



GCCA+ SEYCHELLES

A Guide for Seychellois Climate Change Negotiators

(to be read in conjunction with the SIDS Climate Change Negotiators' Guidance Manual)



|PS Wills Agricole and Ms. Angelique Pouponneau at COP 24.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADP	Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action
AF	Adaptation Fund
AILAC	Independent Alliance of Latin America and the Caribbean
AIS	Atlantic and Indian Ocean and South China Seas
ALBA	Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América)
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
BASIC	Brazil, South Africa, India, China
BAP	Bali Action Plan
CAN	Climate Action Network
CBDR-RC	Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CMP	Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
COP	Conference of the Parties
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network
DNA	Designated National Authority
EIG	Environmental Integrity Group
EU	European Union
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHGs	Greenhouse gases
IGO	Intergovernmental organisation
INDC	Intended nationally determined contributions
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
L&D	Loss and damage
LDCs	Least developed countries
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LMDCs	Like-minded developing countries
MOI	Means of implementation
NDC	Nationally determined contribution
NIE	National implementing entity
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Development
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
QELRO	Quantified emission limitation and reduction objective
RC	Respective capabilities
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SLR	Sea level rise
SMART	Specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound
TEC	Technology Executive Committee
TEM	Technical expert meeting
TNA	Technology needs assessment
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND AND PUPOSE OF THIS MANUAL

In mid-2018 a climate change Capacity Needs Assessment of Seychelles was undertaken. This Assessment identified the need to develop training to support Seychelles' participation in the annual Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP). As a result the European Union funded Seychelles Global Climate Change Alliance + provided support for a training workshop held on January 18th and the preparation of this Manual.

The purpose of this Manual is to reinforce the learning from the workshop in line with existing United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other resource materials and give practical guidance tailored to the priorities and needs of the Seychellois participation in future COPs.

The Manual includes background information about Seychelles' involvement in the international climate change regime, an overview of some of the key current and emergent issues for negotiators to consider, tips for negotiators, and worksheets to guide negotiators through some of the thinking needed to prepare effectively for COPs.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEYCHELLES



The Seychelles archipelago consists of 115 granitic and coralline islands with a land area of 455 km² and a marine exclusive economic zone of more than 1.3 million km². It is categorized as a small island developing State (SIDS) and typically negotiates within two negotiating blocs: the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the Group of 77 and China (G77 and China) in the UNFCCC negotiations.

Seychelles is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and climate variability, yet has not significantly contributed to the problem. Seychelles is currently a net sink and has prioritized adaptation in its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) but will continue to engage in mitigation actions as other benefits include enhancing energy security and reducing the cost reliance on importation of fossil-fuels.⁽¹⁾

The main climate change threats facing Seychelles are:

- Changes in rainfall patters leading to flooding;
- Landslides;
- Extended periods of droughts;
- Increase in sea temperature;
- Changes in ocean acidity and damage to marine ecosystems;
- Increases in storms and storm surges;
- Sea level rise during the longer term. (2)

Climate change affects many sectors including infrastructure, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, energy and water security, biodiversity, waste management as well as human health and well-being. Examples include salt intrusion of agricultural land and further compounded by unreliable rainfall patterns; pelagic fishery migrating to cooler latitudes, erosion of coastal infrastructure and beaches, increase in mosquito-related diseases, and increase of invasive species.

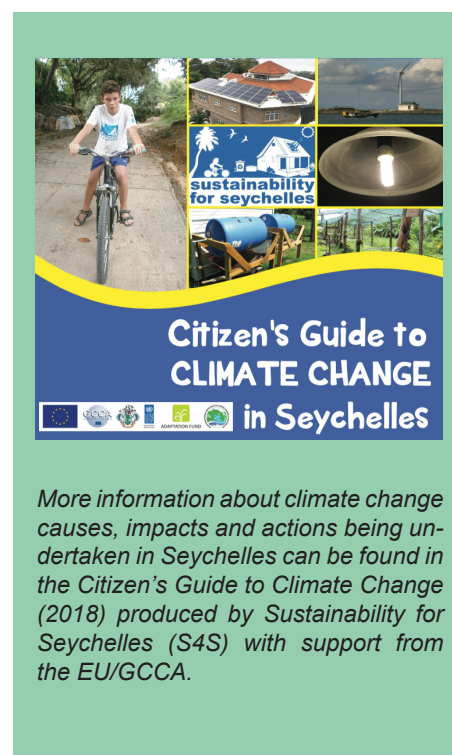
Studies and reports conducted in Seychelles reveal that the country's vulnerability to climate change is due to the high concentration (80%) of infrastructure and other human activities are along the low-lying coastal areas which face the highest risk of flooding from storms and storm surges, floods, heavy rainfall and landslides which have already resulted in significant economic losses.

(1) Government of Seychelles, Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (2015).

(2) Government of Seychelles, Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (2015).

The INDC further lists the specific vulnerabilities of Seychelles to the effects of climate change:

- Critical Infrastructure (roads, ports, government buildings, electricity, water and sewerage management systems) which are mostly located along the coast;
- Tourism (in proximity to the coast or in areas vulnerable to flooding and landslide, sea level rise and disappearances of main attraction: beaches and coral reefs);
- Food Security (currently reliant on food imports, and need support for local sustainable and climate-smart agriculture and fisheries efforts);
- Coastal and Marine Resources (considering the aims of the Blue Economy and Seychelles Strategic Plan 2015);
- Water Security (particularly considering issues of storage and distribution);
- Energy Security (particularly considering the reliance on fossil fuels)
- Health (particularly addressing the burden placed on high-density populations in the coastal areas and general vulnerability to climate-sensitive diseases);
- Waste (particularly for landfill sites in high risk, coastal locations); and
- Disaster preparedness (particularly addressing the need for more research to understand climate change impacts, and resources to predict, prevent and respond to disasters). (3)



