climate Change and using different strategies to sensitize people about Climate Change

### **2. To strengthen capacity and social empowerment at all levels to adequately respond to Climate Change.**

To achieve objective two, the GoS is **committed** to:

- Assist in education and training on Climate Change and its impacts to the people of Seychelles to make Climate Change part of human resource planning and development in order to effectively respond to Climate Change impacts and protect the most vulnerable population in society.

### **3. To mainstream and integrate Climate Change considerations into all relevant sectors and all levels of government.**

To achieve objective three, the GoS is **committed** to:

- Engage with the various sectors of the economy including NGOs, Civil Society Organisations and the Private Sector to effectively address Climate Change as a cross-cutting issue rather than a stand-alone issue.
- Commit through the implementation and update of this policy alongside the NCCS.

### **4. To achieve transition to a low carbon economy.**

To achieve objective four, the GoS is **committed** to:

- Enhance actions on mitigation by promoting the need to adopt sustainable lifestyles to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and switch to renewable energy;
- Promote the use of cleaner, efficient and sustainable public and private transport systems

### **5. To put in place measures to adapt, build resilience and minimize vulnerability to the impacts of Climate Change;**

To achieve objective five, the GoS is **committed** to:

- Implementing national commitments by investing in Disaster Risk Reduction and management;
- Adopt appropriate measures to adapt to the impact of climate induced sea-level rise through sustainable land-use planning, managed retreat and other planning controls especially for development infrastructures in the shoreline zones for climate resilience;
- Adopt and implement measures to promote sustainable land management to the farming and forestry sectors to maximize ecosystem resilience and water security;
- Recognizing the importance of ecosystem services, adopting a ‘Ridge to Reef’ approach to address the ‘whole island’ priorities to facilitate and assist in the protection and rehabilitation of the upland forest, coastal and marine ecosystems and biodiversity to promote natural solutions to Ecosystem-based adaptation and emissions mitigation by storing carbon.
- Increase the resilience of critical habitats and ecosystems of global importance such as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Important Bird Areas and Ramsar Sites
- Build capacity and resilience in the health sector, through health systems, strengthening to mitigate the negative health and well-being impacts of Climate Change on the people of Seychelles

## **6. Contribute effectively to regional and global negotiations on Climate Change;**

To achieve objective six, the GoS is **committed** to:

- Securing enough resources to support appropriate actions on negotiation topics under UNFCCC such as Finance, Technology Transfer, Capacity Building, Mitigation, Adaptation and Loss and Damage in recognition of the special circumstances of SIDS;
- Taking appropriate actions in fulfilling the international obligations especially the conditions established under the UNFCCC and using the negotiation outcomes for further climate action.

## **10. STIPULATIONS AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

The NCCP envisages the legislation to establish the National Climate Change Council

### **10.1 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

Establishment of the National Climate Change Council:

1. A body will be established known as the National Climate Change Council.

2. This Council will be chaired by the Vice President of Seychelles.
3. The Minister for Energy and Climate Change will be the Vice-Chairperson to the Council.
4. Members of the Council will comprise of staff from MEECC and other sectors.
5. A Secretariat of the Council will be established to support its work.

#### Functions of the Council:

The Council will act as the national Climate Change coordination mechanism with the following functions:

1. Ensure the mainstreaming of Climate Change by all of the sectors in their plans, policies and master plans;
2. Ensure harmonisation between the various development policies, strategies, interventions, indicators with the NCCP;
3. Ensure and Oversee the reporting of all of the relevant stakeholders and sector actions vis a vis Climate Change and assess whether targets and objectives are being met;
4. Discuss the way forward and make recommendations to the various concerns and constraints in relation to Climate Change from the work being undertaken by the sectors
5. Approve and oversee the implementation of the NCCS;
6. Ensure and oversee of the reporting of all of the relevant stakeholders after attending international Climate Change related conferences, workshops and negotiations;
7. Follow up and act upon the outcomes of the Climate Change related conferences, workshops and negotiations;
8. Advise the government on legislative, policy and other measures necessary for appropriate Climate Change adaptation and how to attain a low carbon Seychelles;
9. Coordinate and assess the spending of funds from relevant financial mechanisms including government funding for the adaptation strategies of Climate Change implemented in Seychelles;
10. Approve, consult and advise on appropriate national public education and awareness initiatives including the dissemination of Climate Change related data to the public;
11. Provide the direction on research and training possibilities for young professionals on Climate Change;
12. Provide guidance on how to review, amend and harmonize the sector laws and policies in order to achieve the objectives of this Policy;
  
