



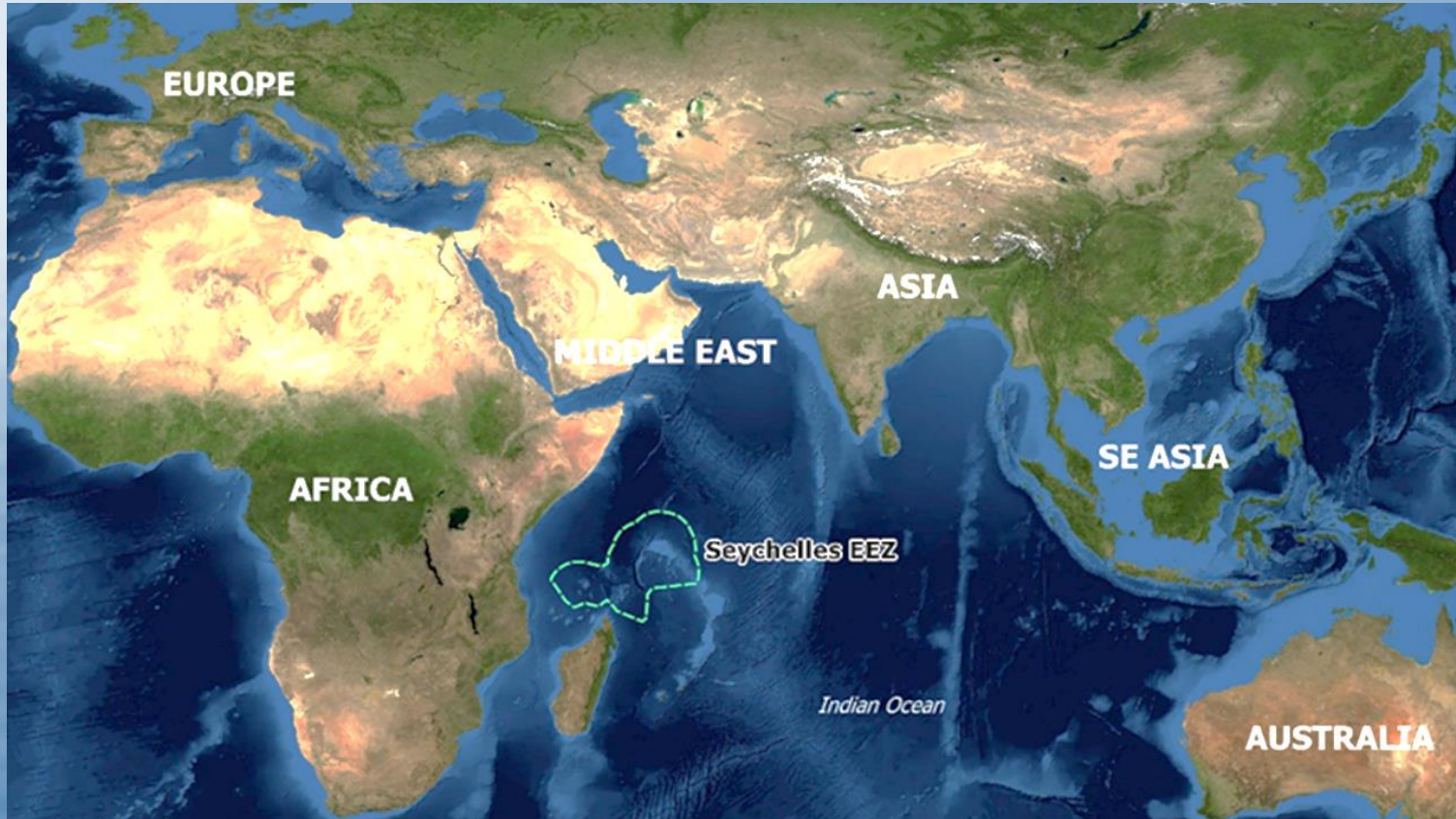
**2022 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TRANSFORMATION FORUM BUILDING
BACK BETTER FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND FOSTERING THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA**