SEYCHELLES' PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE REGIME



The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) entered into force in March 1994 and currently has almost universal participation by States (including non-State parties). The supreme governing body of the Convention is the Conference of the Parties that have typically met annually to negotiate and make decisions to advance the international climate change regime. Seychelles has participated in the international climate change regime from its inception, including subsequent agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

Seychelles, like other Small Island States, usually has a small delegation comprising of the Head of Delegation, the Principal Secretary of the Department of Climate Change, Mr Wills Agricole. Mr Agricole is also, the UNFCCC focal point of Seychelles and therefore, tasked with the responsibility of registering delegates, organizing the delegation and the lead technical negotiator. Mr Agricole is typically supported by a political lead, Ambassador Ronald Jumeau, and other technical experts that lead national organizations such as the Seychelles Meteorological Authority, and the Seychelles Energy Commission. Since 2015, two Seychellois young professionals have been specifically trained as climate change negotiators on the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) fellowship and have supported the delegation. The Seychelles regularly includes members of civil society and youth in the official delegation and the delegation has also been supported by external technical consultants.

Seychelles has also participated in other related processes such as the meetings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and has been an alternate board member for the Green Climate Fund (GCF).



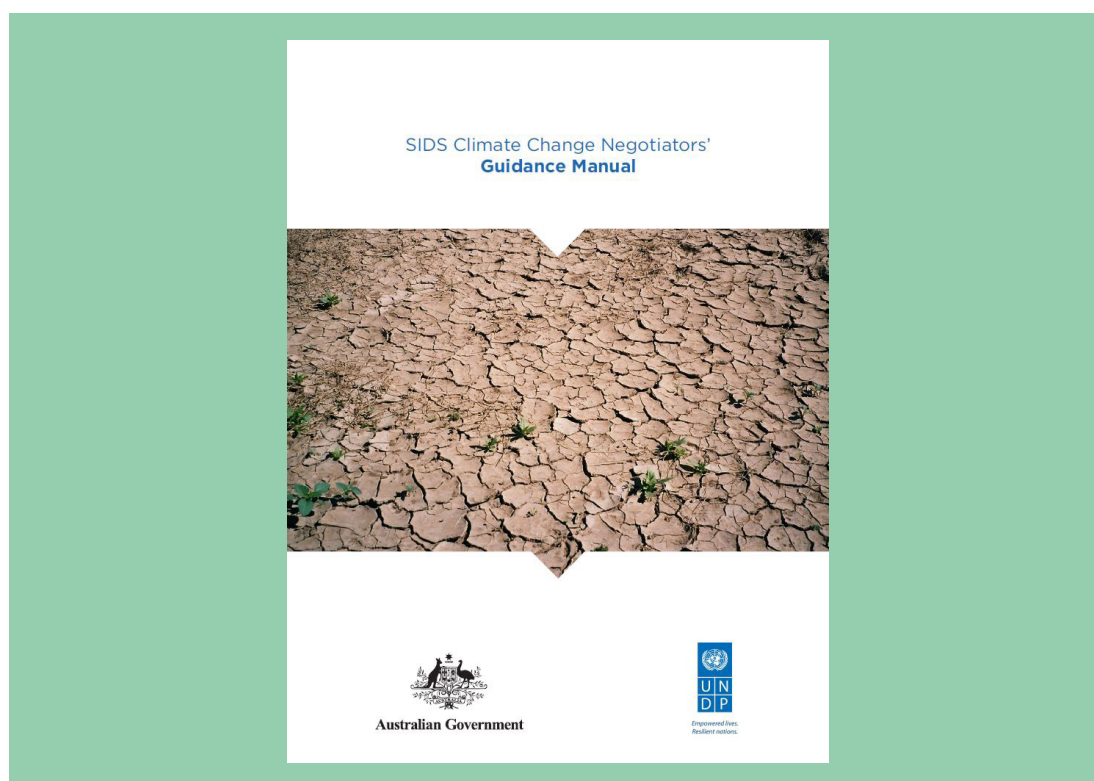
Seychelles is a member of two negotiating blocs in the climate negotiations, namely, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the Group of 77 and China (G77 + China). AOSIS's membership consists of countries and non-States categorized as Small Island developing States (SIDS) while G77 + China's membership is of only developing countries (but not all developing countries are members of the G77 and China, e.g. Palau). It is worth noting that China is not a member of the G77 + China but categorized as an observer. Nevertheless, China has significant influence in shaping the positions of the G77 + China. Seychelles is a developing country and the G77 + China has been particularly strong in protecting the interests of developing countries, in particular on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and strongly pushing for mobilization of resources by developed countries and access to climate finance by developing countries

Seychelles aligns itself with AOSIS because of the similar characteristics it shares with other small island developing States which enables it to have its concerns advanced by a negotiating bloc representing some 39 members.

Despite these partnerships, there are many challenges influencing the effectiveness of Seychelles' participation in COPs:

- Small delegation size.
- Insecure funding for more individuals to participate.
- Limited capacity in climate change negotiations, both technical and political.
- Perception that smaller countries cannot influence the process.

Other SIDS face similar challenges. In 2015, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) published the Capacity Building for SIDS Climate change Negotiators Guidance Manual to help address these common challenges. (4) In producing such tools, SIDS delegations have been better equipped to participate in the negotiations. This guide should be read in conjunction with the above-mentioned Guidance Manual. The Guidance Manual can be found [here](#).



(4) UNDP (2015) Capacity Building for SIDS Climate Change Negotiators Guidance Manual. United Nations Development Programme, Barbados and the OECS.

2.

THE POLITICAL REALITIES OF SEYCHELLES

It is critical that Seychelles' climate change negotiators understand the political realities of their own country and the process as a whole.