13. Establish the targets for achieving all of the objectives of this Policy by every stakeholders and sectors;
14. Establish the targets for the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions

#### Members of the Council

1. The Council will comprise of not more than 15 members who will be appointed by the President.

2. The Council will be constituted as follows:

- Senior representatives of key government ministries and authorities;
- Representation of the private sector nominated by the Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI)
- Representation of the Civil Society working on Climate Change nominated by the Citizens Engagement Platform Seychelles (CEPS);
- Representation of youth (between the age of 18-30 years old) that has been actively involved in various Climate Change activities in the community nominated by the Youth Council;

Each person will be qualified for appointment as member of the Council if such person:

- (a) Is a citizen of Seychelles; and
- (b) Fulfils the requirements of the Constitution;

The Council may co-opt members with relevant expertise when needed to advice on specific matters.

The Council may from time to time establish committees for the better carrying out of its functions and duties.

The members of the Council will be paid such allowances as may be determined.

The Secretariat will be adequately funded in order to provide necessary support to the operations of the Council.

The Council shall meet quarterly.

The membership of the Council will be for a term of three years and shall be renewable.

Membership of the Council will be both males and females to ensure gender parity.

Powers and Duties of the Council

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this policy, the Council will exercise control and provide guidance over Climate Change governance and implementation of this policy

(2) The Council will:

- (a) Formulate and periodically review the NCCP, NCCS and the National Climate Change Action Plan and submit to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval;

- (b) Coordinate international and regional negotiations on Climate Change related issues in consultation with the relevant parties;
- (d) Coordinate technical assistance on Climate Change actions and responses to stakeholders, based on mutual agreement and needs;
- (e) Report to the Cabinet of Ministers on progress with the implementation of all actions defined in the Seychelles Climate Change Strategy and activities of the Council. The steps for reporting are detailed below.
- (f) Undertake revisions and update the NCCS to ensure it remains relevant; and
- (g) Inform the National Assembly on the status of implementation of the National Climate Change Strategy particularly on international and national obligations to respond to Climate Change, and progress towards attainment of low carbon climate resilient development targets.

#### Annual National Climate Change Council Report

- (1) The Council shall establish a reporting mechanism to monitor the implementation of actions within the NCCS by stakeholders
- (2) Each member of the Council shall report to the Council on the status of implementation of their specific actions of the NCCS using the reporting template provided in the Annex to this NCCP. The reporting can be done when the members meet up during the year. At least 5 members should be present at the meetings.
- (3) The Secretariat shall compile the submissions and prepare a report for presentation to the Council annually
- (4) The Council shall present this report to the Cabinet of Ministers and the National Assembly annually.

#### Budget

A budget will be made available for operational costs of the Council.

## **11. POLICY REVIEW PROCESS**

The NCCP reflects the policy objectives for CC in the Seychelles based on the situation at the time of the policy's development in the year 2019. As good practice entails, the NCCP will be reviewed

in 5 years' time, or when viewed as necessary along with the NCCS, to ensure it aligns with other national and international priorities for Climate Change.

## GLOSSARY

1. **“Adverse effects of Climate Change”**: Changes in the physical environment or biota resulting from climate change which have significant deleterious effects on the composition, resilience or productivity of natural and managed ecosystems or on the operation of socio-economic systems or on human health and welfare.
2. **“Climate Change”**: A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.
3. **“Climate System”**: The totality of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and geosphere and their interactions.
4. **“Emissions”**: The release of greenhouse gases and/or their precursors into the atmosphere over a specified area and period of time.
5. **“Greenhouse Gases”**: Those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation.
6. **“Regional Economic Integration Organization”**: An organization constituted by sovereign States of a given region which has competence in respect of matters governed by this Convention or its protocols and has been duly authorized, in accordance with its internal procedures, to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the instruments concerned.
7. **“Reservoir”**: A component or components of the climate system where a greenhouse gas or a precursor of a greenhouse gas is stored.
8. **“Sink”**: Any process, activity or mechanism which removes a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere.
9. **“Source”**: Any process or activity which releases a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas into the atmosphere.

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