

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

Contracting Party	REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES
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Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	John Nevill
Date of submission:	28/09/00

Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report

The questionnaire was circulated to a wide range of stakeholders – Government agencies, private sector and NGO's – related to the subject of Invasive Species and /or Biodiversity Management.

A meeting was subsequently held to complete the questionnaire and provide additional comments.

The draft report was then circulated to stakeholders for comments and amendment prior to submission to the CBD Secretariat.

Information held by these agencies was hence utilised to prepare the report.

Organisations invited to contribute:

Government:

- Forestry Section, Division of Environment
- Conservation Section, Division of Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Port and Marine Services Division
- Veterinary Department
- Customs (Immigration)
- Seychelles Fishing Authority

Private Sector:

- Denis Island Management
- Bird Island Management
- Fregate Island Ltd. Management
- North Island Representative
- Cousine Island Management
- Island Development Company

NGOs:

- Royal Society for Nature Conservation (Aride Island Special Reserve)
- Birdlife Seychelles
- Seychelles Island Foundation
- Marine Conservation Society Seychelles
- Nature Protection Trust Seychelles
- Seychelles Bird Record Committee

Article 8h Alien species

1. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
2. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
				d) Severely limiting	

3. Has your country identified alien species introduced?	
a) no	
b) only major species of concern	X
c) a comprehensive system tracks introductions	
4. Has your country developed national policies for addressing issues related to alien invasive species?	
a) no	X
b) yes – as part of a national biodiversity strategy (please give details below)	
c) yes – as a separate strategy (please give details below)	
5. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) no	X
b) only some alien species of concern have been assessed	
c) most alien species have been assessed	
6. Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

Decision IV/1 Report and recommendations of the third meeting of SBSTTA

7. Is your country collaborating in the development of projects at national, regional, sub-regional and international levels to address the issue of alien species?	
a) little or no action	
b) discussion on potential projects under way	
c) active development of new projects	X

8. Does your national strategy and action plan address the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	

Case-studies

9. Has your country submitted case-studies on the prevention of introduction, control, and eradication of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, in response to the call by the fourth meeting of SBSTTA?	
a) no – please indicate below whether this is due to a lack of available case-studies or for other reasons	
b) yes – please give below any views you may have on the usefulness of the preparation of case-studies for developing a better biological understanding of the problem and/or better management responses.	X
10. How many case-studies are available that could be used to gain a better understanding of the issues surrounding alien species in your country?	
a) none	
b) 1-2 – limited understanding	X
c) >2 – significant information available	

Transboundary issues

11. Are known alien invasive species in your country also a problem in neighbouring or biogeographically-similar countries?	
a) not known	
b) none	
c) a few – but in general alien invasive species problems are specific	
d) more than a few - in general we share common problems with other countries	X
12. Is your country collaborating in the development of policies and programmes at regional, sub-regional or international levels to harmonise measures for prevention and control of alien invasive species?	
a) little or no action	
b) discussion on potential collaboration underway	X
c) development of collaborative approaches for a limited number of species	X
d) consistent approach and strategy used for all common problems	

Further comments

COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE RESPECTIVE QUESTIONS:

- Q1. Alien Species are accepted as posing a primary threat to Seychelles' biodiversity and the economic impacts are also clearly recognised.
- Q2. Seychelles as a Small Island Developing State and as a country with economy in transition faces all the limitations typical to such groupings. This coupled with the simple logistics of administering 115 islands spread over 1.3 million km² of EEZ ensures that funds will be limiting.
- Q3. Only species of major biodiversity/economic concern have been focused upon and mitigated against. A database however is in the process of being developed.
- Q4. Seychelles, as yet, has no integrated national policy at this time though various agencies address the issue within their own roles and activities (ie. Port Authority, Department of Immigration, Ministries of Agriculture and Environment).
- Q5. Assessment has taken place on various invasive species as part of some endemic species recovery plans and in the management of some protected areas.
- Q6. In recent years programmes have been undertaken to eradicate various species:

rattus rattus	3 islands
rattus norvegicus	1 island
cats	4 islands
mice	3 islands
goats	several islands
pigs	several islands
chickens	several islands

and there are ongoing control and mitigation programmes for numerous animal and plant species such as vines and creepers e.g. Philodendron (Philodendron bipinnatifidum), Barn owls (Tyto alba affinis), Indian mynah bird (Acridotheres tristis), Takamaka wilt disease (Verticillium calophylli), water lettuce (Pistia stratiotes).

Legislation exists notably the Animals (Diseases and import) Act 1981 (Amended 1999) and the Plant Protection Act 1996, but these may need review to be incorporated in an overarching National mechanism to address National Biodiversity Conservation needs.

- Q7. Seychelles has and is collaborating on National, Regional and International programmes.
- E.g: FAO/EU project on fruitflies.
 Kew Gardens -Takamaka Wilt Disease.
 Vines and Creepers - International Cooperation
 Rat Eradications – Dutch and NZ Governments.
- Q8. More extensive programmes than included in NBSAP have already been undertaken and one proposed utilising Biocontrol has subsequently been rejected.
- Q9. The preparation of case studies has helped elucidate the process and actions and scope for improvement in these
- Q11. Seychelles of course shares many problem species with other small tropical island States.
- Q12. Seychelles is placing considerable emphasis on and will be participating in the development of the Global Invasive Species Programme.