SIDS have always been known as the 'moral conscience' of the climate change process as they remain on the frontlines of the impacts of climate change and stand the most to lose (e.g. nationhood). However, SIDS have struggled to strike a delicate balance between addressing the urgency of the problem through strong action. On one hand, SIDS are sovereign States, each with one vote and because of the consensus-driven process, the ability to hinder negotiations until a suitable compromise is achieved. On the other hand, SIDS are typically small countries which are dependent on neighbours for support and subject to the regional politics of their regional groups. Additionally, as SIDS have the most to lose, so delaying or bringing the negotiations to a halt are not seen as effective means because any delays have severe consequences. Seychelles is no exception. The ability of SIDS to leverage their power or strongly influence bigger neighbouring countries is often curbed by political realities. Hence, SIDS have typically been brokers of compromise and advocates for new constructive solutions to bridge gaps between groups of Parties.



All SIDS are influenced by their neighbours and funders, whether directly or as a result of an implicit desire not to stray too far and anger donor friends.

Within the AOSIS grouping, Seychelles falls in the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Seas (AIS -formerly AIMS) region. This is not a geographic region as it ranges from Singapore to Cape Verde which has led to a lack of coordination of this group. The other two AOSIS groups are the Caribbean and the Pacific, and by virtue of their geographic proximity, they tend to be well coordinated. Therefore, typically a Caribbean SIDS would have coordinated on a regional position within the Caribbean Community (CC) well in advance and which they would then advocate for in AOSIS and similarly with the Pacific. In addition to regional positions, countries are also influenced by their economic status, as AOSIS consists of least developed countries (LDCs), middle-income countries and high-income countries. LDCs also coordinate group positions which are also then advanced in AOSIS.

It is necessary to try to understand why issues are particularly important to countries, both inside your negotiating bloc and outside.

Within the AOSIS groupings remain mindful of differences in culture, including negotiating cultures with some countries being more vocal within formal settings and others being more vocal outside of formal settings. Although the issue or position may be very pertinent, the volume and tone of the voice may vary based on culture as well as the reaction to opposition. So, take time to listen to all parties regardless of these factors as all issues raised may be equally important.

If there is consensus in the group, then AOSIS has a group position which will be advanced by the thematic coordinator. If there is no consensus, countries can field their individual positions on the negotiating floor.



Seychelles is also a member of G77 and China which is the group of developing countries. This group is a diverse group, including oil producing and exporting countries, advanced and emerging economies, the biggest negotiating bloc, i.e., the African Group and countries in South America and the SIDS. Typically, this group has group positions on issues relating to adaptation and the provision of support (finance, capacity building and technology transfer). This group greatly emphasizes the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities. Reaching consensus in such a big group is particularly challenging because of its diversity but there is immense strength in its unity as it represents 144 countries giving significant weighting to any view advanced by the G77 and China.

Other political considerations that must be kept in mind and some parties are strongly swayed by this, are historical responsibility and when does the responsibility of new emitters start? Historical responsibility is placed on developed countries who have industrialized using fossil fuels which has led to climate change and therefore must bear the most responsibility in addressing it both through mitigation and the provision of finance for adaptation and loss and damage. The issue of historical responsibility includes components of climate justice.

However, in recent years there have been emerging advanced economies and developing countries that have acquired prosperity as a result of fossil fuel-based development. This has caused a blur as to where responsibility should be assigned. The argument in response against responsibility is that these advanced and emerging economies are simply producing goods for consumption by developed countries and therefore, responsibility should remain primarily on developed countries. In short, developed countries have enabled this development by outsourcing to countries with cheaper labour. In recent years, the G77 and China Chair has moved away from using the argument of historical responsibility but in 2018 when attempts were made to remove differentiation between developed and developing countries, G77 and China have reverted to a stronger stance on historical responsibility.

Finally, national politics affect the positions individual countries take. Examples of this include the election of President Donald Trump of the United States and President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil which has led to changes in national policies and positions at the international level. Such political events inevitably affect the process and Seychelles must remain mindful of these.



PS Wills Agricole with Ms. Elissa Lalande at COP24.



Seychelles team at COP 24: PS Agricole and HE Jumeau in front, and George Uzice and Angelique Pouponneau behind.

3. CURRENT AND EMERGING ISSUES

SEYCHELLES' PRIORITIES



Seychelles has been participating in UNFCCC Conferences of Parties (COPs) since its establishment. In general the country's priorities have focused on these key issues:

1. Adaptation and loss and damage
2. Climate Finance
3. Mitigation

Since the negotiations for the Paris Agreement and the Paris Agreement Work Programme, transparency and the global stocktake has also been prioritized.

Seychelles' priorities when it comes to climate change are heavily influenced by diverse social, economic, political and environmental realities, as well as the priorities of some of our key negotiating blocs, such as the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the Group of 77 and China.

Whilst Seychelles has accepted that SIDS as a whole contribute less than 1% of greenhouse gasses, it has continued to engage in mitigation-related projects nationally to curb emissions, and primarily for its co-benefits in terms of reducing the burden on the national reserve for fossil-fuels. However, adaptation is identified as its priority in the nationally determined contribution with both unconditional and conditional pledges (i.e. dependent on if financing is provided).

Although Seychelles is both a SIDS and an African State, Seychelles has typically aligned itself and its priorities primarily with AOSIS. AOSIS members have similar characteristics and usually the same vulnerabilities and potential for resilience as SIDS from either region. Hence, we have aligned ourselves with AOSIS as our first negotiating bloc.

Seychelles is also a developing country and therefore shares similar economic and political ideologies as other developing countries. Therefore we also negotiate within the Group of 77 and China.

