



**NATIONAL REPORT**  
**REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES**

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND ISLANDS HYDROGRAPHIC  
COMMISSION MEETING**

**Eden Island  
Seychelles**

**27 to 30 August 2018**

# **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 metres. The other 60 or so islands are of coralline origin and are typically flat and rise only a few meters above sea level. Seychelles has embarked on several claims on the outer continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles. This includes the joint management of 396,000 square kilometers of seabed and subsoil in the Mascarene region with the Republic of Mauritius as endorsed by the United Nations Commission on Limits of Continental Shelf in 2011. Additionally, Seychelles is also claiming an extended continental shelf in the northern area and a smaller portion near Aldabra Atoll. 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 Tourism, Civil Aviation, Ports and Marine 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 have been devolved to the Seychelles Coast Guard Hydrographic office. To date, due to lack of personnel and equipment no hydrographic survey is being conducted

Other organizations with a direct interest in hydrographic matters are the Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA), the Seychelles Meteorological Service (SMS) and the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) and the Survey Section of the Ministry of Habitat, Infrastructure and Land Transport (MHILT). The Centre for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) of MHILT on the other hand is assisting all partners and stake holders with regards to the storage and usage of hydrographic on GIS platform. This is also a good tool for data retrieval and sharing

Seychelles is in the process of reviving the Hydrographic Office with the assistance of the Indian Government under the MoU signed in March 2015.

### **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 harbours and designated sea areas around the islands as necessary.
- (c) Exchange of Hydrographic data for updating of charts of ports, harbours and EEZ.
- (d) Exchange of personnel for conduct of surveys.
- (e) Training of Seychellois personnel at the National Institute of Hydrography in Goa, 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, Mahe. Victoria having 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.

After the survey of the Port Victoria which 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 new surveys of the entire area.

The survey of Port Victoria and approaches undertaken by Indian Navy hydrography survey vessel Darshak from 05 Nov - 18 Dec 2015 added an update with regards to hydrographic data. There are still other areas that needs to be covered in port area.

## 2.2. Existing Charts and details of Surveys

### UKHO charts BA Chart

	<b>UKHO Chart BA Chart</b>	<b>Area covered</b>	<b>Title Year of Chart Publication</b>
a	721	Southern Approaches to the Seychelles Group	10 Aug 1990
b	722	Mahe – Port Victoria and Approaches	Ed4 - 15 Jan 2009
c	724	Anchorage in the Seychelles Group and Outlying Islands	Ed4 - 31 Jul 2008
d	740	The Seychelles Group	Ed3 - 8 May 2003
e	742	Seychelles Group – Mahe, Praslin and Adjacent Islands	Ed3 - 9 Jun 2011

### Indian Naval Hydrographic Department Charts

- 2085 Coetivy Island - Scale: 37,500 - Published: 31 May 2007
- 2087 Port Victoria - Scale: 7,500 - Published: 30 Apr 2007
- 2502 Western Approaches to Mahe Island - Scale: 37,500 - Published: 28 Feb 2009
- 2509 Assumption Island - Scale: 25,000 and 7,500 - Published: 31 Mar 2012
- 2521 Aldabra island –scale:1:15 000 –polished: 30 Jun 2015

## 3. THE SEYCHELLES HYDROGRAPHIC COMMITTEE

A National Hydrographic Committee was set up in 2017 to look at all hydrographic aspects and setting national charting and surveying priorities. In this way, the stakeholders are in a position to assist in the continuing maintenance of the charts, longer term planning and perhaps also to the programme budget. The National Hydrographic Committee included representatives from all relevant stakeholders sectors including, shipping, environmental protection, survey and mapping, marine exploration, resource exploitation–minerals, fishing, maritime boundary delimitation (UNCLOS), maritime transport, maritime defence and border security. All hydrographic stakeholders need to be involved in contributing to the Seychelles national hydrographic program in one way or another to make the programme a success. One of the major tasks of the Committee will be to make an inventory on all hydrographic data in Seychelles and start creating a database on this matter.

