

**COUNTRY INFORMATION NOTE
FOR PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING THE
MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP ON THE LONG-
TERM TOURISM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN AFRICA
(AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063)**

SEYCHELLES, 13-14 MARCH 2014

Welcome

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Tourism and Culture welcome you to the Seychelles Islands. The aim of this information brochure is to help you make your preparation and stay in Seychelles a pleasant one. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Michelle Murray or Mrs Anne Lafortune. Their contact details are as follows:

Mrs. Anne Lafortune:
Principal Secretary
Ministry of Tourism and Culture
Republic of Seychelles
Tel: +248 4323 1333
Fax: +248 432 5524
Email: alafortune@gov.sc

Ms. Michelle Murray:
Director-General (International Relations Division)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Seychelles
Tel: + 248 428 3602
Fax: +248 4224845
E-mail: MMurray@mfa.gov.sc

Venue for the meeting

The Meeting of the Ministerial Working Group on the Long –term Tourism Development Strategy in Africa (African Union Agenda 2063) will take place at the Kempinski resort, Mahé, Seychelles from 13th to 14 March 2014.

The address of the conference venue is as follows:

Kempinski Seychelles Resort
Baie La Zare
P O Box 1356
Victoria, Mahe
<http://www.kempinski.com>

Invitation letters for the conference are being sent by the African Union Commission and the programme of the conference will also be circulated.

On the day of the conference, all delegates are requested to register at the information desk of the Kempinski conference venue and identity badges will be issued upon registration. Participants are requested to wear their badges at all times.

Health Breaks and Buffet lunch will be provided during the two days of the conference.

Travel Details

All participants attending the Conference will have to fund and make their own travel arrangements.

Participants are to inform the focal person below of their flight schedules in order to ensure transfers to/from the airport.

Ms. Lindy Ernesta
First Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Seychelles
Tel: +248 4283508
Fax: +248 4224845
Email: lernesta@mfa.gov.sc

Transfers to/from the airport will be provided as of March 10th 2014 until the 16th of March 2014.

Should you NOT be able to attend the conference or if there are any changes in your arrival dates/departure date, please inform the contact person above as early as possible?

Visa Arrangements

Irrespective of the nationality of the visitor there are NO VISA requirements to enter Seychelles. However, the following documents must be shown in order to obtain immigration clearance at the Seychelles International Airport.

- 1) A passport valid on the date of entry and exit from the Seychelles;
- 2) Return or onward ticket;
- 3) Proof of accommodation; including contact details;
- 4) Sufficient funds for the duration of the stay.

Presentation of all the above documents will grant you a 'Visitor's Permit' that will be issued upon arrival by the Seychelles Department of Immigration. The visitors permit is initially valid for the period of visit of up to one month. It can be extended for a period of up to 3 months from the date of issue.

An information desk for the above mentioned meeting will be set up at the airport terminal to facilitate the arrival/departure of participants attending the conference.

Customs Formalities

The duty free allowance for all liquors (including wine, beer, stout, ale and port) perfumes and tobacco is:

- 200 cigarettes or 250g of tobacco
- 2 litres of Spirits and 2 litres of wine
- 200ml of Perfume or Eau de Toilette

All personal possessions intended to be re-exported on departure are exempt from tax. In addition to the duty free allowances listed above, each visitor may import tax-free a video camera, other camera, musical instrument, portable electronic or electric equipment, sports requisites and other leisure equipment.

Offensive weapons such as stun guns, mace, bows and arrows, knuckle dusters, daggers, swords, tear gas, whips, firearms and ammunition are prohibited imports unless the appropriate import permit or official authorization has been obtained in advance from the relevant authorities.

This also applies to spear guns, fireworks, pyrotechnic products and explosives of any kind. Pornography in the form of obscene articles, publications, video tapes and software is strictly forbidden.

The import of plants and parts of plants, animals and animal products, biological specimens, radioactive substances and apparatus, dangerous drugs, chemicals, medicines, pharmaceutical items and poisons is forbidden without the necessary import permit or official authorization having been obtained in advance from the relevant authorities.

Airport transfers

On arrival at the airport, participants are invited to present themselves at the designated immigration desk reserved for participants attending the meeting and then through customs. There will also be a Seychelles Tourism Board (STB) desk inside the airport for added support.

Once outside the arrival building, a representative from the Seychelles Tourism Board (STB) and the driver will be waiting with a sign board/name plate to organize the transfers of the participants.

All participants that have confirmed their attendance with the contact persons will be greeted at the airport. Based on the flight information we receive in advance, transfers to the airport on the day of departure will be provided to the participants depending on the hotels where they will be staying.

