

SEYCHELLES

Global FDI
R E P O R T S

BUSINESS FEATURE

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Seychelles: A gateway to Africa



OVERVIEW



Photo: President's Office Seychelles

Seychelles and UAE deepen trade and investment ties

Energy, tourism and infrastructure development form the backbone of a flourishing bilateral relationship.

When Dr Patrick Herminie was sworn in as president of Seychelles in October 2025, his first international mission was telling. In December of that year, at the invitation of UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Herminie travelled to Abu Dhabi for a meeting where both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the longstanding collaboration between the two nations. For the Seychelles' new president, the choice of destination was both a pragmatic one, to enable the two leaders to build a personal connection, and a statement of intent.

“OUR VISION IS CLEAR: A SEYCHELLES THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE, NOT JUST FOR A FEW.”

DR. PATRICK HERMINIE,
PRESIDENT OF SEYCHELLES

The meeting focused on the sectors that define the relationship: infrastructure, energy, health, education and maritime security, built up over decades of Emirati support for the islands' development. Herminie used the opportunity to

convey Seychelles' "profound appreciation and gratitude" for the UAE's partnership, while both sides described the talks as opening a new chapter in bilateral relations, pledging to advance cooperation to new heights.

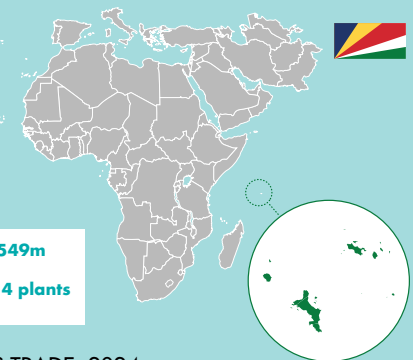
That reflects a relationship that has deepened across multiple spheres. Since 1979, the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) has provided close to AED549 million in development financing across the islands, spanning sectors including energy, infrastructure, housing and health. A key example comes in energy, where Masdar partnered with Seychelles' Public Utilities Corporation on the Ile de Romainville Solar Park, a 5MW solar and battery-storage plant, completed with financing from ADFD. Port Victoria wind farm, Masdar's first project in Seychelles, is predominantly located on the same island.

Emirati investors have also targeted sectors including high-end tourism, real estate and logistics. But the relationship extends beyond capital, too. The UAE has previously funded scholarships for Seychellois students to pursue university study in the Emirates, in fields chosen to match the country's own workforce priorities – representative of the human

SEYCHELLES 2026

KEY FACTS

Capital: **Victoria**
Population: **122,730** (2025)
Area: **455 km²**
Currency: **Seychellois rupee (SCR)**



UAE-SEYCHELLES TIES

ADFD financing since 1979: **AED 549m**
ADFD projects: **14**
UAE-backed desalination projects: **4 plants under way**

UAE-SEYCHELLES GOODS TRADE, 2024

Bilateral goods trade	\$809m
Imports from UAE	\$531m
Exports to UAE	\$278m

Visitor arrivals growth  **13%** (2025) | GDP per capita **\$19,449** (2025)

Number of islands: **115**
Exclusive economic zone: **1.4m km²**
Main island: **Mahé**
Key economic sectors: **tourism, fisheries, financial services**

Inner islands: **43**
Outer islands: **72**

Sources: World Bank, ADFD, Masdar, IMF, Reuters, State House Seychelles, Emirates