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Where can I find information on investing in Seychelles?

Information on investing in Seychelles can be obtained from the Seychelles Investment Board (SIB), which provides guidance on investment procedures, licensing requirements, and priority sectors. For more information, please consult the **IGuide Seychelles (Investment Guide to Seychelles)** and **Invest in Seychelles - Where to Invest**

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FAQ

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Where can I find information on Trade in Services Agreements?

Go to the drop-down menu on the portal click “Resources” and click “Seychelles Trade Agreements”. Or click on the link: **Seychelles trade agreements – Seychelles Trade Portal.** This section contains the Trade Agreements that Seychelles is party to including at the Multilateral, Regional and Bilateral level.

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How can I obtain information on Seychelles' commitments under trade agreements?

Stakeholders can visit the Trade Information Promotion Center (TIPC) found at the Trade Division on the 2nd Floor of Maison Esplanade.

Refer to the link for the schedule of specific commitments for trade in Services **- Microsoft Word - 5266_D_01.doc.** the Schedule of concession for trade in goods can be found at: **https://goods-schedules.wto.org/member/seychelles.**

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FAQ

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What is the more favourable treatment that Seychelles may offer to one WTO member or to a non-WTO member and not extend the same to another WTO member?

The more favourable treatment that Seychelles may offer is found in EL153 that is the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) exemption list for any of the committed service sector through any bilateral investment agreement that may offer more favourable treatment to non-WTO members and to WTO members.

Refer to the link for EL 153- **Microsoft Word - 5267_D_01.doc**

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Can Seychelles' service providers benefit from preferential treatment in Regional Agreements?

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Yes. Under certain trade agreements, such as SADC protocols or other bilateral agreements, Seychellois service suppliers may receive preferential treatment in host countries, such as simplified procedures, subject to the specific commitments in each agreement.

FAQ

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What are the Reserved Economic Activities?

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Reserved economic activities are business sectors or services that are exclusively reserved for Seychellois nationals or companies. These reserved economic activities can be found at **https://investinseychelles.com/downloads/tourism-documents/reserved-economic-activities-policy-reap-_april-2020/download**.

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Which economic activities can a foreigner invest in?

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Information on the sectors in which foreigners can invest may also be found in the first and second schedule of the Seychelles Investment (Economic Activities) Regulations 2022. For further details, visit **https://investinseychelles.com/downloads/tourism-documents/si-76-2022-seychelles-investment-economic-activities-regulations-2022-2/download**

FAQ

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How do I export Services?

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Exporting to the African region and the African Continent
Seychelles Services export guide for the African continent can be found at :**https://www.tradeportal.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/AfCFTA-Trade-in-Services-Export-Guide.pdf**

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Exporting to the rest of the world?

To understand the commitments of market access of the rest of the world, please search for the specific country here: **https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/serv_e/serv_commitments_e.htm** and review their commitments. For more assistance, please contact the Trade Division.

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Where can I find basic information on the procedures to follow if I want to export my goods or import goods into Seychelles?

For Import:

Go to the Seychelles Trade Portal, click on importing to Seychelles or click here **import guide – Seychelles Trade Portal** where you will find the following basic information:

i. Customs requirements on imported goods and taxes
ii. Customs Duty
iii. Import documentation
iv. Exemption list
v. Seychelles Export Guide

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In the Seychelles Import Guide - **https://www.tradeportal.sc/import-guide/,** you can find basic information that will assist you in effectively understanding the process, providing a step-by-step procedure on how to carry out the different transactions required to import goods into the Seychelles.

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For Export:

Go to the Seychelles Trade Portal, click on export from Seychelles or click here: https://www.tradeportal.sc/seychelles-export-procedures/ where you will find basic information on the following:

i. Export declaration
ii. Registered Export System – Export to EU
iii. Export Guide for Trade in Services in Africa
iv. Commercial Invoice
v. Information to be declared on the invoice
vi. Seychelles Export Guide

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In the Seychelles Export Guide - **https://www.tradeportal.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Final-Draft-Export-Guide-2024.pdf** you will find basic information that will assist you in effectively understanding the process. It provides step-by-step procedures on how to carry out the different transactions required to export goods from the Seychelles.

i. **Seychelles export procedures – Seychelles Trade Portal** or **https://www.tradeportal.sc/seychelles-export-procedures/**

In addition, for information on importing and exporting under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), please visit and consult the **Step-by-Step Guide for Trading Goods under the AfCFTA** or **https://www.tradeportal.sc/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Seychelles-Step-by-Step-Guide-to-Trade-Goods-Under-The-AfCFTA.pdf**

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Where can I find information about the products whose importation in Seychelles or exportation from Seychelles is prohibited or restricted?

