

UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME



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Agenda item 6 (b)

Country and intercountry programming and projects

COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF THE GOVERNMENT OF  
SEYCHELLES

Note by the Administrator

Programme Period  
1980-1981

IPF for 1980-1981  
\$ 752 723

IPF for 1977-1981  
\$ 1.6 million

I. Nature of the programming exercise

1. Seychelles became independent on 29 June 1976 and prior to that date had received UNDP assistance for a total of approximately \$ 750,000 from the undistributed IPF for Africa. Seychelles was allocated an IPF of \$ 1.6 million for the period 1977-1981. No prior Country Programme was prepared, as the Government wished the UNDP funds to be used for ad hoc interventions, particularly at the time when the new National Development Plan was undergoing

a process of formulation and testing. UNDP financing provided much needed flexibility in solving the immediate needs facing the Government.

2. After the change of Government on 5 June 1977, the new Government revised the existing Development Plan to include the new priorities of the country. In September 1978 it was decided to prepare a formal Country Programme to cover the period 1980-1981, to be submitted to the Governing Council in June 1980. This first Country Programme also contains an account of the utilization of UNDP resources since the commencement of the current Development Co-operation Cycle, 1977-1981, as well as in the years preceding Independence.

3. The commencement of the programming exercise was marked by the Resident Representative's Note which included an assessment of UNDP's past and ongoing activities in Seychelles. The Note was distributed to the organizations of the United Nations system and constituted the basis for further discussions which were held in May 1979 under the auspices of the Ministry of Planning and Development with the participation of staff from UNDP Headquarters, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS). Comments had, however, been earlier received from most Agencies. Final discussions were then held in early November with the participation of the UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa.

4. There were far more priority requests than could be accommodated within the IPF. It was therefore agreed to take note of those additional priority projects to be financed if and when additional funds became available. It is worth noting in this respect, that in order to mobilize more aid from the international community the Government is planning the organization of a Donors Conference sometime between October and December 1980. UNDP will assist the Government in the preparation of that Conference.

## II. Relation of the Country Programme to national development objectives

5. The Country Programme emphasizes the same development objectives and strategy as the 1979-1983 National Development Plan. The Plan aims at: (a) achieving a high degree of self-sufficiency in food production; (b) improving the material conditions of all Seychellois in terms of higher levels of per capita income, nutrition, education, health, housing and responsible family planning and social development; (c) making optimum use of available human resources, leading to the attainment of full employment; and (d) preserving the natural environment. While generally endeavouring to link UNDP assistance to those priorities, the Government had asked for UNDP intervention in those fields where the greatest flexibility was needed and where speed of intervention was important.

6. At the same time, it was recognized that external assistance received in some of the priority areas should be taken into account in programming UNDP resources. Thus, the Country Programme contains little or no provision for assistance in the fields of public administration, health, finance, public works and legal matters.

The nature of the country's problems has enabled UNDP in the past to provide principally short-term missions with high-level consultants and relatively few long-term experts. This trend is to continue, as is the effort to train more Seychellois abroad (preferably within the region) or in the country, in order to avoid excessive dependence on long-term external expertise.

### III. Content and phasing of the Country Programme

7. Thirty-one per cent of the IPF resources for the period 1980-1981 has been earmarked for each of the two following major sectors: (a) General development policy and planning; and (b) Agriculture, livestock and fisheries. These two sectors are followed by education, training and human resources management (20 per cent); industry and commerce (9 per cent); human settlements and health (7 per cent); transport and communications (2 per cent).

8. In the area of general development policy and planning assistance is being provided through the following projects: preparation of the Necessary Legislative and Administrative Measures to Establish a Social Security Scheme; Development of a Postal Savings Bank; Customs Re-organization; and Strengthening of Economic and Development Planning.

9. In the field of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, young Seychellois both abroad and within the country are being trained for the development of local production of milk and beef. Great emphasis is being placed on the development of fisheries to meet increased local demand and also for export purposes.

10. In Education, Training and Human Resources Management UNDP has been and will continue to be involved in projects as: Consultancy Services in Education; Assistance in Setting-up a National Youth Service; Development of a Workers' Education Programme; Assistance in National Planning; and Co-ordination of Human Resources Development.

11. Projects in Industry and Commerce include: assistance in establishing a National Marketing Board; handicraft training and cinammon market development. Seychelles is the second largest producer and exporter of cinnamon bark in the world.

12. In human settlement and health, UNDP's assistance is directed to: housing programme implementation; building control; and health training.

13. Finally, in transport and communications, UNDP is assisting in training in civil aviation and meteorological sciences.

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Table ISectoral breakdown of programmed resources

	<u>Ongoing projects</u>		<u>Identified new projects</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Per</u>
	<u>(\$000)</u>		<u>(\$000)</u>		<u>(\$000)</u>	
General Development Issues, Policy and Planning	133	28	103	37	236	
Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	148	32	86	30	234	
Industry and Commerce	35	8	31	11	66	
Transport and Communications	16	3	-	-	16	
Education, Training and Human Resources Management	110	23	40	14	150	
Human Settlements and Health	28	6	23	8	51	
Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total programmed resources</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>1</b>

Table 2

Phasing of the Country Programme

A. Amounts programmed

<u>Year</u>	<u>\$</u>
1980	444 357
1981	308 366
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	752 723
1977/1978 actual expenditure	513 840
1979 estimated expenditure	333 437
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Total	1,600 000
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B. Resources taken into account for programming

<u>Resources available</u>	<u>\$</u>
(a) IPF resources available for programming	1 600 000
(b) Other resources	-
<u>Provision for adequate programming</u>	-
Total resources taken into account for programming	<hr/>
	1 600 000
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14. There are no large-scale projects during the programming period (1980-1981); however one large-scale project was undertaken previously in the second cycle, namely SEY/74/001: Training Programme for Hotel, Catering and Tourism Industry.

IV. Special development problems and  
needs of Seychelles

15. Seychelles is a developing island state with development problems peculiar only to itself. The dispersion of its ninety-two islands over thousands of square miles of the Indian Ocean far from the nearest continents of Africa and Asia presents the archipelago with problems of access to the rest of the world. The islands themselves are devoid of known mineral resources that could serve as the basis of socio-economic development. Arable land is scarce, and where it exists there is generally inadequate water for meaningful agricultural production. Furthermore, the small size of the population in itself puts a considerable strain on attempts to deploy human resources for optimal national development.

16. While concerted efforts have been initiated to diversify the economy, therefore persistent deficits in the balance of payments and the national budget will oblige Seychelles to continue to rely heavily on external technical and capital assistance for development.

V. Recommendations of the Administrator

17. In the light of the foregoing, the Administrator recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) Approve the proposed Country Programme for Seychelles for the duration of its programme period within the limits of its Indicative Planning Figure for 1977-1981; and

(b) Authorize the Administrator to proceed with appraisal and approval action on requests for assistance falling within the outline of the Country Programme while ensuring, in accordance with the decision taken by the Governing Council at its eighteenth session (E/5543/Rev.1, para.31) that expenditures are kept in reasonable conformity with the relevant IPF and are contained within the financial resources available at any given time.

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