



NATIONAL REPORT
REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

NORTH INDIAN OCEAN
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

Chittagong, Bangladesh
14-16 March 2016

COUNTRY REPORT
SEYCHELLES

1. HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE AND SERVICES

1.1. Introduction

The Republic of Seychelles is an archipelago occupying the western part of the Indian Ocean between 4°S and 10°S with an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of approximately 1.3 million square kilometers. The total land area of the country is 452 square kilometers. Some 40 islands are of granite origin, including the main island of Mahe with its central massif rising up to 905 m. The other 60 or so islands are of coralline origin and are typically flat and rise only a few meters above sea level. Seychelles is a vast maritimation with a large Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 1.3 million square kilometers. This includes the joint management of 396,000 square kilometers of seabed in the Mascarene region with the Republic of Mauritius as endorsed by the United Nations Commission on Limits of Continental Shelf in 2011. Seychelles being signatory to International Maritime Organization (IMO) Convention of Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) has national and international responsibilities to provide necessary services for enhancing safety of navigation in its area of jurisdiction.

1.2. Hydrographic Infrastructure

The Ministry of Transport has the responsibility for SOLAS the majority of which are carried out by the Seychelles Maritime Safety Administration (SMSA). The responsibility for hydrographic surveying matters has been devolved to the Seychelles Coast Guard Hydrographic Brigade (SCGHB) although this unit has, in the immediate term, effectively ceased to exist. Other organizations with a direct interest in hydrographic matters are the Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA) the Geomatic Division of the Ministry of Land Use and Habitat (GDMLUH), the Seychelles Meteorological Service (SMS) and the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA). SMSA represents the Seychelles at IMO. The SCG is in the process of reestablishing the SCGHB under the umbrella of recently signed MoU with the Indian Government in March, 2015. Presently, there is no national capacity for either paper or digital chart production.

1.3. Agreement for Infrastructure/ services assistance with India

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Republic of Seychelles and Republic of India in the field of hydrography was signed in March, 2015. The MoU provides for cooperation in the field of hydrography as follows;-

- (a) Hydrographic surveys of the EEZ of Seychelles and production of navigational charts and ENCs.
- (b) Hydrographical surveys of the important ports and harbors and designated sea areas around the islands as necessary.

- (c) Exchange of Hydrographic data for updating of charts of ports, harbors and EEZ.
- (d) Exchange of personnel for conduct of surveys.
- (e) Training of Seychellois personnel at the National Institute of Hydrography, India.
- (f) Provision of hydrographic expertise for setting up of Hydrographic infrastructure, including suitable premises and equipment in Seychelles.

2. SURVEYS

2.1. Coverage of New Surveys

Survey of Port Victoria and approaches.

The port of entry for the Republic of Seychelles is at Port Victoria (17°45'S 168°18'E) on Mahe (4°37'50S 55°28'00E) stands at the head of a bay on the NE coast of the island of Mahe. Victoria, with a population of approximately 25,000 in 2009, is the State capital and seat of government for the Seychelles. It is a commercial and fishing port and is considered the most important tuna fishing base in the Indian Ocean. All imports and exports for the Seychelles pass through Port Victoria. **The survey of Port Victoria and approaches was undertaken by Indian Navy hydrography survey vessel Darshak from 05 Nov - 18 Dec 2015.** As the last survey of the Port Victoria was carried out in 2006 by the Indian Navy, a lot of changes including construction of jetty/wharf infrastructure within the port, development of Eden Island within the harbor premises and other changes necessitated the survey of the entire area.

2.2. Existing Charts and details of Surveys

UKHO charts

<u>BA Chart</u>	<u>Title Year of Chart Publication</u>	<u>Publication</u>
(a) 721	Southern Approaches to the Seychelles Group	10 Aug 1990
(b) 722	Mahe – Port Victoria and Approaches	Ed 4 15 Jan 2009
(c) 724	Anchorage in the Seychelles Group and Outlying Islands	Ed 4 31 Jul 2008
(d) 740	The Seychelles Group	Ed 3 8 May 2003
(e) 742	Seychelles Group – Mahe, Praslin and Adjacent Islands	Ed 3 9 Jun 2011