Please refer to:

- https://www.tradeportal.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/SI-87-Customs-Management-Prohibited-and-Restricted-Goods-Regulations-2023.pdf
- https://tradeportal.sc/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/SI-67-2014-Customs-Management-Export-Permit-Regulations-2014.pdf

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FAQ

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What do you know about Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) and Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs)?

Non-tariff measures (NTMs) are policy measures other than ordinary customs tariffs that can potentially have an economic effect on international trade in goods, changing quantities traded, prices, or both. They include technical regulations (like safety standards) and non-technical measures (like quotas or subsidies) imposed by governments to regulate trade. The most common types of NTMs are:

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Technical Measures:

- Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT): Regulations covering product quality, labeling, packaging, and technical specifications.
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures: Food safety, animal, and plant health standards applied to ensure products are safe for consumers.

Non-Technical Measures:

- Import Licensing: Administrative procedures requiring a submission of an application or other documentation to a relevant body as a prior condition for importation.
- Quotas: Direct restrictions on the quantity or value of goods that can be imported or exported during a specified time.

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- Price Control Measures: Regulations aimed at controlling or influencing the price of imported goods, such as minimum import prices or additional charges.

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Other Common NTMs:

- Export Measures: Restrictions on exports, including taxes, quotas, or prohibitions, often used by countries to control domestic supply.
- Contingent Trade Protective Measures: Actions like anti-dumping duties or countervailing measures implemented to protect domestic industries from "unfair" import practices.

- Pre-shipment Inspection: Requirements for checking the quality, quantity, or price of goods before shipment.

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Are NTMs Always Bad?

Not necessarily.

As these measure can be in place for legitimate purposes such as to:

1. Protect health and safety
2. Protect the environment
3. Ensure product quality
4. Public safety

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Can become problematic when:

1. They are unnecessarily strict
2. They discriminate against foreign goods
3. They are used as hidden protectionism

And therefore, be become a Non-Tariff Barrier (NTB).

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Where can I get more information on the different NTMs classification?

The International NTM Classification Booklet can be downloaded through the following link **https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditctab20122_en.pdf**

The booklet is also available on the Regional NTB Online Reporting Mechanism.

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How do I report a Non-Tariff Barrier (NTB) encountered?

If you encounter an NTB when trading with Seychelles—whether as an exporter to Seychelles or an importer from Seychelles—there is a structured way to address it effectively.

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If you encounter an NTB when trading with Seychelles—whether as an exporter to Seychelles or an importer from Seychelles—there is a structured way to address it effectively.

Step One:

Identify and document the NTB encountered, starting by clearly defining the problem:

i.What type of barrier is it? (Technical regulations (standards, labeling, certification), Sanitary/Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Licensing or quotas, Customs delays or administrative procedures, etc.,)

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Gather evidence: Correspondence with authorities, Shipment details (invoice, bill of lading), Dates and costs incurred and description of how the barrier affects your trade.

Step Two:

Option 1

Contact the Seychelles National Focal Points for NTB as follows:

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Option 1

1.Public Sector
Trade Division
2nd Floor, Maison Esplanade
Victoria
vbrutus@finance.gov.sc
(+248) 4382160/4382000

2. Private Sector
Ms. Richelle Jean
Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry
H.I.S Industrial Estate, Providence
Tel +248 4323812
Fax +248 4321422
Email: Financial.Officer@scci.sc/ info@scci.sc

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Option 2

You can use the national and regional online NTB Reporting, Monitoring and Elimination Mechanisms to report the NTB.

1.Trade Obstacle Alert Mechanism (TOAM)

ITC

The Seychelles Trade Obstacle Alert Mechanism (TOAM) is a digital platform to help businesses report and resolve trade barriers. It connects traders directly with government agencies to address importing/exporting challenges, promoting a better business environment. Registration is free and accessible via the link: **https://www.tradeobstacles.org/seychelles/Home.aspx**

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1.Regional Economic Community Mechanisms:

Seychelles is part of regional trade blocs that have formal NTB reporting systems where you can submit your complaint and your complaint is tracked until resolution:

i. Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Eastern African Countries (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) online NTB Mechanism: **https://www.tradebarriers.org/**

ii. African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Online NTB Mechanism:
https://tradebarriers.africa/

FAQ

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What are the social media platforms that the Trade Division uses to share trade related information with the public?

FAQ

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What are the different online tools to get trade related information?

e-Tariff Book

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African Trade Observatory

Market Access Map

ITC

Trade Map

FAQ

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Where can I register Intellectual Property in Seychelles?

To register Intellectual Property individuals, one has to go to the Registration Division.
Contact Details:
Email Address: regip@registry.gov.sc

Phone Number: +248 4280912

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FAQ

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What is the Harmonised System for Classification?

