James Michel Blue Economy Research Institute University of Seychelles

Indian Ocean Conference: March 2019, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

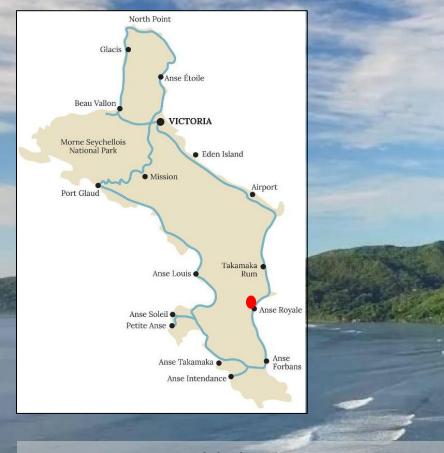


# The Role BERI plays within the Seychelles' Blue Economy Roadmap

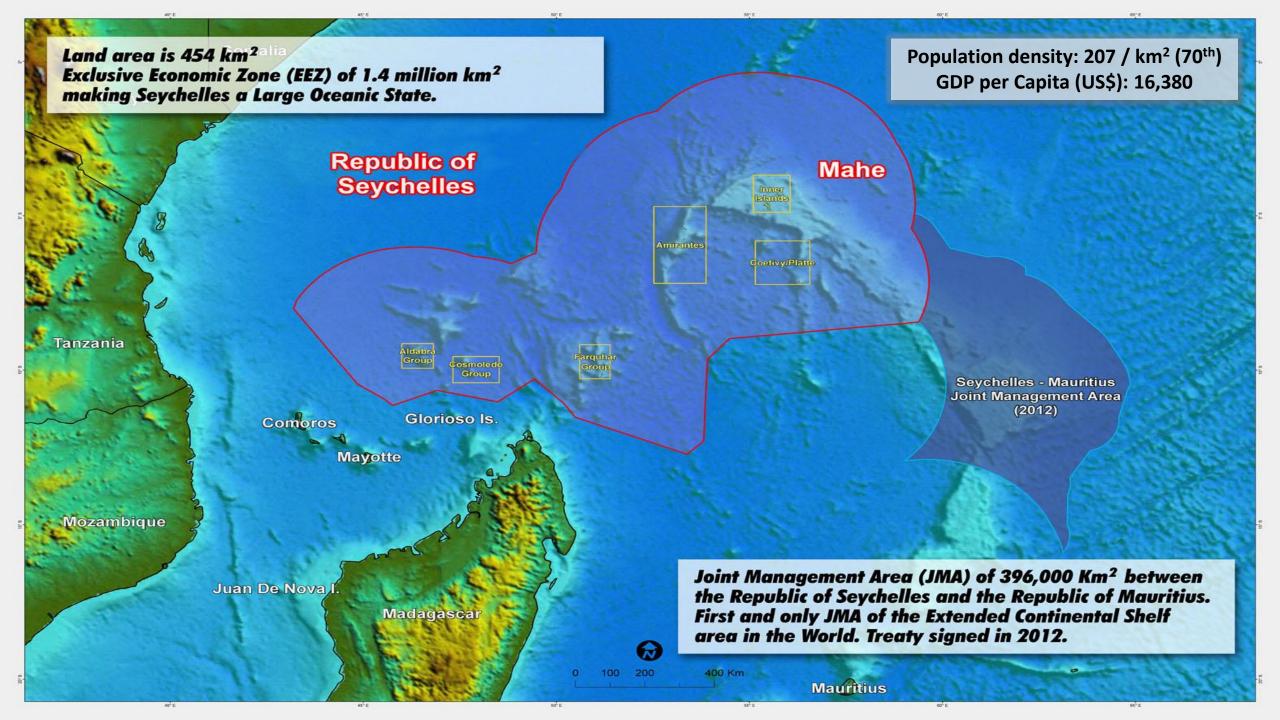
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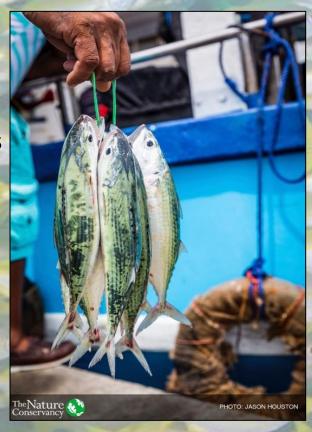


- UniSey Established in 2009
- BERI
  - Established in 2015
  - Former Seychelles president James Michel
  - In line with Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
  - Drive towards Blue Economy that is inclusive of ecologically sound & sustainable practises in governance & development



## **Small Island Developing States**

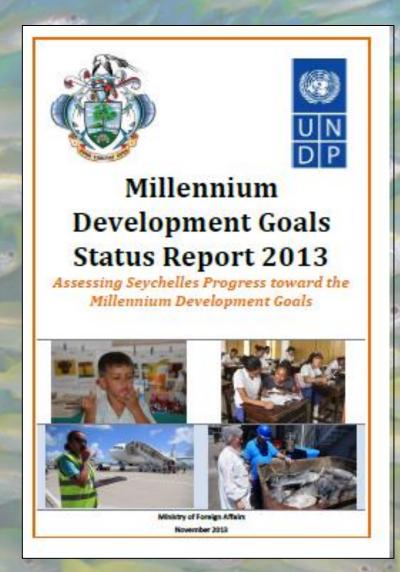
- ➤ Economically dependent on a rich array of resources and services offered by coastal and marine ecosystems
- These resources form the pillars of the Seychelles economy, namely:
  - > Tourism
  - Fishing
- Importantly, also supports local small scale livelihoods
- Coasts and oceans have strong cultural and lifestyle significance to Seychellois people