Indian Naval Hydrographic Department Charts

- 2085 Coetivy Island - Scale: 37,500 - Published: 31 May 07
- 2087 Port Victoria - Scale: 7,500 - Published: 30 Apr 07
- 2502 Western Approaches to Mahe Island - Scale: 37,500 - Published: 28 Feb 09
- 2509 Assumption Island - Scale: 25,000 and 7,500 - Published: 31 Mar 12
- 2521 Aldabra island –scale:1:15 000 –published: 30 Jun 15

3. NEW CHARTS & UPDATES

(a) A protocol on the sale of navigational charts was signed on 10 March 2015 between India and Seychelles. This provides for compiling, printing, marketing the charts by National Hydrographic Office including criteria for payment of royalties and commissions. The charts are also kept up-to-date after incorporating all corrections as promulgated by Notices to Mariners. As per the protocol, 25 copies each of following five charts produced by the Indian National Hydrographic Office (INHO) have been received by the Government of Seychelles from India in the year 2015 for undertaking sales and distribution.

Chart No.	Name
2085	Coetivy Island
2087	Port Victoria
2502	Western Approach to Mahe Island
2509	Assumption Island
2521	Aldabra Island

(b) The Seychelles government has agreed to accord the Chart Producer Nation status to India as per the recently signed MoU with India in March 2015. Accordingly the next survey areas are being identified to be surveyed with assistance from the Indian Navy leading to further production of charts and publications as necessary.

4. NEW PUBLICATIONS & UPDATES

New publications and updates including the latest Tide tables for Port Victoria as per the survey completed in December 2015 would be undertaken with assistance from the Government of India.

5. MSI (MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION)

Maritime Safety Information (MSI) consists of the promulgation of navigational and meteorological warnings, search and rescue information and other urgent safety-related information, including urgent information related to charts. There is currently no recognizable Maritime Safety Information (MSI) organization in the Seychelles. However, the Seychelles Maritime Safety Administration (SMSA) coordinates the task of promulgation of necessary warning, ensuring effective coordination with the other agencies including the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), Seychelles Petroleum Company Limited (SEYPEC), Seychelles Coast Guard (SCG), Seychelles Port Authority (SPA).

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7. CAPACITY BUILDING

7.1. Training Received and Needed

7.1.1 Training Received

- (a) One officer has undergone CAT 'A' course in India.
- (b) One SCG sailor underwent a basic hydrography course in Mozambique.
- (c) One SCG sailor underwent a course on basic introduction to multi-beam surveys.
- (d) Two personnel from SCG participated in a training exercise in Thailand for the regional multi-hazard early warning system for tsunami

7.1.1.1 Training Needed

Additional training requirements exist in following areas: -

- (a) Hydrographic Surveying Category 'A' and Category 'B' Courses.
- (b) Nautical Cartography (Paper Chart and ENC).
- (c) Hydrographic equipment maintenance.
- (d) On-job training for hydrographic surveys and chart production.

8. OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES

Seychelles Petroleum Company Ltd (SEPEC) and Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) are responsible for the oceanographic activities.

9. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Under the existing MoU on hydrography, a Joint Committee Meeting on the Hydrography between India and Seychelles is being planned to augment Seychelles Hydrographic capacity as follows:-

- (a) Prepare and regulate long-term program of hydrographic surveying and charting of Seychelles Waters.
- (b) Setting up of a minor Hydrographic Unit at Mahe with men and material capable to undertake minor surveys oriented towards urgent safety of navigation.
- (c) Explore and execute new fields of cooperation and training as part of capacity building.

10. CONCLUSION

The Government of Seychelles, following the Blue Economy model of sustainable development is committed to the progress of the country in the field of hydrography. All the maritime stake holders have shown immense coordination to ensure safety and security of the Seychelles EEZ and surrounding region. Towards this the Government of Seychelles is committed to undertake the following steps in near future:-

- (a) Re-establishment of the National Hydrographic Capability with international assistance including the setting up of a local Hydrographic department capable to undertake independent surveys of minor nature.
- (b) Setting up of necessary framework towards coordination of Hydrographic requirements of all the stake holders and dissemination of safety information. This would include constitution of the National Hydrographic Committee and National Maritime Safety Information infrastructure.