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

The Harmonized System (HS) for classification is an internationally standardised system developed by the World Customs Organization for classifying traded goods. It provides a uniform coding structure used by customs authorities worldwide to identify products at the time of import and export. Each product is assigned a specific HS code, which determines applicable customs duties, taxes, trade statistics, and regulatory requirements.

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The HS is organised into sections, chapters, headings, and subheadings, allowing goods to be classified in a consistent and comparable way across countries. It is regularly updated to reflect changes in technology, trade patterns, and new products.

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What is the difference between Value Added Tax (VAT), Customs Duty, and Excise Tax?

VAT is a consumption tax charged on the value added at each stage of the supply chain, ultimately borne by the final consumer on most goods and services. It is applicable to both imported and locally produced goods and services at a standard rate of 15%.

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Customs Duty is a tax imposed on goods imported into a country and is generally calculated on the customs value of the goods. It is primarily used to regulate trade and protect domestic industries, and the applicable rate varies depending on the product.

Excise Tax, on the other hand, is a selective tax applied to specific goods, often considered non-essential or harmful, such as alcohol, tobacco, motor vehicles, and fuel. It applies to both imported and locally produced goods, and the rates vary depending on the product.

FAQ

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What is Customs Valuation?

Customs valuation is the process used by customs authorities to determine the monetary value of imported goods for the purpose of assessing applicable customs duties and taxes.

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In most cases, the primary basis for customs valuation is the transaction value, which is the price actually paid or payable for the goods when sold for export to the importing country. Where the transaction value cannot be used, customs valuation may rely on alternative methods such as the value of identical or similar goods, deductive value, computed value, or a fallback method.

Customs valuation is essential to ensure that duties and taxes are applied fairly, consistently, and in accordance with international rules.

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What are Rules of Origin (RoO)?

Rules of Origin are the criteria used in international trade to determine the country in which a product is considered to have been made. They are essential for establishing the economic nationality of goods and are used to decide whether products qualify for preferential treatment under trade agreements.

They also help ensure that the benefits of trade agreements are correctly and fairly applied, by preventing misuse of preferences and ensuring that only qualifying goods as per their origin receive preferential access.

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What are the types of criteria of origin

1. Wholly Obtained

This criterion applies to goods that are entirely produced or obtained in a single country without the use of imported inputs. It typically covers natural resources such as minerals extracted from the soil, agricultural products harvested in a country, or fish caught in its territorial waters.

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2. Substantial Transformation

This criterion applies where goods are produced using materials or components from more than one country. The country of origin is determined based on whether the goods have undergone sufficient processing or manufacturing to result in a new product with a different name, character or use. This is usually assessed through rules such as change in tariff classification, value addition or specific manufacturing processes.

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What is a Certificate of Origin (CoO)?

It is an official trade document used to certify that exported goods meet the Rules of Origin requirements of a trade agreement. It is issued by the customs authorities or chamber of commerce in importing countries to grant preferential tariff treatment.

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FAQ

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What are the benefits of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) for a business?

1.A brand sets a business apart from its competitors, building trust and consumer loyalty. A trademark is needed.

2.From reassuring investors to increasing margins, using your **patents** strategically can improve your financial status.

3.Protecting the way your product looks with an **industrial design** can provide a major competitive advantage.

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4.Copyright protects the expression of an idea, in different forms.

5.When the source and authenticity matter, using **geographical indications** can identify your product as being the real deal.

6.**Trade secrets** have the potential to protect a wide range of information that has commercial value due to its confidential nature.

Refer to the link for more information: **https://www.wipo.int/en/web/business**

WIPO

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FAQ

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If I'm planning to export to Seychelles, how can I protect my brand?

Exporters planning to export to Seychelles can register a trademark, despite being a non-Seychellois. Non-Seychellois will have to register via an IP agent first and the agent will then handle the registration of your trademark on your behalf.

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FAQ

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What dispute resolution mechanisms are available for resolving trade disputes at business and international levels?

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Businesses may consider alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods before considering court proceedings. These include:

1.Mediation: this is a neutral intermediary, the mediator, helps the parties to reach a mutually satisfactory settlement of their dispute. Any settlement is recorded in an enforceable contract.

To find more details click the link - **What is Mediation?**

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2. Arbitration is a procedure in which a dispute is submitted, by agreement of the parties, to one or more arbitrators who make a binding decision on the dispute. In choosing arbitration, the parties opt for a private dispute resolution procedure instead of going to court.

To find more information click the link-**What is Arbitration?**

At the international level, trade disputes are addressed through the dispute settlement of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). A dispute can arise when a member government believes another member government is violating an agreement or a commitment that it has made in the WTO.

Refer to the link for more information**- WTO | Dispute settlement gateway**

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