Although Seychelles is a small country with a small population, the country has shown and continues to show leadership in taking action to combat climate change. During the negotiations it remains mindful of the innovative action and processes taking place at home that may be affected by the negotiations. Important considerations include the high-income status of Seychelles with its high consumption patterns by its population and economy that is heavily dependent on fossil fuels and importation. Nevertheless, Seychelles has engaged in new exciting projects such as laying the groundwork for the first floating solar farm in Seychelles, engaging in innovative financing through a debt-for-adaptation swap, and furthering climate action through ocean conservation. Finally, Seychelles is also very conscious of current and future impacts of climate change on the sustainability of its tourism and fisheries industries.

AOSIS' PRIORITIES



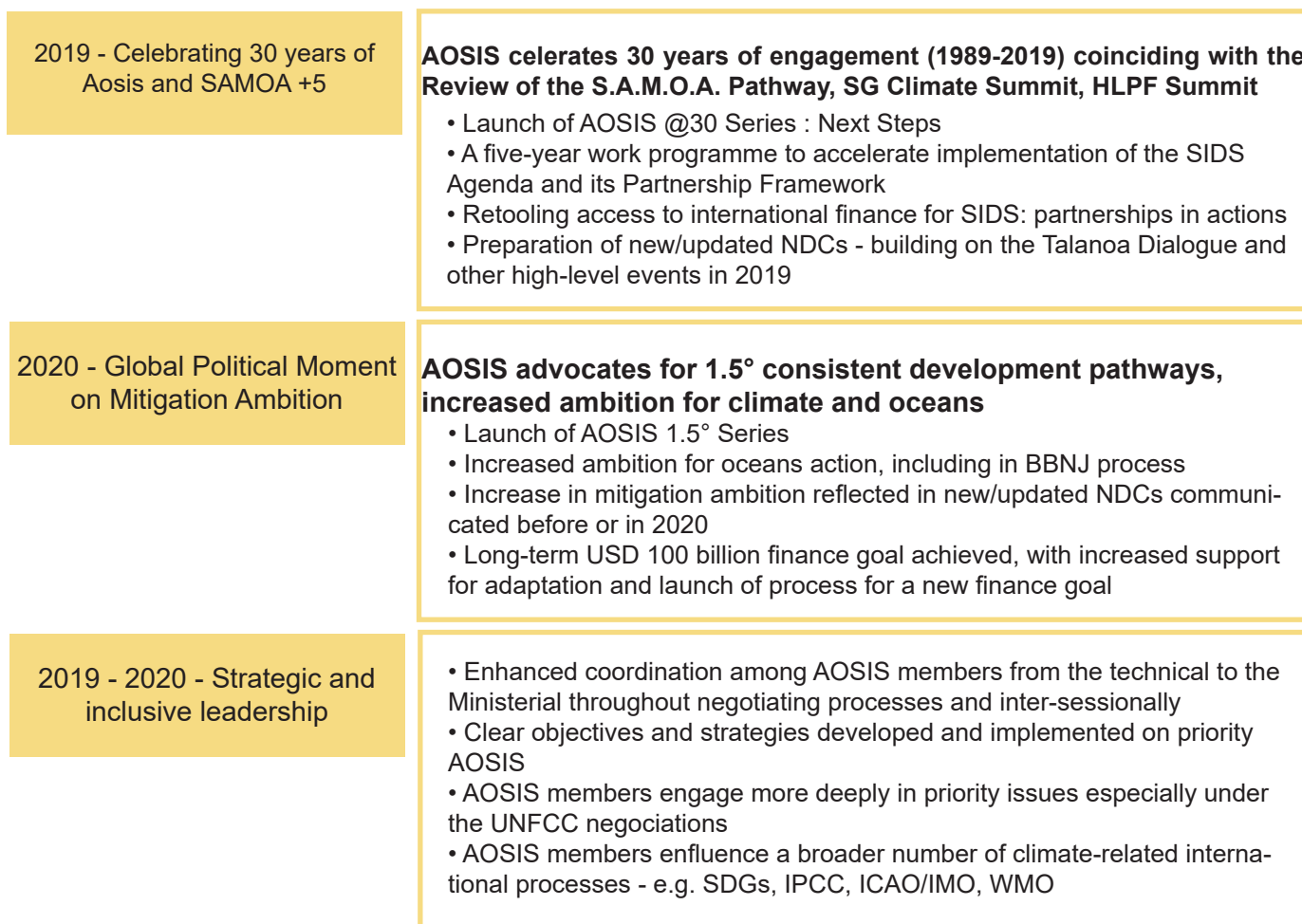
The life line of AOSIS began within the climate change negotiations and grouped the most vulnerable countries together to act as an effective negotiating bloc within the process. Seychelles joined the Alliance because of the similar characteristics it shares with other members. Since then Seychelles has become an active part of AOSIS, holding positions such as coordinator for the technology negotiations (George Uzice) and even positing for chairmanship in 2014.

AOSIS has also gone on to play a greater role in New York by participating as a negotiating bloc within other UN processes such as the negotiations on the sustainable use and management of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions, the SAMOA pathway and the reform of the UN system. Small UN Mission sizes often means that SIDS are not always represented in negotiations but if AOSIS is negotiating in the process, there is some reassurances that the interests of small States will be protected.

The diagram below illustrates AOSIS priorities over 2019-2020.



AOSIS 2019-2020



Source: Chair of AOSIS

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR SEYCHELLES

As a SIDS, Seychelles with a limited land mass, extensive maritime space and population of 94 677 (2016) face a number of challenges that must always be borne in mind when negotiating. For one, Seychelles is hampered by its geographical isolation and economies of scale resulting in exponential costs for importation of goods and services, travel to and from the Seychelles and addressing economic and social problems.

