LEVERAGING NEW TECHNOLOGIES’ IMPACT THROUGH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT
SEYCHELLES CONTEXT

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OUTLINE

- Seychelles at a glance
- Seychelles Inherent Factors
- How can TA help Seychelles to enhance opportunities and minimize the risks associated with new and frontier technologies for sustainable development?
- What is Seychelles doing with regards to TA?
- TA Stakeholders’ workshop outcomes
- Where are we in the process?
- Challenges faced so far.
- Conclusions
The Republic of Seychelles lies northeast of Madagascar, an archipelago of 115 islands with almost 98,000 citizens, three-quarters of whom live on the main island of Mahé.

Seychelles has the highest gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in Africa, at $12.3 billion (2020).

It is highly dependent on tourism and fisheries, and climate change poses long-term sustainability risks.

The economic and social shock from COVID-19 on the Seychelles is severe.

Economic growth declined significantly in 2020 to -12.9% from 1.9% in 2019 due to the significant disruptions in economic activities, including lower tourism, which plummeted by more than 60%.

The fiscal deficit widened to 19.5% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020 because of lower revenues and higher COVID-19-related spending.

While the immediate priority is containing COVID-19 and recovery from its economic and social impact on the country, a focus on longer term structural issues is also warranted for a strong and resilient recovery.
INHERENT RISK FACTORS

- Economic and Social Vulnerability
- Biodiversity and Environmental Vulnerability
- Energy Security Challenges
- Food Security Challenges
- Insularity factors
- Demographic Challenges
HOW CAN TA HELP SEYCHELLES TO ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES AND MINIMIZE THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH NEW AND FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

- The sustainability of the high-income status in the backdrop of global volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity remains the greatest challenge for Seychelles as a SIDS;

- Coupled with the above are the inherent risk factors, mentioned in the previous slide;

- Resorting to the new and frontiers technologies is a **MUST** for sustainable development;

- However, the transfer of technologies in the priority economic sectors (Agriculture and Energy) without Technology Assessment tool kit remains a risky undertaking; and

- The limitation of Case Studies on TA in SIDS further enhance the need for collaboration with experts in this discipline.
WHAT IS SEYCHELLES DOING WITH REGARDS TO TA?

- TA has never been undertaken in Seychelles.
- However, a Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) was undertaken the first time in the Energy Sector in 2017 with the assistance of UNEP;
- The outcomes of the TNA exercise helped Seychelles in developing policy and strategy for Seychelles Energy Transition (The Seychelles Energy Policy 2010 - 2030);
- Recently UNCTAD is working with Seychelles on a two-year TA exercise in: Agriculture and Energy; and
- The first stakeholders' workshop was successfully completed with the objectives:
  - To understand better the concept of TA and the methodology to be used in the project;
  - To identify gaps in TA, especially in the Agriculture and Energy sectors;
  - To determine the priority areas for TA to be investigated under the project; and
  - To develop a work plan for the project
TA STAKEHOLDERS’ WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

- A summary of the workshop discussions.
- List of key stakeholders to participate in the TA project.
- List of TA priority areas/technologies in the agriculture and energy sectors.
- Selection of the priority sector to focus on in the TA project.
- Timelines for next activities of the TA project.
WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS?

- First stakeholders workshop held in March 2022;
- Worked with UNCTAD to develop the roadmap;
- Selection and appointment of the TA Steering Committee (SC);
- First TA Steering Committee to endorse the Terms of Reference;
- Selection of the Experts Group (EG); and
- Endorsement of the EG by the SC.
CHALLENGES FACED SO FAR

- A delay in keeping at pace with the milestones as set in the roadmap due to:
  - Organizational power structure;
  - Due to the above, the decision-making process to support the TA is slow as a result of bureaucratic hurdles and delays;
  - The selection of the SC members is challenged to demographic factors; a narrow pool of adequate human resources;
  - Equally so for the EG;
  - Institutional-arrangement-fit to support the project; and
  - The lack of awareness at the higher political leadership to support the project.
CONCLUSIONS

- In no doubt that TA can greatly benefit Seychelles to reduce the risks associated with transfer of Frontier Technologies in its Transformative Economic Agenda to build a sustainable and resilient economy beyond the Covid-19 pandemic;
- However, there is a need for institutional arrangement realignment to enhance the effectiveness of the lead organization (DSTI) on the project; and
- Provided the above is taken care of, the project can be delivered as per the roadmap.
THANK YOU