#### **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. MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI)**

The Seychelles Maritime Safety Administration, (SMSA) is the regulatory and supervisory authority within the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Ports and Marine. Its primary objective is to provide and ensure that all mariners without exception use and enjoy our seas and other water bodies, in a safe and lawful manner. Its programmes, regulations and policies support a safe and efficient marine transportation system, and promotes sustainable marine practices so as to ensure to the protection and preservation of our marine eco systems.

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 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), and Seychelles Port Authority (SPA).

#### **6. C-55**

Hydrographic Surveying - Needs to be updated  
Nautical Charting - Needs to be updated  
Maritime Safety Information – SMSA is taking the lead

#### **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 officer has undergone CAT 'A' course in Japan.
- (c) One SCG sailor undergone CAT 'B' course in the Netherlands.
- (d) One SCG sailor underwent a basic hydrography course in Mozambique.
- (e) One SCG sailor has undergone Basic 'Q' course in India.
- (f) Two personnel from SCG participated in a training exercise in Thailand for the regional multi-hazard early warning system for tsunami

### 7.1.2 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.
- (e) Creation of a Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI)<sup>1</sup>
- (f) The Centre for Geographic Information Services (GIS) has will be embarking on a project aiming to create our National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). Given that this is new to us, two members of staff from the Centre for GIS have been nominated for short term training on NSDI. Seychelles equally need to create the MSDI.
- (g) National Oil Spill Contingency Planning and Oil Spill Sensitivity Atlas

## 8 OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES

- Acquisition of new bathymetric data on the northern area of the Seychelles.
- Marine Spatial Planning<sup>2</sup>
- Maritime Boundary Delimitation<sup>3</sup>

## 9 OTHER ACTIVITIES

A meeting for the Indo-Seychelles Joint Committee on Hydrography Co-operation held on 14 and 15 June 2018. The meeting has described as a very fruitful and successful one where pertinent issues were discussed and a way forward has been agreed for future interactions and proceedings.

Youth internship on Blue Economy<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> MSDI is the component of an SDI that encompasses marine geographic and business information in its widest sense. This would typically include seabed topography (bathymetry), geology, marine infrastructure (e.g. wrecks, offshore installations, pipelines and cables), administrative and legal boundaries, and areas of conservation, marine habitats and oceanography. (source: [https://www.iho.int/iho\\_pubs/CB/C-17\\_e1.1.0\\_2011\\_EN.pdf](https://www.iho.int/iho_pubs/CB/C-17_e1.1.0_2011_EN.pdf))

<sup>2</sup> The Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) Initiative is a process focused on planning for and management of the sustainable and long-term use and health of the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

<sup>3</sup> This is the management of the Joint Management Area (JMA) with Mauritius on the Mascarene Plateau. The finalization of the claim on the Seychelles Northern Plateau. Claim on the outer continental shelf in the Aldabra Region.

<sup>4</sup> To commemorate World Ocean Day, SYAH-Seychelles has launched the second edition of the Prosperity & Environment: Blue Economy Internship programme. Supported by Thai Union, SCAA and the Government of Seychelles, 40 young people will be offered the opportunity to obtain hands on experience of working in organisations related to

## 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 as well as other marine activities. All these needs to be in harmony with our environment and embrace a sustainable approach. The Seychelles' vast maritime extent provides a great opportunity for our citizens who have lived with his ocean livelihood for many decades. This 'blue' opportunity will be a key sector to drive our economy and bring in tremendous benefits.

All the maritime stakeholders have shown immense enthusiasm to ensure safety and security of the Seychelles EEZ and its surrounding. The Government of Seychelles is committed to undertake the necessary measures to facilitate activities on our oceans for years to come

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the Blue Economy. SYAH – Seychelles seeks to revolutionise the career guidance provided from one of talks or what is seen in movies to real life experience in the field and advice from people working in such fields.

The programme provides young people with the opportunity to get hands on experience in different organisations for 2 weeks in the Seychelles