The economy of Seychelles is dependent on two pillars that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change: tourism and fisheries, our primary source of income. Climate change could undermine and even destroy these sources of income. This creates a fragile economic situation, potentially further affected by negotiations taking place at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to account for emissions of air travel, and regional fisheries negotiations. Seychelles has been classified as a high-income country (5), but this fails to account for the vulnerabilities of Seychelles as well as the high debt burden and a grade of BB-(6) for its credit rating. Therefore, despite the high-income status it continues to be vulnerable both from the effects of climate and other economic considerations.

Furthermore, with limited financial capacity and limited human resources, any extra obligations placed on Seychelles will have to be borne by the small existing labour force.



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Seychelles is a party to the UNFCCC Convention and was among the first SIDS to ratify the Paris Agreement and the Doha Amendment (to bring into force the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (2013 – 2020)).

In the world of diplomacy, Seychelles is non-aligned and with a foreign policy of “friends to all and enemy of none.” Seychelles values its international image as a leader in climate change and ocean, especially as the current Blue Economy Champion of Africa and champion for Marine Protected Areas under the Blue Charter. (7)

In both the Convention and the Paris Agreement, SIDS are given special considerations which include flexibility in fulfilling its reporting obligations under the Paris Agreement, representation on the Boards of the financial mechanisms (such as Ambassador Ronald Jumeau on the Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)), and explicit mention in the mandates of some financial mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF). However, in the Standing Finance Committee for the period of 2015 – 2016, bilateral funding to SIDS accounted for 2% of such flows and 13% of multilateral funding went to SIDS (compared to 24% and 21% respectively). (8)



MEECC Minister Wallace Cosgrow with the Seychelles delegation at COP24 in Poland

(5) OECD

(6) Seychelles News Agency, Seychelles maintains credit rating, signaling economic stability, says finance minister (August 15, 2016) <http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/5729/Seychelles+maintains+credit+rating%2C+signaling+economic+stability%2C+says+finance+minister> as accessed 21 Jan 2019.

(7) The Commonwealth Blue Charter < <https://bluecharter.thecommonwealth.org/>> as accessed 21 Jan 2019.

(8) UNFCCC, ‘Report of the Standing Committee on Finance to the Conference of the Parties’ (23 November 2018), Document number: FCCC/CP/2018/18.

SEYCHELLES IS A HIGH-INCOME COUNTRY



Although Seychelles benefits from its status as a SIDS, as a high-income country it is no longer eligible for official development assistance (ODA), grants or loans at high concessionary rates. In light of these circumstances, Seychelles has opted for other means of accessing resources to finance its mitigation and adaptation needs. These include appealing to donors such as the European Union, Japan and the foreign embassies and High Commissions represented in Seychelles. Seychelles has also increasingly engaged in south-south cooperation and obtained donations and grants from the UAE, China, and India.

Such bilateral engagements are heavily dependent on relationship building, politics and diplomacy. So there is also a need to ensure access to multilateral funding which are sought competitively. Seychelles has accessed different mechanisms such as the GEF, the GCF and the Adaptation Fund. The GEF operates in Seychelles and has provided finance to Seychelles (government and NGOs) for climate related projects through both loans and grants. Seychelles has also benefited from funding from the Adaptation Fund to protect and restore watersheds and plant 4000 endemic trees and with a recent joint application made for coral restoration. Seychelles is now also preparing to submit projects to the Green Climate Fund.

Given the limited opportunities to benefit from grants from international donors, ensuring the health of the Adaptation Fund and the GCF is important. (10) The replenishment of the GCF has begun with consultations and pledging conference set to take place in 2019. (11)

INNOVATIVE FINANCING

In another response to its current high-income status, Seychelles has engaged in innovative financing to fund climate adaptation and risk management projects. In brief, the debt-for-adaptation swap is one example of this whereby the Seychelles bought back its sovereign debt from Paris Club creditors (UK, Italy, France, Belgium and South Africa) and the re-channeled funds will now be used towards ocean conservation and climate adaptation through a public-private trust, that is, the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT). (12)

This innovative scheme attracted more finance from philanthropist donors.



Typically, Seychelles' climate change negotiations have focused on mobilizing public funds to finance climate action, but this is a mindset that Seychelles has moved away from, as evidenced above.

(10) Proposal for Mauritius and Seychelles < https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/AFB_PPRC_23.28-Proposal-for-Mauritius-Seychelles.pdf > as accessed 21 Jan 2019.

(11) Green Climate Fund, "GCF in Brief: The Replenishment Process" https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/194568/GCF_in_Brief_The_Replenishment_Process.pdf/0fc018ad-1082-d11f-f72a-b1a07e02c9d4 > as accessed 21 Jan 2019.

(12) Seychelles' Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust < www.seyccat.org > as accessed 21 Jan 2019.

LARGE OCEAN STATE



Seychelles is 1% land and 99% ocean. Therefore, a number of its mitigation and adaptation action is through taking ocean-related action, for example, maintaining the sea grass beds, rebuilding coral reefs and establishing marine protected areas (MPAs).

Seychelles submitted its Intended nationally determined contribution (INDC) in 2015 which includes three primary elements:

- 1) mitigation with the focus on our energy and transport sectors;
- 2) a holistic approach to adaptation as it sought to address a wide range of adaptation needs from coastal infrastructure to water security and
- 3) the Blue Economy. Seychelles is also one of the few SIDS that included an approximate costing of its financial needs. At present, Seychelles has the 6th highest marine-focused NDC of all the countries that have submitted an NDC.

Further to Seychelles existing commitments, the country has given the political indication that its next NDC will be an ocean NDC. The NDC is able to contain both mitigation and adaptation components and therefore, Seychelles must consider whether to place its ocean-related efforts under mitigation, adaptation or co-benefits.

LOSS AND DAMAGE

The UNFCCC's Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage was established in 2013 to promote the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, in a comprehensive, integrated and coherent manner. The mechanism was set up to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, by enhancing knowledge and dialogue about climate risk, as well as action and support for climate finance, technology, and capacity building.