Hotel Arrangements

The Government of Seychelles will cover the accommodation for three nights for the Heads of delegations of the 15 countries participating in the conference.

Other participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel reservations.

These delegates are being asked to liaise directly with the hotel for their reservations. We have pre-reserved rooms with a special rate from the Kempinski Resort as indicated below and to benefit from this special rate participants are invited to indicate to the reservation desk the title of the conference they will be attending. The person to contact at Kempinski Resort is:

Constance Lyners (Assistant Director of Sales)

Kempinski Seychelles Resort

Baie Lazare

P O Box 1356

Tel : +248 4386 638

Fax : +248 438 6699

Constance.lyners@kempinski.com

The special rates are listed below:

Category-Hill View

EUR 310 single room per night on B/B basis.

EURO 340 per Double room, per night on B/B basis

Category –Beachside or Sea View

EUR 340 Single room, per night on B/B basis

EUR 370 per Double room, per night on B/B basis

This rate is only available to bookings confirmed and paid by 22 February 2014**Additional Rooms****Category –Hill View**

EURO 335 Single room, per night on B/B basis

EURO 365 per Double room, per night on B/B basis

Category –Beachside or sea view

EURO 365 Single room, per night on B/B basis

EURO 395 per Double room, per night on B/B basis

This rate is only available to bookings confirmed and paid by 9th March 2014. Any requests after the 9th March 2014 are subject to availability and a rate increase.Other OptionsBelow is a list of recommended hotels/Self-Catering/Guests houses close to Kempinski

<u>Establishment</u>	<u>License type</u>	<u>rates</u>	<u>address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Anse Soleil Resort	Self-Catering	€92	Baie Lazare	(+248) 4361090	www.ansesoleile.sc soleil@seychelles.net
Blue Lagoon	Self-Catering	€85-135	Anse La Mouche	(+248) 4371197	www.seychelles.net/bluelagoon blagoon@seychelles.net
Brise de Mer Villas	Self-Catering	€180-250	Anse La Mouche	(+248) 2746359	erade@hotmail.com
Chez Augustine	Self-Catering	€80	Anse La Mouche	(+248)2515007/2525555	Gerald.didon@cwsseychelles.com
Coco de Mer Villa	Self-Catering	€70	Anse La Mouche	(+248) 2510336/2710674	
Evergreen Apartments	Self-Catering	€70	Anse La Mouche	(+248) 4371465/2525622	celinefrancis@hotmail.com www.evergreenseychelles.com
Holiday Home	Self-Catering	€85-140	Dame Le Roi	(+248) 25 73 651	
La Maison	Self-	€110	Anse La	(+248) 2513838	

<u>Establishment</u>	<u>License type</u>	<u>rates</u>	<u>address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
D'en Bas	Catering		Mouche		
La Residence	Self-Catering	€70-90	Anse La Mouche	(+248) 4371733/4410529	www.residence-seychelles.com villa
Lazare Lodge	Guest House	€80-110	Anse Gouvernement	(+248) 4633006/2719647/4361915	www.lazarelodge.com lazare@intelvision.net
Lazare Picault	Small hotel	€145-250	Baie Lazare	(+248) 4361111/4361342/2510109	www.lazarepicaulthotel.com lazarpc@seychelles.net
Le Jardin Des Palmes	Small hotel	€208-244	Anse La Mouche	(+248) 4389100/2796690	jardindespalmes@email.sc www.jardindespalmes-seychelles.com
L'Oasi Self Catering	Self-Catering	€70-100	Anse La Mouche	(+248)2512218	mjrivolta@hotmail.com
Orchid Home	Self-Catering	€50	Anse La Mouche	(+248) 2716682/4371734	Orchidselfcatering2011@gmail.com ljhoareau@yahoo.com
Pebbles Cove	Self-Catering	€450-800	Anse Gouvernement	(+248)2716717/4226245	
Sailfish Beach Villas	Self-Catering	€100-125	Anse La Mouche	(+248)4355404/2579654	www.sailfishvillas.weebly.com Gisele@seychelles.net
Val Mer Resort	Small Hotel	€138-283	Baie La Zare	(+248)4381555/2515130	www.valmerresort.com valmer@seychelles.net
Villa Bamboo	Guest House	€150-160	Anse La Mouche	(+248) 4371177	www.TrauminselRosen.de info@TrauminselRosen.de

We have also negotiated preferential accommodation rates for participants attending the Conference at four nearby hotels. They are **Constance Ephia Resort, La Zare Picault Hotel, Val Mer Resort and Le Jardin des Palmes**. Participants are asked to book their reservations directly with those hotels.