**THEME: LIFE BELOW WATER – HOW THE OCEANS CAN HELP US FIGHT
AGAINST, AND RECOVER FROM COVID-19 AND DELIVER THE SDGS**

Hon. Andy Labonte
Elected Member of the Parliament of the
Republic of Seychelles



COUNTRY PROFILE: *SEYCHELLES*



- Archipelago of 115 islands
- Land area = 459 km²
- EEZ = 1.43 million km²
- Population = 98,000 (2021)
- Main industries = Tourism, fisheries
- Exports commodities = Canned tuna, frozen fish
- GDP per Capita = 17,300 (2019)



TOURISM: SEYCHELLES MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRY



- Tourism sector contribution to the Seychelles GDP (2018): over 30%
- Almost 8000 of our formal workforce is directly employed in tourism
- Tourist arrival to our shores:
 - ✓ 2019 – 384,204
 - ✓ 2020 – 114,858
 - ✓ 2021 – 182,849
- Tourism industry is slowly bouncing back
- Good governance and strategic policy choices
- Sports tourism has recently been discussed at the Seychelles Pavilion at the Dubai EXPO





FISHERIES: A DRIVER OF THE ECONOMY

- Fisheries sector contribution to the Seychelles GDP (2018): 27%
- Fish in the diet: 64.3 kg/year/person. Highest in Africa and one of the highest in the world.
- Ocean Health Index (OHI) in 2018: 77 pts, highest in Africa
- Direct and Indirect employment accounts for 5000 – 6000 people
- 1500 – 1600 fisherman, 450 boat owners
- Canning factory 2300 staff (30% Seychellois)





The Issue

- The 2 main pillars of the economy: tourism (volatile & largely dependent on global economy) and capture fisheries(overexploited)
- Need to diversify the economy
- Seychelles imports most of what it consumes. Need to grow own food



The Response

- Look towards the sea
- Policies and Governance
- One of the key opportunities is the exploration and feasibility of new and emerging maritime sectors including marine-based aquaculture (previous experience in prawn farming)



SDG14: LIFE BELOW WATER



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

No	Title	Action
14.1	REDUCE MARINE POLLUTION	By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.
14.2	PROTECT AND RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS	By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.
14.3	REDUCE OCEAN ACIDIFICATION	Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.
14.4	SUSTAINABLE FISHING	By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.
14.5	CONSERVE COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS	By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

SDG14: LIFE BELOW WATER CONTINUED



No	Title	Action
14.6	END SUBSIDIES CONTRIBUTING TO OVERFISHING	By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.
14.7	INCREASE THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE RESOURCES	By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.
14.8	INCREASE SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY FOR OCEAN HEALTH	Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries.
14.9	SUPPORT SMALL SCALE FISHERS	Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.
14.A	IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE INTERNATIONAL SEA LAW	Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which



MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING

- The Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP) Initiative began in 2014 and is a process focused on planning for and management of the sustainable and long-term use and health of the Seychelles' ocean. (SDG 14:2)
- MSP is a practical, transparent and participatory way to plan for the sustainable use of the Seychelles' marine space and to balance demands for development with the need to protect the environment.
- The SMSP Initiative is an integrated, multi-sector approach to address climate change adaptation, marine biodiversity protection and support the Blue Economy and other national strategies. The process has a robust stakeholder engagement framework and includes all major sectors of the Seychelles including commercial fishing, tourism and marine charters, biodiversity conservation, renewable energy, port authority, maritime safety, and no-renewable resources in order to develop a comprehensive marine plan with stakeholder input.

AQUACULTURE

- *Seychelles' emerging aquaculture industry seeks to incorporate a **diversity** of candidate species and production technologies with the aim of providing a **premium-quality basket of seafood products** to both local and export markets*
- Seychelles has the opportunity for a high-quality **mariculture** industry based on production of marine finfish and marine invertebrates.
- The Seychelles aquaculture sector is being developed according to the FAO Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture





SUMMARY

- Seychelles depends heavily on the ocean for food security and economic development.
- The Blue Economy initiative aims to create economic diversification.
- Government initiatives has driven the development of new blue economy businesses that has allowed people to better themselves economically.
- Aquaculture has the potential to become a new pillar of the economy.
- Although small, the Seychelles is a large ocean state which has had to turn to its ocean in order to survive



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION ☺