The issue of Loss and Damage is crucial to Seychelles, with its fragile economic base, coastal infrastructure and coralline islands that will be affected by sea level rise, and possible migration of its population. These will also include non-economic losses. Hence, Seychelles is in support of a Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage that is well-resourced and robust, with opportunities for support (including finance) to address loss and damage.

NEW COLLECTIVE QUANTIFIED GOAL FOR CLIMATE FINANCE



It was decided at COP 24 that there was a need to start discussions about setting a new collective quantified goal from a floor of USD 100 billion per year (as was set in 2015) in November 2020. The objective of setting the new collective quantified goal is strengthening action to address the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development and eradication of poverty.

Whilst developed country Parties are now obligated to mobilize this amount, all developing countries compete for this amount either bilaterally or through the multilateral process. Seychelles is one of the competitors to access funds to implement mitigation and adaptation action. Therefore, it is up to Seychelles whether the current goal is adequate and sufficient, especially in light of its attainability in reality.

4. ADVICE FOR COP DELEGATES

SELECTION OF THE DELEGATION

The official delegation should always consists of its lead technical and political negotiators assisted with people with technical expertise who can actively provide perspectives to inform negotiating positions.



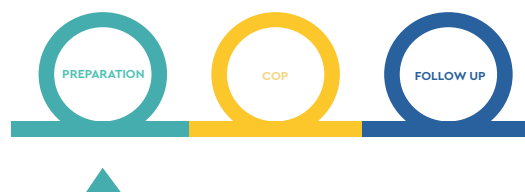
Additionally, to the traditional technical team members, the delegation can also include, members of civil society, including youth and women. This is particularly essential for two reasons. For one, the climate change process itself has different actors with civil society being pivotal in influencing member States (including their own) to be more ambitious. Two, they also bring their own expertise which are required during negotiations, for example, in the case of the Gender Action Plan or the Indigenous and local communities platform. Academics should also be invited to provide their input.

It is encouraged to have newcomers join the delegation so as to have more experience and exposure of the process, but a level of commitment of future participation in future COPs and climate change work nationally should be expected. Having additional trainings using online and traditional methods for newcomers would greatly increase the effectiveness of the delegation.

Seychelles has also, been an example in the inclusion of expertise from different individuals and organizations, not from the Seychelles, who are provided with a Seychelles badge so as to access the negotiations. This has led to the creation of support teams for the lead technical negotiator and built new partnerships for Seychelles.

BEFORE COP

Going to COP can be very daunting but that can be easily fixed with preparation, preparation, preparation!

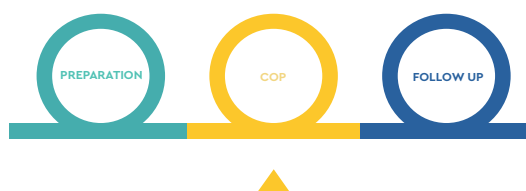


1. Before COP, get to know the position of Seychelles on the issues that will be negotiated.

- a. Identify the **priority areas** of Seychelles.
- b. Develop and finalize the **positions of Seychelles** on a particular issue by coordinating with local stakeholders. E.g. discuss with local actors about existing methodologies for monitoring and evaluating of the success of climate action for adaptation such as the planting of mangroves. Is this something that Seychelles would be in a position to be subject to a technical review without additional burdens?
- c. Following such consultations with local stakeholders, assess the positions in relation to the position of other groups – would it fit in with the current thinking of other countries/regions in AOSIS and would any resistance be met in the bigger negotiating bloc.
- d. Define the positions of Seychelles based on the technical information acquired and the political assessment of the issue.
- e. Identify compromise positions and other options that would still be acceptable to Seychelles.
- f. Ensure all delegates are aware of the positions and acceptable compromise positions.

2. Choose the thematic area that you will be following, e.g. adaptation, mitigation. You will not be able to follow more than one and following two is ambitious, as you may feel overloaded.
3. Identify under which agenda items your thematic area will be discussed. Read the annotated agenda item to get more information about what will be specifically negotiated. Anticipate if there will be an 'agenda fight' because of any contentious agenda items.
4. Read the decision text of the most recent COP that took place and any relevant documents (such as latest iterations of text) that may assist to understand where the negotiations ended at that particular point.
5. Read the news! Political realities of different countries may change overnight and drastically so keep an eye out for what is taking place in the world in relation to climate and funding for climate.

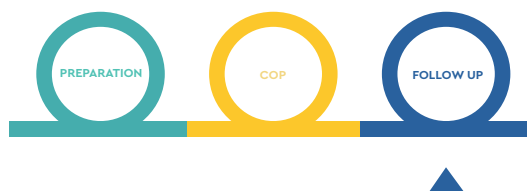
DURING PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND COP



1. Preparatory meetings are held prior to the COP: four days before for AOSIS and two days before for G77 and China. Attend these. These preparatory meetings are usually where group positions are developed and you get a better understanding of the overall picture as all coordinators participate in the meetings.
2. Are you a woman? The Women Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) hosts a night school for female negotiators. Don't miss out on a knowledge based session on evening one and a role play session on evening two.
3. Your contribution as Seychelles is particularly valuable during coordination. This is the time where parties coordinate on an acceptable group position. The group position must encompass your position.
4. Negotiations start with the opening plenary, followed by the negotiations in different break out rooms and end with a closing plenary. Negotiations usually start with morning coordination at 8 AM and end with evening coordination at 7 PM. However, that does not necessarily mean it is the end of your day.
5. During negotiations, remain dynamic and aware. You have a number of roles to fill –
 - a. ensure that your position is being represented by your coordinator (if there is a group position),
 - b. take note of the positions of other parties and groups of parties,
 - c. observe the room to understand any strategies being employed and political alliances that are forming.
 - d. A proposal may be advanced by a party that requires a quick reaction, - express your view to the coordinator as to whether this would be acceptable to your party.
 - e. You may be in a position to advance counter-suggestions by proposing new text, be prepared to draft new text.
 - f. You may be asked to comment and add to proposed text during coordination.