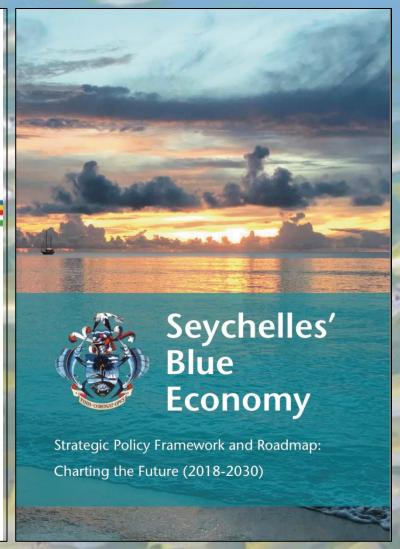




Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy 2012 - 2020

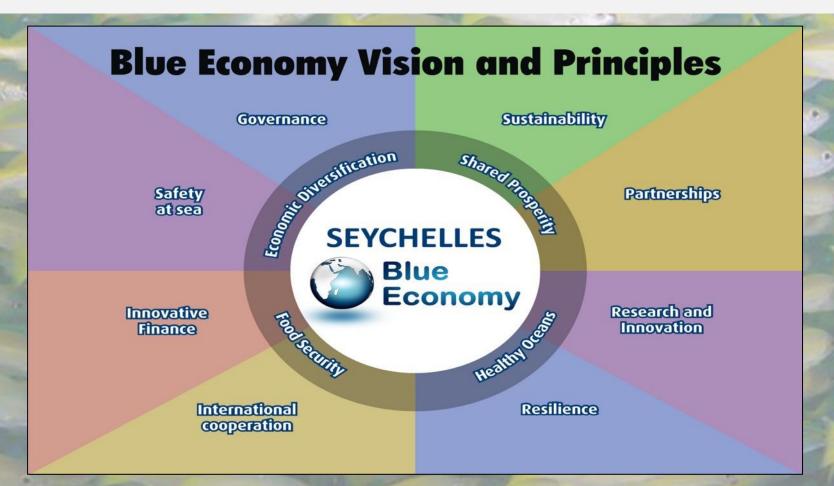






## Seychelles' Blue Economy Vision

"To develop an ocean based/blue economy as a means of realizing the national's economic, social and cultural potential through innovation, knowledge based approach, being mindful of the need to conserve the integrity of Seychelles Marine Environment and heritage for present and future generations"



## Seychelles' BE - Strategic Priorities

#### **BERI's Contribution**

- **▶** Priority 1 Creating Sustainable Wealth
  - Diversification of existing sectors
  - > Exploring emerging sectors
- ➤ Priority 2 Sharing Prosperity
  - > Food security & well-being
  - Knowledge sharing
  - > Business opportunities
- **▶** Priority 3 Securing Healthy & Productive Oceans
  - > Ecosystem services
  - Protecting marine and coastal assets
  - > Climate resilience, mitigation & adaptation

Priority 4- Strengthening the enabling environment

- ➤ Marine Spatial Planning
- R&D, incl. innovation
- > Financing the BE
- ➤ Maritime security
- Partnerships, regional co-operations & international engagement
- ➢ Governance

## **BERI's Strategic Pillars**

#### Create an enabling environment

> for innovative, collaborative and transparent research to take place for example...

#### > Generate valuable academic research

➤ Mobilize, centralize (where appropriate) and maintain key resources to facilitate research generation that is useful to decision makers and the wider community, e.g. expedition research, laboratory space, infrastructure &/or administrative support

### > Create an ocean community (Blue Guardians)

➤ Generate and disseminate research and training in key strategic areas relating to the Blue Economy, build capacity and a passion for the ocean, e.g. UCEE, oceans day, beach clean-ups, etc.





























ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Enhancing Capecity, Knowledge and Technology Support to Build Chinote Resilience of Vulnerable Developing Countries













WIOMS





















Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization





SEYCHELLES

WIOe-net





Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans





## **BERI's Projects 2018 - 2023**

- ➤ Living Resource Use
  - Fisheries & Aquaculture (*Tripneustes gratilla* feeding ecology)
  - ➤ Coral Reefs (Nekton: First Decent)
  - > Spiny lobster (habitat restoration & biomass w.r.t. climate change)
- Coastal Challenges & Climate Change Resilience
  - Coastal & Ocean monitoring (Baseline data for adaptive management) –
    DATABASE development
  - ➤ Blue carbon ocean biogeochemistry (Nekton: First Decent)
  - Coastal protection (habitat protection & restoration) mangrove restoration



## Challenges

- > Skills Development
- ➤ Support & Governance (Policy and Guidelines)
- > Co-ordination of research
  - > Collated baseline information
  - > Targeted research effort
- > Funding (incl. research platforms)
- ➤ Socio-Economic Relations