1) Constance Ephia Resort:

Junior Suite:

01 Single Junior suite on bed and breakfast basis EURO 383 per night

01 Single Junior suite on half board basis EURO 425 per night

Senior suite:

01 Single Senior suite on bed and breakfast basis EURO 489 per night

01 Single Senior suite on half board basis EURO 532 per night

All above given rates are per suite per night, including either breakfast or half board, service and tax

Payments: upon receipt of confirmation, 50% deposit is required to secure your accommodation, the remaining balance to be paid upon arrival. This deposit can be settled by credit card or bank transfer.

Person to contact:

Priscilla Obeegadoo

Senior Reservations Consultant

Tel: +(230) 4022773/90/71/77

Fax: +(230)4022616

Email: resaworld@constancehotels.com

Website: <http://www.constancehotels.com>

2) Lazare Picault Hotel

A special rate of EURO 125 on bed and breakfast is being offered

Contact details:

Lazare Picault

Baie Lazare

Tel: +(248) 2510109

Email: lazarpc@seychelles.net

www.lazarepicaulthotel.com

Preferential rates for Val Mer Resort and Le Jardin des Palmes will be communicated Later.

Please note that **shuttle bus services** to and from the Kempinski Conference Venue will be made available from **only those four** designated hotels. The shuttle service will only provide one trip in the morning and one in the evening.

Languages

Seychelles has 3 official languages; Creole, English and French.

Translation services will be provided at the Conference by the AU Secretariat in the three working languages of the conference; English, French and Portuguese.

Internet Services

Wireless internet connection will be available for all participants at the conference venue for the two days of the meeting.

Other Information about Seychelles

Weather and time zone

Seychelles enjoys a mild tropical maritime climate throughout the year. The country has two seasons: a warm humid summer extending from November to April and a relatively cool dry winter from June to September. There is relatively little seasonal variation in temperature (27 to 32 degrees celcius). The weather is generally pleasant and sunny. Seychelles is 4 hours ahead of GMT, 3 hours ahead of British summer time and 2 hours ahead of European summer time. Visitors may enjoy almost 12 hours of daylight throughout the year with sunrise occurring just after 6am and sunset around 6:30 pm.

Electricity and Water Supply

Throughout Seychelles the voltage is 220-240 volts AC 50 Hz. Seychelles uses the British standard square three-pin, 13 amp sharp electric plug. Visitors from countries other than the United Kingdom are advised to bring their own adaptors.

Tap water meets W.H.O. (World Health Organization) specifications and is safe to drink nation-wide. Because tap water is chlorinated, visitors are advised to drink bottled water but there is no imperative to avoid soft drinks, alcoholic drinks and ice.

Money (Currency)

The local currency is the Seychelles Rupee (SCR) which is divided into 100 cents. Coins come in 5, 10, 25 cents, and 1 and 5 Rupee denominations. Notes come in 10, 25, 50, 100 and 500 Rupee denominations.

Banking hours are generally Monday-Friday 8 am to 2pm, and Saturday 8am to 11am. All banks process traveller's cheques and foreign exchange transactions. Passports are required for visitors' transactions and nominal commissions may be charged.

ATM facilities exist at major banks on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue and at the airport on Mahé and Praslin. Please note that these provide cash in local currency.

Exchange rates of the EURO and the Dollar as at 20 February 2014:

	Buy (Notes) (SCR)	Sell (SCR)
Euro 1	16.30	17.00
US Dollar 1	11.90	12.40

Credit cards

MasterCard, Access and Visa cards are widely accepted while Diners Club and American Express cards are less accepted.

Health requirements

Health requirements for visiting in Seychelles are minimal. You will be asked to fill a small section on the arrival form that will be handed over at the airport immigration desk.

There is no yellow fever in Seychelles and as a precaution, a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travelers over 1 year of age who come from or who have passed through a partly or wholly infected area within the preceding 6 days.

There is NO risk of contracting malaria in Seychelles given that the anopheles mosquito does not exist in Seychelles.

For additional health information you may link to the Ministry of Health website:- <http://www.health.gov.sc/>. Medical care is available and all the health care providers speak either English or French. Tap water in the Seychelles is of the highest quality and can be consumed safely.

Clothing

Light clothing suitable for Seychelles' warm tropical climate is recommended and visitors should prepare themselves for the relatively hot, humid atmosphere.

Suits are not compulsory for meetings but long sleeve shirt and tie is recommended for formal occasions (opening and closing of the meeting and cocktail reception).