6. New iterations of texts may emerge rapidly with limited time for consideration. Create a tool to compare the latest iteration with the new iteration to enable you to identify what has been deleted, and what has been added. Once these have been identified, ensure that the text reflect your position.
7. Keep your head of delegation briefed about what is taking place - summarize your time spent during negotiations with the head.
8. Many other actors participate in COPs, such as civil society and researchers. If time permits, speak to them. If they propose text that may be of interest, run it by your Head of Delegation. If it is agreeable, you can advance the proposal in the negotiations.
9. Side events: There are always so many side events at COP. If you are negotiating, you may only have time to attend side events during lunch time. If you find that there is a 'not-to-be-missed' session, then ask a colleague to inform you about the outcome of the negotiations.
10. Community: Most thematic groupings have a WhatsApp group, ask the coordinator to add you to the WhatsApp group, so you can be fully aware of room allocations and timing but more importantly a dynamic way of responding to proposals made on the floor.

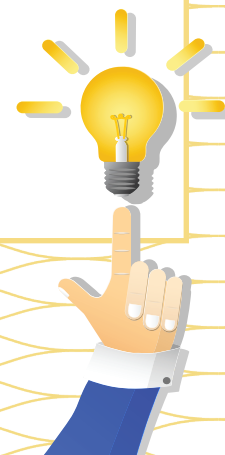
FOLLOW UP AFTER COP



1. You attended COP as a representative of your country and what is decided at the COP will have consequences and implications in Seychelles for the country as a whole and different stakeholders.
2. Create a communication plan for post-COP.
 - a. The communication plan can include different formats such as public meetings, in different work-places or using online tools such as social media or webinars.
 - b. The team delivering such presentations could include representatives of government as well as civil society.
 - c. The presentation of information should be tailored to suit the different audiences.
 - d. This should include discussions about what would be required to deal with the new implications from the decisions made at the negotiations which would then feed into future planning.
 - e. Have a clear timeline as to when to start and end the communication plan.

TOP TIPS FOR SURVIVING COP

- Hydrate and eat well
- Always remember why you are here
- the Bigger picture
- Remain diplomatic
- Always say thank you For any efforts made by
facilitators OR Colleagues
- Don't be intimidated by loud voices OR Influence of
bigger countries
- Find your way of relaxing every day
- Don't get emotionally drained from the negotiations
- Make friends
- Don't let yourself get frustrated, but take
time to understand the motive of the
other party.



5. WORKSHEETS

PREPARING FOR THE NEXT UNFCCC COPs

To better prepare for a COP, make sure you take some time before you leave Seychelles to do some research, reflection and preparation. This worksheet will help you easily have the position of Seychelles to hand, and help inform you about what compromises you are able to make during the negotiations process.

There are points of reflection to help you reach a position on cross-cutting issues such as climate finance.

The issues that will emerge at COP 25 (2019) and COP 26 (2020) are described below. It is useful to first establish the position of Seychelles, consider whether Seychelles is willing to compromise and what are the alternative positions available.

Position of Seychelles for COP 25 and COP 26.

Within the UNFCCC negotiations, what are the priorities of Seychelles for this COP?

SEYCHELLES' PRIORITIES

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**
- 4.**
- 5.**
- 6.**
- 7.**
- 8.**
- 9.**
- 10.**

POINT OF REFLECTION: DEBT FOR ADAPTATION SWAP AND BLUE BONDS

With the debt-for-adaptation swap and blue bonds in place, what should we do in the context of COP negotiations to make such schemes more attractive for...

- a) Public creditors
- b) Private investors
- c) And engaging in blue carbon ventures

If developed country Parties are able to report mobilization of funds through such schemes, this may incentivize them to continue to engage in them, whether for Seychelles itself or other SIDS.

AOSIS' PRIORITIES TO CONSIDER

In 2019 – 2020, Belize will hold the Chair of AOSIS. During these two years, they have identified the priorities that they seek to advance during their chairmanship (Refer to pg 10)

Reflection Points:

- What strategies can be employed to achieve increased ambition in ocean action and mitigation ambition?
- What strategies should be employed to ensure USD 100 billion is achieved and increased support for adaptation?
- How should SIDS ensure that the 1.5 Special Report is used to influence the negotiation process?
- How to influence other climate-related international processes such as SDGs, IPCC, ICAO/IMO?



**** COP 25 ** SHARE OF PROCEEDS TO ADAPTATION FUND**

At COP 25, there will be negotiations about whether a share of proceeds from the article 6 (markets) mechanism will go towards the Adaptation Fund? And what percentage of the share of proceeds to be directed to the Fund? There has not been any mention of SIDS having any preferential treatment in this respect.

It is important to note that the Adaptation Fund since its inception has been primarily funded by voluntary donations by developed country donors.

Seychelles has benefited significantly from funding from the Adaptation Fund, hence its financial health should be a priority. Thought should be put into how the new market mechanism (Article 6) will enhance the financial health of the Adaptation Fund, especially for SIDS.

The design of the market mechanism will also be under negotiations but Seychelles has not directly benefited under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol. Hence, it must be considered whether it is likely that Seychelles will benefit from the new market mechanism and whether it is of relevance to Seychelles in this instance?



POSITION OF SEYCHELLES

Are you willing to compromise?

What is your best alternative?

**** COP 25 ** REMOVING COUNTRIES FROM ANNEX 1 OF THE CONVENTION**

The 'Turkey Issue' is currently still under consideration. Turkey is seeking to be removed from Annex I of the Convention. This is because it does not feel that its circumstances align with being a developed country, and may be motivated to have greater access to climate finance, in particular to the GCF. The Presidency is undertaking consultations.

If one country is deleted, can other countries be deleted? Can other countries be added?

Question: Should the Annex I of the Convention be amended to remove Turkey?

The relevance for Seychelles is in its status of a developing country. On one hand, if countries are either removed or added to the annex, would that open the 'floodgate' for other movements of countries in the annexes which currently define which countries are deemed developed and developing. If there are changes, what would be the criteria used? Would GDP be used as a criteria? If so, what implications exist for Seychelles? On the other hand, would opening the 'floodgate' mean that some developing countries may be moved to be deemed a developed country and therefore, have an obligation to mobilize funds for developing countries which would increase the number of countries donating to the pool? These are fundamental questions and heavily politically. It could potentially cause disunity in the G77 and China? What would be politically be the soundest position to take?



POSITION OF SEYCHELLES

Are you willing to compromise?

What is your best alternative?

**** COP 25** THE AFRICA ISSUE**

The 'Africa issue' – The African Group would like to have their special vulnerabilities/ special consideration/ special circumstances considered under the architecture of the Paris Agreement. Possibly, this would mean the inclusion of language in future decision texts to the effect of 'in particular, least developed countries, small island developing States and Africa.' The Presidency is undertaking consultations?

Reflection questions: would this benefit or disadvantage Seychelles as an African SIDS? Is there anything to gain or lose from such wordings/language?



POSITION OF SEYCHELLES

Are you willing to compromise?

What is your best alternative?

**** COP 25** 2019: THE OCEAN COP?**

Seychelles has joined the Friends of the Ocean at the UNFCCC and engaged on making COP 25 an ocean COP. There is still a lack of clarity as to what parties would like to see within the UNFCCC process to strengthen the nexus between climate and ocean.

- Should there be a new agenda item?
- Should there be a decision?
- Should there be a new workstream?
- Should there be a workshop?
- Should an ocean constituency be set up (as is the case with youth, gender, indigenous and research)?



POSITION OF SEYCHELLES

Are you willing to compromise?

What is your best alternative?

**** COP 25 ** LOSS AND DAMAGE**

Loss and Damage is a high priority area for all SIDS but there has to be greater clarity as to how loss and damage will be addressed under the Paris Regime. The questions that will be discussed at COP 25 include:

- Should the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage serve the Paris Agreement exclusively?
- Should there be a workstream under both the COP and the CMA?
- What financing mechanisms/arrangements for loss and damage should Seychelles be advocating for?



POSITION OF SEYCHELLES

Are you willing to compromise?

What is your best alternative?

CONSIDERATIONS FOR COP26 (2020)

****COP 26** SEYCHELLES OCEAN COMMITMENT-ADAPTATION OR MITIGATION?**

Seychelles has given the political indication that the next NDC will be an ocean NDC. Seychelles has included both mitigation and adaptation in its NDC with a priority given to adaptation.

Under which section will Seychelles place its ocean commitment – mitigation or adaptation? If placed under mitigation, it would be subject to a technical expert review; if it is placed under adaptation, then it is a nationally driven exercise that cannot be subject to review. Otherwise, it may be described as mitigation co-benefits, as such action may yield both mitigation and adaptation benefits, which are subject to its own rules under the Paris Agreement rulebook. This is a technical decision that must be taken to ensure that there are no unintended consequences to any political decisions.



POSITION OF SEYCHELLES

Are you willing to compromise?

What is your best alternative?

CONSIDERATIONS FOR COP26 (2020)

**** COP 26** CLIMATE FINANCE**

The new collective goal is currently set at a USD 100 billion floor per year. This will be a two part process. The first, what type of process should be put in place to decide the new collective quantified goal? Second, to decide the goal itself. However, issues that have arisen include whether the donor base be broadened? What basis or criteria should be used for the broadening of the donor base?

Seychelles is always competitively trying to access these funds but it is clear that developed country Parties have not been able to mobilize this amount. Seychelles should strongly consider whether the goal should be increase and provide a range that it would find acceptable. The question of broadening of the donor base is a political question and must be decided as such.



POSITION OF SEYCHELLES

Are you willing to compromise?

What is your best alternative?

6.

USEFUL BOOKS FOR CLIMATE NEGOTIATORS

“Getting more,” Stuart Diamond (2010) < <https://www.amazon.com/Getting-More-Negotiate-Succeed-Work/dp/0307716902> >

“Bargaining for Advantage,” G. Richard Shell, (2006) < <https://www.amazon.com/Bargaining-Advantage-Negotiation-Strategies-Reasonable/dp/0143036971> >

“Getting Ready to Negotiate: The Getting to Yes Workbook, Roger Fisher and Danny Ertel (1995) < <https://www.amazon.com/Getting-Ready-Negotiate-Workbook-Business/dp/0140235310> >

“Never Split the Difference,” Chris Voss and Tahl Raz (2016) < <https://www.amazon.com/Never-Split-Difference-Negotiating-Depended/dp/0062407805> >

“Negotiation Genius: How to overcome obstacles and achieve brilliant results at the bargaining table and beyond,” Deepak Malotra (2007) < <https://www.amazon.com/Negotiation-Genius-Obstacles-Brilliant-Bargaining/dp/0553384112>>

“Beyond Reason: Using emotions as you negotiate,” Roger Fisher and Daniel Shapiro (2015) < <https://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Reason-Using-Emotions-Negotiate/dp/0143037781> >

“SIDS Climate Change Negotiators Guidance Manual,” UNDP (2015). <http://www.bb.undp.org/content/dam/barbados/docs/projectdocs/energy/publications/undp-bb-EE-SIDSNegotiatorsGuidanceManual-2015.pdf>

“Citizen’s Guide to Climate Change in Seychelles,” Sustainability for Seychelles (2018).